

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Marie Kubíková
Advisor:	Petr Janský, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Fiscal Gains from Extra Investment into Roma Education in the Czech Republic

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The thesis quantifies space available for state investment into Roma education in the Czech Republic. Chapter 1 introduces to this interesting and highly important topic. Chapter 2 continues with overview of relevant literature that has been published on this and similar topics. Chapter 3 describes data sources and chapter 5 methodology used for evaluation of validity of three research hypotheses. Chapter 6 provides with results of the research and chapter 6 concludes.

The thesis uses cost-benefits analysis as its main methodological concept, which is definitely legitimate and appropriate. Calibration of unknown parameters is done with exemplary thoroughness. Moreover, extensive and quite rigorous sensitivity analysis represents significant value added to the main analysis of the topic. Practical applicability of results in economic policy decisions in the Czech Republic is the main and highly valuable contribution of the whole thesis.

Nevertheless, I have two following concerns with respect to the thesis:

- First, I find the part devoted to the survey among the clients of the endowment fund Verda rather redundant. Despite great expectations that real micro-data from the survey would confirm results of the main parts of the thesis, this did not happen due to weak response of the clients. I find the original intentions of the author to put stress also on this part of the research definitely appropriate. However, as the expectations about quality of data obtained by the survey did not materialize, I would prefer to give much less attention to this part of the research in the text of the thesis. Especially, as the research conducted based on calibration of known macro-data is quite excellent.
- Concerning the manuscript form of the thesis, I would prefer to avoid placing tables and graphs strictly just after the paragraph mentioning them, as it creates unsightly empty spaces in case the graph or table is too big to fit on the same page.

Suggested question for the defence is:

- What kind of investment would you recommend to be made into Roma education in the Czech Republic for it to really pay off (i.e. for example to increase enough the probability that the Roma children will pass the “maturita” exam)?

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

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SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	16
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	87
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Mgr. Pavla Břízová*

DATE OF EVALUATION: 28. 1. 2015



Referee Signature