

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Anna Bajzikova</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Jaromir Baxa</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Measuring Corruption in Developed Countries</b>

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

The thesis provides an introduction to the issue of measuring the corruption. It concentrates on corruption indexes. It deals in detail with definitions and analysis of particular corruption indexes and their mutual relations. In the terms of data coverage, it uses corruption indexes for 39 developed countries over the time period 2007-2010.

The strength of the thesis is in comprehensive coverage and comparison of many (12) corruption indexes. I consider it O.K. that author does not attempt to create her own index. The comparison of existing indexes is a more appropriate approach.

The area of corruption analysis is traditionally concentrated on the construction of indexes. Therefore all problems, questions, reservation about the index-construction-research apply here. I would like to point out that the thesis is not concerned with economic modelling of corruption, sources of corruption, impacts of corruption. Therefore the paper is missing a real theoretical section. It has more an ad-hoc nature of index-construction papers.

The thesis attempts to analyse the macroeconomic connections of corruption. To relate corruption and economic growth and public expenditures. This direction of thesis research seems to me to be a weak part of this thesis. It is not elaborated enough.

In the literature I miss references to work of Jan Hanousek and his coauthors, which I consider highly relevant to the topic of this paper, especially in the area of relation between corruption and economic performance.

During the defense the author may further elaborate on the topic of relation between measures of political risk and measures of corruption. Political risk is very different category than corruption. The danger of corruption may be just one of many aspects of political risk.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>75</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>2</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Karel Janda

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** January 18, 2012

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**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	<b>1</b>	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	<b>2</b>	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	<b>3</b>	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	<b>4</b>	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě