

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Miroslav Palanský</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Petr Janský, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Political Connections and Public Procurement: Evidence from the Czech Republic</b>

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

The aim of this thesis was to analyse the relationship between political connections and public procurement. Miroslav Palanský fulfilled this objective in an excellent way.

The thesis is novel in a number of ways. Miroslav merges various data sets for regional councils in the Czech Republic. He uses changes in the regional councils following the 2008 elections as a natural experiment. The results suggest that companies donating funds to political parties win public contracts of higher value compared to non-connected firms in times when their supported party is in power.

I encouraged Miroslav that he might be rewriting the thesis in order to present it at a public procurement conference or to submit it to an academic journal (likely to Prague Economic Papers, as the first publication outlet, whose sister journal, Politická ekonomie, published related articles). For that to succeed, Miroslav has to sharpen the article significantly. For example, the introductory parts discussing public procurement rules and history should be significantly abbreviated and the existing literature should be discussed more in a way that motivates Miroslav's empirical analysis.

Miroslav Palanský did a good job of writing a thesis and I recommend a grade of **excellent (výborně, 1)**.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	19
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	27
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	29
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>95</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>1</b>

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

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2014



**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