Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Bc. Martin Krejčí**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Factors that influence the success of small and medium enterprises: Case study of ICT sector in the Czech Republic**

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

The Master thesis entitled „ Factors that influence the success of small and medium enterprises: Case study of ICT sector in the Czech Republic" by Martin Krejčí represents a nice example of empirical work and own data collection. Typically, the response rate in surveyed SMEs typically oscillates around 10-15% and obtaining any data, especially on the financial information of the firms, often proves impossible. Moreover, Czech ICT sector represents a challage to any researcher studying SMEs, since its has not been properly researched and documented.

With regard to this, it is remarkable that the author managed to run his own data collection using the means of online survey and obtained tha data on 131 surveys of Czech small and medium enteprises drawn from MagnusWeb database (105 surveys were used for the data analysis and empirical model construction and testing).

The Master thesis has 78 pages, is divided into 5 Chapters and has exnteded Appendices. It has 6 Tables and 9 Figures, plus multiple Figures and Tables (as well as the copy of the questionnaire) in the Appendices. Overall, it is a well-prepared work with an excellent interpretation of the main results.

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 Master thesis defended at the IES FSV UK.

The work is logically structured: it starts with the proper literature review, discusses the problems and SMEs in the world and in the Czech Republic (I appreciate that many relevant sources and authors are quoted here: e.g. Estrin, Hanousek, Kocenda, Svejnar, etc.). The hypotheses are properly articulated and the results are clearly outlined.

Overall, I think that this Martin's Master 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 programming (creating the online questionnaire on the FSV website) and analytical skills, understanding of the topic and ability to tackle it and to get some interesting results out of it Therefore, I think that thesis deserves an straight "A" (1). I recommend to be given **"výborně" (excellent, 1)**.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	17
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	17
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**90**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

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

DATE OF EVALUATION: **18.06.2013**

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Referee's signature