

## **Abstract**

This thesis investigates the impact of social determinants on life expectancy in 16 transition economies from 1995 to 2012 by a panel data regression analysis. The regression result suggests that, air quality, coverage for tertiary education, spending in health care have statistically positive associations with life expectancy. To be specific, 1 microgram per cubic meter reduction in PM 2.5 air pollution(mean annual exposure) is associated with a gain of 2.16 months of life expectancy at birth. 100 dollars increase in health expenditure per capita is associated with a gain of 2.4 months of life expectancy at birth. 10% points increase in the gross enrolment ratio for tertiary school is associated with a gain of 3.6 months of life expectancy. But the proxy variable of democracy(Unified Democracy Sores), Economic Freedom and out-of-pocket health expenditure are not significant factors of life expectancy.