

# Institut ekonomických studií

## Fakulta sociálních věd, Universita Karlova Praha

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

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Jana Cahlikova</b>
<b>Thesis Supervisor Name:</b>	<b>Michal Bauer</b>
<b>Thesis Title:</b>	<b>Concepts of Donor Evaluation on the Example of the Czech Republic</b>

#### Overall Evaluation:

The thesis discusses the main concepts of evaluating foreign aid on a national level in the context of the Czech Republic. First Jana describes the development of the Czech foreign aid and different methods how foreign aid can be assessed. I think the second part of thesis is a useful contribution to the debate about foreign aid in CEE region. Jana introduces a popular Index of Donor Performance calculated by the Center for Global Development (CGD) -- a high-profile initiative to rank the rich countries on the basis of contribution to economic development of the poor. This index is regularly calculated for 21 developed countries, but not yet for the central European countries. Jana provides the first estimate of this index for the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Poland and Turkey. For me the most interesting (and quite surprising) finding is that although the quantity of Czech aid is still relatively low, the quality of aid (using the CGD criteria) is relatively high on the ladder compared to other OECD countries.

I like the thesis for several reasons. It has a clear aim and a research question. Although it is bachelor thesis, the second half consists of original analysis, some of which includes statistical techniques. Jana is also able to deal with data deficiencies or missing data in reasonable ways. The thesis is well structured and the level of English is high.

On p. 43 Jana provides brief critical discussion about the Index which she later calculates for central European countries. Jana correctly points out on the paradox that although the primer aim of the Index of donor performance is to adjust the simple ODA (quantity measure) for aid quality, there is a very high correlation between the two measures. It naturally raises the questions: Aren't there too small weights given to quality and what should these weights be compared to quantity, etc? From my perspective quantity and quality (which is itself multidimensional) are completely different concepts and should be analyzed separately. Jana's main finding about relatively high scoring of CEE in terms of aid quality is based on disaggregating the index as well. I would suggest discussing pros and cons of disaggregation of this index as a topic for a defense.

I recommend grade A. The commission could potentially also consider awarding the thesis a distinction for its quality.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Quality of Research	30
Clarity and Readability	10
Content/Quality of Ideas	36
Organization & Development	14



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Manuscript Form	5
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>LETTER GRADE</b>	<b>A</b>

(Signature

PhDr. Micha

Evaluated on: June 9, 2008