

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	Valentin Schnabl
<b>Advisor:</b>	PhDr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	The payof increased physical activity in the Czech

## **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 paper estimates the costs and benefits of inducing people to have more physical activity (by providing financial incentives) in the case of the Czech Republic. Using publicly available data and some of the parameters estimated by other studies the author concludes that the costs of inducing people to have more physical activities and thus decreasing the prevalence of some common diseases associated with a lack of physical exercise exceed the savings in the public health spendings due to the increased physical activities by the population.

### **Contribution**

The student generally demonstrates the ability to critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics.

### **Methods**

Methods are generally appropriate and valid. The limitations are also generally acknowledged. However, there is one main limitation that is not explicitly acknowledged. The estimate of the total cost of financial incentives required to induce an increase in physical activity in this thesis is based on the estimates reported from the RCT study conducted in the USA by Finkelstein et al. (2008). As far as I understood, the author assumes that people in the Czech Republic would require the same amount of financial incentives to increase their levels of physical activities as people in the USA. Taking into account drastic differences in the incomes of the populations in these two countries I would recommend at least converting the numbers reported in Finkelstein et al. (2008) in terms of their purchasing power in the Czech Republic.

### **Literature**

The student cites and summarizes all the relevant literature in the appropriate way.

### **Manuscript form**

The paper is generally well-written. Several minor typos resulting from using (I presume) Latex software are present throughout the text. Some examples are „individualâ€™sâ€™ benefits“ typo on the „thesis proposal page“. Some typos resulting from the incorrect use of words are also present. An example is on page 28 line 3 when the author uses the word „belief“ instead of „believe“.

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

In general, the thesis is written well for the bachelor's level. I recommed the thesis for the defense with a grade A. Please, ask Mr. Schnabl how did he estimate the monetary amount needed to induce people in the Czech Republic to work out more, and how this can affect his results.

The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>92</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Salim Turdaliev

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 20.08.2022

**Digitally signed (20.08.2022)**  
**Salim Turdaliev**  
**Referee Signature**

**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