

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Sofianu Nicoleta
Advisor:	Dedek Oldrich
Title of the thesis:	Public Budgeting: A Case Study of the Republic Moldova

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

The master thesis has clear structure with an explicit goal to contribute to the understanding of the budgetary process in the Republic Moldova where the author is resident. The point of departure is the description of best practices as recommended by the OECD and the World Bank. One should appreciate such policy-making orientation with unambiguous benefits for the perspective career of the defendant as well for her country.

There are many principles of sound and efficient budgeting in public finances. The author pays particular attention to two of them: medium-term budgetary framework and performance budgeting. Both principles are well explained and discussed. From the Czech perspective at least two additional items should be added to the list: a) manoeuvrability of the budget as reflected in the share of the mandatory expenditures and fragmentation of the outlays in a number on ear-marked funds. The defendant should explain why these aspects of sound public finances were completely omitted.

Among other issues the following ones also deserve some attention.

- The thesis is completely silent about the effort paid to the problem in the European Union. Is the European perspective irrelevant for the subject of the thesis?
- The thesis is good in description but rather weak in critical assessments. Some critical comments can be found in the final but relatively short chapter *Current challenges and ongoing reforms*. They are focused but it would be better if they are an integral part of the text.
- The thesis gives some limited information about the economic and political development in Moldova. There are no basic data at all about the fiscal position of the country: i.e. development of the public debt or public deficit.

To conclude the master thesis is a nice but incomplete undertaking in the policy making area. It summarizes many facts about good practices in the budgetary process and delivers some lessons. It is written in relatively good English. The thesis should be accepted for the defence with the proposed evaluation B.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	12
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	18
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	18
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	68
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	2

NAME OF THE REFEREE: doc. Ing. Oldřich Dědek, CSc.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 16 August 2010

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