

Advisor' s Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	Veranika Makarevich
Advisor:	Jana Votápková
Title of the thesis:	What Socioeconomic Factors Explain Type 2 Diabetes Prevalence?

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

The thesis analyzes both socioeconomic and clinical factors that influence the prevalence of type 2 diabetes among the population in Belarus which is 27 years and older. A logistic regression is used sequentially adjusting the independent variables for variables of different types (clinical, socioeconomic). The thesis finds that the probability of diabetes decreases as income and educational level increases. Besides, overweight and physically inactive individuals are more prone to diabetes. Having analyzed both clinical and socioeconomic factors together, the thesis is not only novel in the approach in the academic literature, but it also shows important implications that should be of interest for policy-makers that propose diabetes preventive programs.

Veranika's thesis is an example of the independent and very successful scholarly work. Veranika showed a great devotion to the topic from the start, cooperated perfectly and was very nice to discuss the topic with. Academic style and English of the thesis are excellent, the flow of thoughts is logical and the thesis reads well as a whole. Her proficiency in academic writing is particularly visible in the literature review section in which very nicely merged numerous academic studies into a very attractive text.

I do not have any comments regarding the improvement of the thesis, since I have already mentioned everything to Veranika and she has considered it in the text. If a better dataset was available in the future, the work would benefit from including e.g. education and income as continuous rather than discrete variables, i.e. values rather than levels/groups.

I suggest that Veranika Makarevich should be awarded **grade A (excellent)** and the thesis should be rewritten into an IES working paper and consequently submitted to an impacted journal.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	30
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	29
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	99
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Jana Votápková

DATE OF EVALUATION: August 15, 2016



Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

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

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

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

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		
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k