

# Report on Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Bc. Petr Mach</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>PhDr. Lucie Bryndová</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Healthy Ageing and Healthcare Expenditure</b>

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

*Please provide a short summary of the thesis, your assessment of each of the four key categories, and an overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.*

### **Short summary**

The thesis focuses on the relationship between healthy ageing and healthcare expenditure with a specific focus on the Czech experience. Using data for the period 2000-2019, the author first provide an assessment of the average healthcare expenditures by age and gender from CZSO. Then, he supports this analysis looking at the Survey of health, ageing, and retirement in Europe. Overall, healthcare cost proved to have shifted to higher ages consistently with an increasing life expectancy. Finally, the author relies on SHARE data to check for any variations in the functional limitations suffered by Czech seniors finding a significant increase only in the proportion of women reporting ADL.

### **Contribution**

The general topic is well known and debated in the related literature. Still, the thesis has the merit to shift the focus on the specific situation of the Czech Republic that has not been properly studied to date. Hence, the thesis could provide interesting insights to spur the public discussion within the country and among policy makers.

### **Methods**

The student has worked with different datasets which he has carefully handled (in particular, the data provided by the CZSO and the SHARE data). Moreover, he has proved a good knowledge of the relevant methods to answer his proposed research questions.

### **Literature**

Overall, the relevant literature is properly cited. Given the vast available literature, the student did a nice job in providing an overview of the latest evidence while keeping the focus on the topic of interest. I would have maybe consider the possibility to move the part on the measurement of morbidity in the data part.

### **Manuscript form**

The thesis is quite well structured. The language is appropriate and the text is well written. Bibliography and citations are adequate.

### **Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense**

I believe the present thesis fulfills the formal requirements for a master thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University. The student formulated a clear research question spelling out three well targeted hypotheses to be tested, proved to be familiar with the existing works on the topic and

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performed an empirical analysis providing further insights on healthy ageing and healthcare expenditure in the Czech Republic. Overall, the work is well written and presented. The results of the Urkund analysis indicate a negligible text similarity with other available. For all these reasons, I believe the thesis is ready for defence and I recommend it for the defence suggesting a grade A.

Suggested questions:

- At page. 47 „For women in their fifties, the downward trend in relative healthcare costs was relatively steeper when compared to men, at the same time their relative healthcare expenditures after 85 rose at a faster pace than for men“. Any possible explanation on this differential in the pace between men and women?
- In the conclusion, you suggest that the provided results should call for an action from the Ministry of Health and other healthcare administrators. In particular, what intervention would you wish to see implemented/discussed?

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	26
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>91</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Paola Bertoli

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 04/09/2021

**Digitally signed (06.09.2021):**  
**Paola Bertoli**

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**Referee Signature**

