

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Markéta Vágnerová
Advisor:	MRes PhDr. Jan Zápal
Title of the thesis:	Spokojenost se životem (empirická evidence z České republiky)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

Bachelor thesis of Markéta Vágnerová investigates life satisfaction in the Czech Republic. In this respect her thesis belongs to a 'happiness' strand of economic literature trying to answer a question of different determinants of subjective well-being, happiness, life satisfaction and other measures.

The thesis starts with three opening sections introducing the topic (section 1), defining life satisfaction and explaining its measurement (section 2) and describing data used in the empirical part and estimation methods used (section 3). Section 4 then discusses several independent variables used later, such as political views of a respondent, gender, social ties and education.

Section 5 includes the main contribution of the thesis. In short, it econometrically estimates determinants of life satisfaction in the Czech Republic using two different datasets (Eurobarometer and Sociological Data Archive data) using several estimation methods (ordered logit and probit, OLS). Among the main conclusions, summarized aptly at the end of the section, is a strong link between life satisfaction and (proxy) of income or wealth.

Section 6 then compares life satisfaction in the Czech Republic and other EU states. By nature this section is more descriptive, yet highly interesting.

Overall the thesis is an example of high quality work tackling interesting economic question. Econometric methods used are fully appropriate to the given topic and state of the art not to mention the fact that those are only a final stage in the whole process of empirical economic work. Final proofreading of the thesis has also been done with considerable care and it satisfies all the non-substantive formal requirements expected. **For all those reasons I believe bachelor thesis of Markéta Vágnerová deserves best of possible marks.**

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	10
Methods (max. 30 points)	28
Contribution (max. 30 points)	25
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	81
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Jan Zápal

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Referee Signature