

REPORT ON MASTER THESIS
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

STUDENT:	Viktoriya Solieva
ADVISOR:	Daniel Münich
TITLE OF THE THESIS:	A Comparative Analysis of the Economic Transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Central and Eastern Europe

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

Please provide your assessment of each of the following categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

The thesis provides very solid, and in some sense a unique qualitative comparative analysis of economic transition in Uzbekistan during recent past. The value added of the thesis is in its combining stylized and particular, very well studied features of the past economic transitions of so called Visegrad countries during the last decade of the past century vis-à-vis much more recent and still ongoing economic transition experience of Uzbekistan. Overall, the thesis is well structured, facts and arguments are well articulated, the author provides her own analytical insights and economically based opinions

CONTRIBUTION: The main contribution of the thesis is its detailed comparative insight building on a solid understanding of past economics transitions in Visegrad countries on one hand, and valuable detailed insight on specific features of ongoing economic transition in Uzbekistan. Comparative countries selected provide reasonably different policy experiences. One can argue that culturally, historically and territorially, Visegrad countries are too far or too different from the specifics of the Uzbekistan. Would one analyze classical historical or cultural developments or “regime changes”, the distances mentioned would probably be a serious limitations. But I do not find this to be a problem in case of economic analysis. The thesis contains valuable critical insight provided by the student.

METHODS: Although great deal of the thesis is of qualitative nature, it is equipped / supported by comparable time-series statistics on compared countries fostering great deal of the statements and arguments presented by the author. One would probably want to see also complementary evidence based on microlevel data, from the segment of individuals and households on one hand and firms and organizations in general. But such an exercise would be too demanding both in terms of data collection and microlevel analysis and it would go beyond the scope of a master thesis.

LITERATURE: The author provides solid and relevant list of references on important economic and policy research literature which have been written on the topic of economic transition. The references are adequately supporting the stream and content of presentation and arguments made in the thesis.

MANUSCRIPT FORM: The manuscript is well organized / structured. It is well written and great deal of the arguments are clearly made and straightforward.

SUMMARY AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION DURING THE DEFENSE:

I am convinced that answers to the questions above, including the overall assessment, are sufficiently clear and no other summary here is needed.

Question 1: To what extent were and is the policy experience obtained by Visegrad countries during 90s, and their later economic outcomes and performance, motivating public and policy debated in the Uzbekistan?

Question 2: The economic transition started in Uzbekistan almost three decades after the one in Visegrad countries. During that time, the world experienced fundamental technological progress and globalization such as GSM mobile telephony and large data transmissions, internet, global interconnection, progress towards machine learning, and many other. Does something mean very different initial conditions for the economic transition? And in positive or negative sense? Does it make the economic transition easiest or more complicated for Uzbekistan.

I recommend the thesis for defense.

TEXT ORIGINALITY CONTROL

I confirm that I acquainted myself with the report thesis from

Theses Turnitin Ouriginal (Urkund)

Comments on the reported results:

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, please see the page 3)

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	25
Methods (max. 30 points)	23
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	84
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	B

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

Tomáš Kučera

DATE OF EVALUATION:

August 31, 2022

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.

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

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.

Strong	Average	Weak
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW:

The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

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.

Strong	Average	Weak
20	10	0

OVERALL GRADING:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 – 90	B
71 – 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F