

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Jonáš Čekal
Advisor:	Petr Pleticha
Title of the thesis:	How effective are subsidies for electric vehicles? An evaluation of Czech policy

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

Contribution

The author deals with the topical problem of efficiency of subsidies for electric vehicles. Focus on the Czech implementation of such policy is novel, and the effort itself is a great contribution as it indicates the lack of policy evaluations which assess major policies done by the Czech government. Even though the identification is very difficult and the results serve mainly as exploration of possible relations, the framework for preliminary analysis is sound, and it can serve as a starting point for a deeper analysis which would require more detailed set of data.

Methods

The methods are chosen adequately for the research question. Panel data regression with DID design is well-explained and proper checks are made. The author (with few exceptions) takes caution when interpreting the results, which is fitting to the methods used. The main hindrance of the analysis is data availability. With the data at hand, the methods meet the expectations for the Bachelor Thesis.

Literature

The author provides a satisfying overview of related literature. The papers are linked to the approach chosen by the author and as such are used well in the thesis. A brief inquiry into pitfalls of evaluation could be included in the thesis as well, but it does not diminish the thesis itself.

Manuscript form

The manuscript meets the criteria of a Bachelor's thesis. It is sometimes a bit lengthy, especially the Data section could be briefer and address mainly the reasons why the variables are in the models and why they may fail short to address the hypotheses of the author.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

In my opinion, the thesis does meet the requirements of the program at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University. I do recommend it for the defense and thus suggest a grade B. The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

During the defense, I would like the author to describe the issues of the identification strategy, endogeneity and expand briefly on the data necessary for rigorous impact analysis.

The main focus of the defense should, however, be the interpretation of the results. The often non-intuitive results should be discussed along with the reasons of the results pointing in different directions.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	86
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	B

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Pleticha

DATE OF EVALUATION: 1/9/2022

Digitálně podepsáno (1.9.2022)
Petr Pleticha

Referee Signature

