

Report on Rigorous Thesis

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

Student:	Jana Procházková
Advisor:	PhDr. Martin Gregor, Ph.D. (supervisor), PhDr. Lenka Šťastná (consultant)
Title of the thesis:	Measuring Efficiency of Hospitals in the Czech Republic

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

The submitted rigorous thesis draws on the successfully defended master thesis of the author. The current piece of work is extended by inclusion of a paper which was published as IES Working Paper 2/2011. As I have already commented on the master thesis, in this review I will concentrate on the newly included paper which basically captures major findings of the whole thesis.

The submitted thesis is a pioneering work which explores a very topical issue of hospital efficiency in the Czech Republic. It utilizes a standard methodology and applies it to the Czech setting. It is a well-structured work employing many sources of information and diligently presenting empirical findings.

I have already expressed my concerns regarding the publicly available data which was used for the analysis. With such data constraints the author must be much more careful in drawing conclusions. The finding that teaching status of hospitals increases inefficiency can be easily dismissed by the counter-argument that these hospitals are the health care providers of the „last resort“ which provide the most complex (costly) health care services. Similarly, the finding that the share of the elderly in the population tends to increase inefficiency is not surprising knowing that older patients on average represent more severe diagnoses with higher costs of treatment. Additionally, as I understand the effect of not-for-profit status rather than private or public ownership was analysed so the conclusion that the results support reasons for the ongoing privatization is not correct. Lastly, I suggest rephrasing the conclusion that “Czech hospitals are not overly relatively inefficient as a whole” to “there are not overly significant differences in efficiency of Czech hospitals if operating costs are taken into account” to stress the fact that the analysis has not considered capital costs which might be a major source of inefficiency.

To sum it up, despite of my qualifications, in the case of successful defence, I recommend “**výborně**” (excellent, 1).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	85
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: RADOVAN CHALUPKA

DATE OF EVALUATION: 22 MARCH 2011

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 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