Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Hsin-I Lin
Advisor:	Mgr. Pavla Břízová
Title of the thesis:	Education and Crime: A Panel Data Analysis of the Czech Republic

OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

The thesis investigates relationship between crime and education in the Czech Republic. Using data for 14 Czech NUTS 3 regions in the period from 2000 to 2012 it quantifies effects of different educational levels, as well as influence of other macroeconomic and demographic variables. Chapter 1 provides short introduction to the topic and motivation of the research. Chapter 2 consists of well-presented overview of background information and statistical evidence of the Czech education and crime situation. Chapter 3 summarizes previous academic literature and research on the topic. Based on this, research hypotheses of the diploma theses are stated in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 then presents the dataset and methodological concepts. Empirical results are described and discussed in Chapter 6. Finally, Chapter 7 concludes.

Methodology used for the analysis (fixed effects model and generalized method of moments (GMM)) is adequate and well-handled. The thesis is devoted to important and often a bit overlooked topic of education. However, in the long term perspective exactly the education is one of the most influential determinants of economic prosperity. The thesis topic is comprehensively analysed and the whole text represents valuable contribution to the research in the given field as well as to the Czech economic policy debate in this area. Especially as the empirical results are somehow in contradiction with what could be expected based on the literature review. The work also points out what should be addressed in more detail in future research.

I have only few tiny concerns which do not decrease the high value of the thesis:
- Concerning the JEL Classification, I would prefer to narrow the list of reported codes down.
- In Chapter 1 (Introduction), I would avoid referring the Figures presented further in the thesis.
- On p. 30, the thesis says Chen (2008) has found that population density has significant and positive effects on various crime types. However, on p. 32 the thesis mentions inverse relation between population density and crime occurrence, referring to the same paper.
- On p. 51, there is a mistake in interpretation. It should be: if the male ratio increases by 1 percentage point, ceteris paribus, there will be a reduction of 0.7169 percentage point.

Suggested question for the defence is:
- What is the main difference between education (system and/or overall situation) in the Czech Republic and in Taiwan? Based on this, do you see some possible explanations why your empirical results, using data for the Czech Republic, differ from studies done using the data from Taiwan?

In case of successful defence, I recommend **"výborně" (excellent, 1)**.

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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED:

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	19
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	15
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**84**
GRADE	*(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)*	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Mgr. Pavla Břízová

DATE OF EVALUATION: 15. 6. 2015

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Referee Signature