

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Mariam Davladze</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Doc. Roman Horváth, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>The determinants of reform: The case of transition countries</b>

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

The thesis examines the determinants of economic reforms undertaken in Central and Eastern European countries. It examines the effect of some traditional variables such as democracy on the reform efforts but it experiments with including some additional explanatory variables such as foreign direct investment.

Importantly, the thesis examines the spatial effects in the reform process of transition countries, i.e. it examines whether reforms spill over internationally and countries learn from each others experiences. This is novel because previous literature on the reform determinants in transition countries modelled the spatial effects in a very crude way, namely by including the average level of reforms in other countries. The thesis also examines the determinants of reform separately for different reform areas, which has not been examined very often. It uses both EBRD indexes as well as the indexes developed by Campos and Horvath. The spatial effects are modelled as the inverse of distance and different spatial econometric models are estimated.

The thesis is mostly clear in arguments and generally reads well. The literature survey is sufficient. The econometrics seems to be carried out appropriately with the sufficient robustness checks.

The thesis is a nice example of comprehensive empirical exercise to relevant policy phenomenon. I recommend the grade A (vyborne).

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	26
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	16
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>88</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>1</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *Doc. Roman Horváth, Ph.D.*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** *May 26, 2015*



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**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	<b>1</b>	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	<b>2</b>	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	<b>3</b>	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	<b>4</b>	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě