

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Hana Reimarová
Advisor:	Jana Chvalková
Title of the thesis:	Transaction Costs in Public Procurement

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

In this thesis, I appreciate the choice of topic (transaction costs of public procurement) selected by the author, which I consider not only interesting, but also fairly omitted by the standard economic literature related to public procurement. The choice of focus of the thesis was done purely by the author herself and I think that it was a good decision.

When writing the thesis, the author made a thorough investigation of the scarce literature to the topic of public procurement (including references on articles from top economic journals) and embedded her findings well into the thesis. She managed well the citations in the text as well as use of non-academic sources. In some cases, I would probably go for more detailed quotations (including the exact page or paragraph), but all in all, I consider the citations adequate for a Master thesis.

As to the structure of the thesis, I think that it is clear and understandable despite the rather complex analytical part (models in chapter 3) – the author lists the models deployed at the beginning of chapter 3, which makes it easier for the reader, to keep with the flow of the analysis. The language of the author is OK, tables, charts and equations are denoted properly.

As to the contribution of the thesis, I would say that it is the strongest part of the work. As was already said, the author has chosen an unexplored topic and built a complex analytical framework for its elaboration. The three models are of her own construction and despite their relative simplicity (which is mainly due to the quantity and quality of available data), they demonstrate well the pitfalls of Czech public procurement system in the area of transaction costs. I also appreciate the deployment of the homo se asecrans model of prof. Hlaváček, which is a fitting concept for analysis of economic behavior of basically any agent in the public institutions. It shall be added that the author had to collect a crucial part of the data herself – by manual cleansing¹ of the public procurement database collected by Jiří Skuhrovec and myself from public sources.

The assessment of the methods used by the author is tightly bound to the originality of the topic. Given the fact that the data on public procurement show despite all effort of the author rather high granularity, the author needed to adjust her methods accordingly. Thus it was not possible to construct one through model that would evaluate the whole problem of transaction costs and needed to construct three models that describe each part of the problem separately. My only critique in this aspect is that the author could have done more in comparing and contrasting the results of the models used and embed their results back to information provided in chapter 2 – as to say to the general framework of public procurement.

Lastly, I would like to add that the results of the thesis are highly relevant for formulation of the legislation related to public procurement in the Czech Republic and are expected to be used i.a. by the Ministry of Regional Development as analytical source.

Based on the above stated, I recommend the thesis for the distinction from the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for an extraordinarily good master thesis

¹ Manual correction of missing and wrong data and information in the Information System of Public Procurements – which means hours of pretty dull work.

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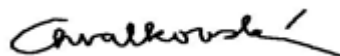
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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	18
Methods (max. 30 points)	26
Contribution (max. 30 points)	30
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	92
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Jana Chvalková

DATE OF EVALUATION:



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