Report on Rigorous **Thesis**

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

Student:	**Mgr. Jan Soudek**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Ing. Jiří Skuhrovec**
Title of the thesis:	**Public Procurement of homogenous goods: Czech Republic case study**

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

In general, field of public procurement research has tendency towards weak results, caused by complex institutional setting and poor performance measureability. Main merit of evaluated thesis lays in managing the former and more importantly – eliminating the latter.

By focusing on homogeneous goods, author deliberately restricts himself to field where cost-based benchmarking can be done, in contrary to many other purchases related to provision of public goods. Author is therefore able to use sound econometric analysis and obtain good results – most notably quantifying effect of various institutional settings – though on limited market niche.

To my knowledge, there has been only couple of works in the field which managed to get comparable results, in some respect the work can be even labeled as pioneering. After small revision of econometric part, itshould be well publishable in decent journal.

Author has done serious piece of groundwork in gathering and consolidating data from couple of hundreds institutions.More importantly he demonstrated good quantitative skills as well as ability to connect the result with complex reality in public procurement. I therefore propose the grade **excellent,** and suggest to award him with a **distinction.**

Major comments:
1. At some point, the strict division of analysis into three industry-wise parts is unnecessary. Joint analysis of the data might be fruitfull, especially while examining institutional setting, which is common to all three markets, also it would overcome some small-sample problems encountered. Apparently, this would however need serious transformation of whole model, in order to obtain combinable set of variables – most notably transformation of explanatory variable from unit price to relative deviation from market price.

Minor comments:
1. The form of literature list needs some revision – use of italics, missing publishers, dividing laws, academic and other sources, labeling internet resources..
2. Author frequently refers to CAE as a source (civic organization, which I happen to be part of), which I did not find explained. Anyway, it would be perhaps preferable to refer to original source of data, with explanatory note that these have been further revised by CAE..

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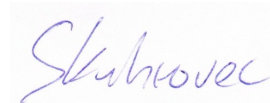
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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	15
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**95**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Jiří Skuhrovec

DATE OF EVALUATION: 16.10.2013

_____   _____
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