Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Student:	Bc. Adam Duraj
Advisor:	PhDr. Mgr. Jiří Skuhrovec, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Public investments and election cycle - microeconomic

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

Thesis examines question of behaviour of elected city officials, and how it is related to their probability of re-election. Admittedly, the causality can go both ways – a) perceived re-election chances lead to increase in various malpractice in puclic procurement, or b) the increased malpractice reduces chances of re-election. The results are rather mediocre, showing no strong evidence about either. Thesis however demonstrate a novel method of use of contract registry dataset (which has alsmost unparalleled scope abroad), namely in terms of proper cleaning and linking to microeconomic activity of municipalities. In future this might get used in further replications including larger sample of institutions and/or election cycles.

Methods

The procurement and mainly contract registry data went through several rounds of cleaning, which required both technological and economic know how, e.g. proper categorisation of spendings, setting of thresholds etc. After this complex excersise (which we needed to refine couple of times) we got the core dataset for econoetric examination.

There were many trials and errors with various model specifications and approaches to transform input data, which have not been fully recorded in the thesis. At some point I convinced Adam not to go for further attempts and rather record that we found no strong evidence to support most of the hypotheses – unpopular, but honest conclusion.

Obviously, there are plenty of determinants for complex thing like re-election, and procurement behavior is far from the strongest ones. A larger sample or longer time-frame might produce more convincing results.

Literature

The use of sources and literature research is sufficient and well reflects the scope of thesis.

Manuscript form

In some respects the thesis is rather minimalistic – it is lacking better annex describing other approaches author experimented with, that would more convincingly demonstrate stability of the results. Also a more extensive discussion of the results achieved might improve the overall quality. Apart of those omissions, the manuscipt is relatively well written.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

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According to the new Faculty of Social Sciences rules, the summary needs to include:
  A) *An explicit statement whether you do or do not recommend the thesis for defense and what is your suggested grade. For example, you can say: "In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade X."*
  B) *Your evaluation of the results of the Urkund (anti-plagiarism system) analysis. Links to the Urkund outputs can be found on the thesis page in SIS or in state examination table shared by the IES secretariat. For more details how Urkund works, please see [this website](). For example, you can say: "The results of the Urkund analysis do / do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources." In case the analysis indicates plagiarism, please do recommend the committee to pay special attention to this.*
Please delete these instructions before submitting the report.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED *(for details, see below):*

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	21
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	15
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**81**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**B**

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

DATE OF EVALUATION:

_____
                                                       Referee Signature

Please sign the report electronically using one of the following options:
  - *Certified electronic signature*
  - *Adobe digital signature*
  - *Writing „Digitally signed", the date and your name above „Referee Signature"*
  - *Two examples are here:*

Please note that a scan of the report with hand-written signature will not be accepted.

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Then submit the report to SIS. There is no need to deliver a signed hard copy of the report. Please delete these instructions before submitting the report.

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F