

# Advisor's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Author:	<b>Petr Janský</b>
Advisor:	Michal Bauer Ph.D.
Title of the Thesis:	Microeconomic Analysis for Evidence-Based Policy
Type of Defense:	<b>DEFENSE</b>
Date of Pre-Defense:	October 2, 2013

Address the following questions in your report, please:

- a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?
- b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?
- c) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?
- d) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?
- e) Were the comments raised at the pre-defense, addressed in the dissertation submitted to the regular defense?
- f) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis to be defended without major changes; (b) The thesis is not defensible.

*(Note: The report should be at least 2 pages long.)*

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## Content of the Report:

The dissertation thesis of Peter Janský contains three papers, which speak to current public policy debates in the Czech Republic. The first one is concerned with effects of VAT reforms. The second one analyses excise tax reform. The third dissertation essay is about estimation of inflation differentials faced by different socio-economic groups and regions in the Czech Republic, due to differences in spending patterns. The interesting feature of the first two chapters is explicit modeling and estimation of consumer responses to price changes, using household-level data, which provide some new insights into the effects of these reforms. In terms of methods, these chapters apply tools previously used for fact-based policy analysis in other countries, most prominently in UK.


The dissertation benefited from Petr's frequent interactions with scholars at IDEA and at the Institute for Fiscal Studies at UCL. The thesis has also benefited from the reviews for the dissertation pre-defense. Peter addressed those comments, which could be addressed with existing data. The other comments and suggestions were left for future research.

Overall, the dissertation is a useful input for public policy in the Czech Republic and it is an example of careful empirical work. Arguably, there is relative lack of similar type of public policy analysis, compared to, for example, monetary policy, and I happy to see that Peter and

his co-authors are introducing such analysis to the Czech context. Nevertheless, the three chapters offer less in terms of the original contribution to economics -- the chapters do not aim to test novel questions or extent existing empirical methods. Therefore, I think that the papers are publishable in either local journals or very specialized international field journals.

Besides the three dissertation chapters, I would like to mention Petr's other research work. In particular, he has co-authored (joint with collaborators from Oxford University) a nice paper on technology adoption of Cocoa farmers in Ghana. Petr contributed to the design of the survey modules, implementation in Ghana and data analysis and interpretation. I am confident that this paper is publishable in a decent development economics journal.

To summarize, I recommend the thesis to be defended.

Date:	December 12, 2013
Advisor's Signature:	
Advisor's Affiliation:	Michal Bauer Ph.D. Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague