

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Michael Bogren
Advisor:	Magdalena Patakova
Title of the thesis:	The Alcohol monopoly in Sweden and the potential hazards of privatization

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

The author tries to show that the enforcement of the monopoly law and the import quota are the best ways to reduce alcohol consumption. On the other hand, prospective privatization would decrease prices and therefore increase consumption. My comments:

- Is the reducing of total alcohol consumption the main goal of the state? I think, that more important is reducing the number of alcohol addicted people. That is why the analysis has to distinguish the impact of privatization on the alcohol addicted and on the non-addicted people.
- The state monopoly reduces alcohol consumption and decreases negative externalities of it. Nobody can argue with that. My question is: why is the state monopoly better way to reduce alcohol consumption in comparison with taxation?
- Exhaustive comparison with other states (as far as the reducing of alcohol consumption is concerned) is missing.

The thesis is according to me on standard IES level. I recommend accepting it with the grade 2.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	15
Methods (max. 30 points)	25
Contribution (max. 30 points)	15
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	15
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>70</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>2</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Jiří Hlaváček

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 20.8.2014

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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