

Institut ekonomických studií

Fakulta sociálních věd, Universita Karlova Praha

Referee report on the Bachelor/Master Thesis submitted to State Exam

Student Name:	Barbora Malá
Thesis Supervisor Name:	PhDr. Pavel Streblov MSc
Thesis Title:	Význam průmyslových výtahů pro výkon ekonomiky (Komparace vybraných evropských zemí)

Overall Evaluation:

The thesis provides an analysis of the role of industrial relationships and trade unions on the organization and operation of selected European economies. The author applies a fairly recent theory on models of capitalism for evaluation of the often divergent processes and by using several datasets puts forward a critical analysis of the applicability of the theory in explaining socio-economic trends and processes. I recommend the thesis for the defense and suggest grade A ("výborně").

The thesis reviews the development of industrial organization in selected European countries and seeks to see the links in different industrial organization systems may affect labor productivity in these countries. I believe that the author has selected an interesting mix of European countries that enabled her to work with a very varied sample and draw interesting implications. I also appreciate the author's willingness to use some recent theories in an effort to explain fundamental relationships within the industrial organization and innovation processes of firms. On the other hand, I believe that the thesis could have been less descriptive, especially in its first phase (Chapters 3-4) and could be more focused on data analysis with a more structured econometric evaluation of observed processes.

I see the core of the thesis in Chapters 5 and 6 where author presents a comparison and interrelations of labor productivity and union density in the five selected European countries and then provides an explanation for the observed trends within the framework of models of capitalism. Among other interesting findings I would highlight author's explanation of the different volatility of labor productivity in Germany and the UK in Chapter 6 and the way how she tried to explain the trends within other countries that at the first sight contradict the applied theoretical framework.

On the other hand, the author has in my opinion not exhausted the potential of comparing the roles of trade unions in the old and new EU member states. Chapter 2 provides an interesting and fresh insight into the role of trade unions in the new EU member states, yet such analysis is not further elaborated in the remainder of the thesis and Chapter 2 is therefore rather redundant.

The thesis is written in a structured way and a readable language. In addition, I appreciate that the author has tried to use appropriate Czech expressions and translations even for terms and expressions where the Czech taxonomy is not finally settled (especially in the field of the models of capitalisms).

I believe that the author can expand the topic it has analyzed in several ways. There remains scope for the application of more sophisticated econometric methods in an effort to explain the contributions of different factors. In addition, it would certainly be of value if the author applied the applied Western European models to Central and Eastern Europe and tried to examine the relevance of the theory on models of capitalism in a more global scope. However, I believe that the analysis undertaken by author in this thesis provide for a well structured organized paper *per se* and can at the same time serve as a very good basis for

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author's diploma thesis and future research in this field. Therefore, I recommend grade A for the thesis defense.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for the explanation of categories and scale, please, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Quality of Research	24
Clarity and Readability	32
Content/Quality of Ideas	13
Organization & Development	12
Manuscript Form	5
TOTAL POINTS	86
LETTER GRADE	A


(Signature)

PhDr. Pavel Streblov MSc

Evaluated on: August 28, 2007

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Explanation of categories and scale:

QUALITY OF RESEARCH: *The thesis demonstrates the author's full understanding and command of current literature and he/she uses it competently. The topic of the thesis is well structured and methods used are proper and relevant to the research question being investigated. A full and accurate analysis of thesis statement, from both a theoretical and applied perspective, is provided.*

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>			<i>Weak</i>			
30	27	24	21	18	15	12	8	4	0

CONTENT/QUALITY OF IDEAS: *A range and depth of exposition; an appropriate sense of complexity of the topic; appropriate analysis of the thesis statement; and an accurate understanding of theoretical concepts is demonstrated. A full discussion of applicable and relevant theories stylized data is included. Original, creative thought is provided and evident. Demonstrates critical thinking and analysis with application of theory and student's ability to draw conclusions based on their knowledge, skills and research.*

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>			<i>Weak</i>			
40	36	32	28	24	20	15	10	5	0

ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: *The paper demonstrates a logical and clear arrangement of ideas; an effective use of transitions; a unity and coherence of paragraphs; and a clear development of ideas through supporting detail and evidence. The reader is successfully oriented to the subject, purpose, methodology, and structure of the report; an overview of the whole is included; the reader's attention and interest is engaged. The thesis statement is clearly and definitively stated without ambiguity. The conclusion is strong and reflective of the work as a whole.*

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>			<i>Weak</i>		
15	13	12	10	8	6	4	2	0

CLARITY AND READIBILITY: *Ease of readability; appropriate use of language and style for the rhetorical content; clarity of sentences (reader doesn't get lost; minimum need for slowing down or re-reading) is appropriately demonstrated. Professional level of English expression is evident (limited amount of non-native language to English translation is detectable).*

<i>Strong</i>			<i>Middle</i>			<i>Weak</i>			
10	9	8	7	6	5	3	2	1	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The appropriate manuscript form and style for the rhetorical content; a professional image; an appropriate use of headings and sub-headings; an appropriate format for graphs and tables; an effective referencing of graphs and tables in the text; complete and accurate bibliography documented to support the applied research; and the overall impact of document design is considered.*

<i>Strong</i>		<i>Middle</i>		<i>Weak</i>	
5	4	3	2	1	0