

FAKULTA SOCIÁLNÍCH VĚD

Karlova universita, Praha



REVIEW OF MASTER THESIS

DATE: 1 February 2006
STUDENT: Petra Vančurová
TITLE: European Regional Policy: Reduction of Regional Disparities in the EU
YEAR: 2004/2005
CONSULTANT: František Turnovec

THESIS REVIEW:

The thesis provides an interesting and comprehensive analysis of the EU regional policies and issues related to the economic convergence. The thesis demonstrates the author's familiarity with the literature. It does not bring extensive quantitative analysis, nor is it theoretically oriented. The thesis also suffers from fairly frequent language errors or typos. Nevertheless I find the thesis acceptable and very good indeed. Therefore, **I recommend the thesis for the defence and suggest grade A ("výborně")**. Should I have the option, I would give it A- for reasons elaborated below.

The crucial issue of the thesis, i.e. to what extent does the EU regional policy foster convergence among its regions, remains mysteriously absent from the thesis. The author dwells on the issue only briefly at the end of the thesis. On page 71, she mentions "many evaluation studies" but does not specify their results. Table 5 on page 74 then addresses the issue in grossly oversimplified manner – the amount of assistance is not even converted to a more appropriate measure, as such percentage of GDP. It is obvious that euro 22bn in Greece is relatively far more important than euro 20bn in Sweden.

Other comments are rather minor. In the abovementioned table 5, the author suddenly changed numbering of tables which is confusing.

The discussed proposal for the 2007-2013 budget was dismissed by the European Council in June 2005.

Numbers in table 4.1.3 on page 49 do not add – any explanation for that?

Why Greece and Portugal could NOT pursue the tourism strategy touted in Spain (p. 56)?

Overall very good thesis on the margin between A and B, with A more likely.

Ondrej Schneider