Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Marek Ehrenberger**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Innovation in small and medium enterprises**

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

The Bachelor thesis entitled „Innovation in small and medum entreprises" by Marek Ehrenberger represents a superb piece of research and empirical work that sets the benchmark for these type of works a way too high. The thesis is 81 pages long and includes 8 tables and over 30 figures. I cannot but admire the author's sense of structure and logic as well as his brilliant way of collecting, analysing and processing the vast pool of data in a very short span of time: it is clear that to me that the author gave it much more than is typically required from the Bachelor thesis defended at the IES FSV UK.

The thesis is mostly centered around the empirical survey that was conducted online with the sample of 1,144 Czech small and medium enteprises drawn from MagnusWeb database. The survey included 21 questions that ranged from the information on the firm to owner's or manager's characteristics and the factors of innovation and success.

The work is logically structured: it starts with the literature review where the problématique of the small and medium enterprises (SME) is discussed in detail (I appreciate that many relevant sources and authors are quoted here: e.g. Audretsch, Earle, Storey, etc.). This is followed by the overview of SMEs in general and the role of SMEs in Czech economy. Chapter 4 describes the determinants of innovations in SMEs. Finally, Chapter 5 provides the data analysis using the data obtained from the field data collection and tests the empirical models of enterprise's innovations and its determinants. It is Chapter 5 that is the core of this work and it yields the most remarkable results. For instance, own R&D is found to be an important driver of innovations and SMEs, in general, seem to be more innovative than micro-enterprises (employing up to 9 people). These and other findings might lead to relevant policy implications about the sector of SMEs in the Czech Republic and call for adequate support and assistance targeted at those firms that are apt to become most innovative and overpass the others.

Overall, I think that this Bachelor thesis has all the features of the successful research work: it has an interesting idea backed up by the relevant literature, it poses an array of non-trivial research questions and it uses first-hand data to back them up or reject them. The student demonstrated good analytical skills, understanding of the topic and ability to tackle it and to get some interesting results out of it.

Therefore, I think that Marek Ehrenberger's Bachelor thesis deserves a straight "A" (1) and, should the defense during the state exam will proceed flawlessly, I recommend that the student is awarded with the Dean's special commemoration for the excellent Bachelor's thesis ("pochvala děkana za vynikající bakalářskou práci").

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	19
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	29
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	28

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Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	29
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**95**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 10.06.2012

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Referee Signature