

**REPORT ON MASTER THESIS**  
**CENTER FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION**

<b>STUDENT:</b>	Viktoriya Solieva
<b>ADVISOR:</b>	Professor Daniel Münich
<b>TITLE OF THE THESIS:</b>	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.*

**CONTRIBUTION:**

The author's presentation of the original idea on the topic is limited. She is mainly compiling the ideas of other authors. In the text of the thesis, where the author does not quote, the views are frequently vague and speculative, not correctly argued (the last paragraphs of the sub-chapters 4.2.1, 4.2.3 and 4.2.4. It does not comply with the ability to demonstrate critical thinking. Conclusions are drawn relatively well, but their base is simple and almost exclusively empirical. There is only a little added value, definitely less than intended, in the thesis project and the introductory part of the work. The author also somewhat overestimates her contribution to the cognition of the transformation process in Uzbekistan in the thesis' Conclusion.

**METHODS:**

The tools used are elementary – simple comparison based on elementary data, relevant but insufficient for deeper cognition of the current economic transition (transformation) in Uzbekistan with limited power to help answer the research questions.

However, I see insufficient work with the data as a more significant problem. For instance, the author states that the data quality is very problematic, but she does not deal with it further and works with the data as if it was without defects. I can't entirely agree with the reasoning for this situation provided on page 22: "The problem with data sources in the Republic of Uzbekistan may arise from the past when there was no adequate data collecting agency". The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics existed during the entire period in question. I believe that the author should have been concerned, if not with the reliability of the data used, then at least with its comparability.

**LITERATURE:**

The author used only a minor part of the literature available. Some, in my opinion, significant titles were omitted. I have ad hoc collected over 50 academic texts, of which practically nothing has appeared in the author's references. At least four of them should not be ignored (Karimov, I. A. (1993): Uzbekistan's Own Model of Transition to Market Relations; Pomfret, R. (2000): The

Uzbek model of economic development, 1991-99; Ruziev, K. (2021): Uzbekistan's Development Experiment: An Assessment of Karimov's Economic Legacy and last but not least Galdini, F. (2021): The Post-Soviet Space and Uzbekistan in the International Division of Labour From Transition to Capital Accumulation available at: [https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/194693252/FULL\\_TEXT.PDF](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/194693252/FULL_TEXT.PDF). Another overlooked work, Svejnar, J. and M. Uvalic (2009): The Czech Transition. The Importance of Microeconomic Fundamentals could be an excellent source of inspiration regarding the content and structure of the assessed work.

#### **MANUSCRIPT FORM:**

1. *I would prefer to read better formatted text.*
2. *Inconsistent capitalization*
3. *Quite many misprints (and even some "miswordings")*
4. *Why chapters 1 and 2 have the same title and why the chapter 1 is empty?*

#### **SUMMARY AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION DURING THE DEFENSE:**

The work's topic is interesting, certainly relevant, and essential for the economic transition in Uzbekistan. Undoubtedly, it has decent application potential. Unfortunately, the work has more content and formal shortcomings, of which I have listed only a few selected ones here. The presented text gives the impression that the author did not pay enough attention to the topic and that the work was completed hastily. At least a substantial part of the work was written in July 2022 (the empirical part of the study contains estimates based on Uzbek data for the 1st half of 2022).

1. How was the beginning of the economic transition in Czechoslovakia connected with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 (p. 13)? When did the economic transformation in Czechoslovakia start? In 1990 or 1991?
2. Please name some countries in Europe which experienced communism for longer than 45 years (except the countries of the former Soviet Union). Was the duration of communist experience in Czechia and Slovakia really 45 years (p. 13)?
3. Why do you think "the unemployment problem does not concern Uzbekistan as much (p. 32)"? Real employment in Uzbekistan represents one of the crucial development challenges in the context of rapid population growth last two decades and in particular after 2017.

*Please indicate whether you recommend the Thesis for defense or not.*

I am at a loss with the formulation of the final verdict, but since the student has the right to defend the results before a multi-member committee and the success of completing her studies should not depend only on the opinion of one person, **I recommend the thesis for defense.**

## TEXT ORIGINALITY CONTROL

I confirm that I acquainted myself with the report on the originality of the text of the thesis from

Theses  Turnitin  Ouriginal (Urkund)

Comments on the reported results:

Sorry, I did not have a chance to acquainted myself with the report on the originality of the text of the thesis since I could not find the work in SIS from my Faculty profile.

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

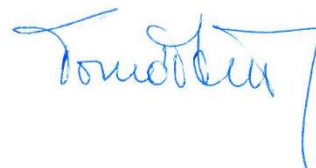
CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution <i>(max. 30 points)</i>	15
Methods <i>(max. 30 points)</i>	12
Literature <i>(max. 20 points)</i>	15
Manuscript Form <i>(max. 20 points)</i>	12
<b>TOTAL POINTS <i>(max. 100 points)</i></b>	<b>54</b>
<b>GRADE <i>(A – B – C – D – E – F)</i></b>	<b>E</b>

### NAME OF THE REFEREE:

Tomáš Kučera

### DATE OF EVALUATION:

**31 August 2022**



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**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	<b>A</b>
81 – 90	<b>B</b>
71 – 80	<b>C</b>
61 – 70	<b>D</b>
51 – 60	<b>E</b>
0 – 50	<b>F</b>