

# Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Tomáš Ducháč
Advisor:	PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Labour market restrictions and migration flows in the European Union: the case of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

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

Tomáš Ducháč's Master thesis deals with non-trivial estimations of labour market restrictions and migration flows in the European Union in the case of three Eastern European partners, namely Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The thesis attempts to predict future migration flows from Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova to the EU based on the experience of previous EU enlargements and econometric analysis and modelling. Various scenarios featuring the worst-case and optimistic ones are neatly presented and discussed in detail. The results show that migration flows from the three countries in questions seem to be moderate, posing no threats to the stability of the labour markets of EU member states. The increase of migration due to accession to the EU is likely to be short-term, without substantial impacts in the long-run.

The thesis is well-written, includes 75 pages, and features 6 tables, 9 charts, as well as a comprehensive list of references. The literature review, the data analysis and the model and its discussions are adequate and constitute solid academic contribution.

I have to praise Tomáš's work which meets the highest research standards. He managed to write an interesting and very timely research work (especially in the light of recent events in Ukraine and the visa abolition for the holders of biometric passports in Moldova). He also demonstrated a good understanding of the topic and the techniques that are used in predicting migration flows. While working on his thesis, he also contributed some of his findings to the international research project entitled „Forecasting migration between the EU, V4 and Eastern Europe: impact of visa abolition” coordinated by the Centre for Eastern Studies in Warsaw and co-funded by Visegrad Fund. The results of Tomáš's estimations were presented to the European Commission specialists at various meetings.

I also have to mention Tomáš's relevant research publication (a journal indexed in Scopus) that employed some of the data and methods used in his thesis: *Strielkowski, W., Glazar, O., Ducháč, T. (2014). Economic implications of Turkish migration in Europe: lessons learned from Polish EU Accession. Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development, 35(2), 91-120. ISSN 0252 - 953X (indexed in Scopus, SJR 0.13).*

All in all, Tomáš proved to be capable of independent research work conducted at high standards and yielding remarkable results. Therefore, in the case of successful defense, I recommend him to be given „výborně” (excellent, 1) and „pochvala děkana za vynikající magisterskou práci” (Dean's special commemoration for excellent Master thesis).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	19
Methods (max. 30 points)	28
Contribution (max. 30 points)	28
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>92</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>1</b>

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

DATE OF EVALUATION: 31.05.2014



Referee's signature