Report on **Bachelor / Master Thesis**

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

Student:	**Dominika Kolcunová**
Advisor:	**Petr Janský, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Regional disparities in price levels across the European Union**

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

This is one of the best bachelor theses I have had the pleasure of supervising.

In this paragraph I summarize the content and contribution of Dominika's thesis – why what she did is academically sound and important for policy. Prices differ across regions and affect standards of living substantially; therefore price levels should be accounted for in any analysis focused on well-being in regions. However, the European Union often applies country-level purchasing power parities to region-level economic indicators and thus does not reflect inter-regional price differentials. An obvious solution is to apply region-level purchasing power parities to region-level economic indicators, but the problem is that these regional prices are not available for most EU member states. Dominika's aim in her thesis was to solve this problem by estimating regional price levels for all the EU regions. She applied a regression model on the available data about regional price levels of six EU countries and important characteristics of all EU regions. She thus estimated regional price levels for the rest of EU regions for the first time and used them to recalculate economic indicators. She found significant differences between analyses using country-level and region-level price levels. She highlighted the results' implications for policy such as the European Cohesion policy.

Dominika's thesis is excellent in all evaluation criteria. She might have performed the econometric analysis with more confidence (but was very good at seeking advice when needed) or the thesis might be a better experience for the reader (she might be more concise and to the point in some parts of the thesis), but for an undergraduate student, this thesis is a feat. At the beginning the plan for the thesis was thought-through and quite straightforward, but it did not guarantee a high-quality thesis. Only Dominika's approach and skills secured that the interesting research question was answered in an excellent way.

Dominika Kolcunová wrote an extremely good thesis and deserves a grade of **excellent (výborně, 1).**

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	18
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**98**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: **Petr Janský, Ph.D.**

DATE OF EVALUATION: **9ᵗʰ June, 2015**   *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	1	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	2	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	4	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě