

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Ladislav Tuma
Advisor:	Karel Janda
Title of the thesis:	Does Solar Energy Have a Future in Cental Europe

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

This is a report of advisor, provided by Karel Janda.

This Master Thesis is an applied econometric thesis dealing with Czech photovoltaics. The thesis is dealing with very important and interesting topic which is a source of a quite large recent academic research and it is also quite an important topic in applied policy analysis.

The thesis will be clearly suitable for submission to the relevant student competitions (The Vavrousek Prize at Charles University or Energy Economics Contest conducted by Institute of Energy Economics at Faculty of Finance and Accounting at University of Economics, Prague in the diplomate theses category, or in other Czech competitions for diploma thesis like the ones organized CEPS, Enviro, CEZ Foundation etc.)

The thesis combines several relatively independent research topics (estimation of merit order effect, co-movement of system imbalance and PV energy volume, projection of merit-order effect for 2015-2018, estimation of PV revenue factor(s), comparison of current electricity prices with costs of building the power plant in the Czech Republic) connected by a common theme of Czech solar energy and by the use of common datasets. The thesis serves a good starting point for several articles with a potential for publication in international energy related journals.

The literature contains the main sources used as a guideline for the analysis of the thesis, especially the relevant articles from Energy Policy. While the literature review and the list of references are not bad, they could be better, more comprehensive. There could be more emphasize on newest literature from 2015, there could be better coverage of the system imbalance topic. The list of literature (Bibliography), at the end of thesis is from the formal point of view shamefull – number of typos, imcomplete entries, entry repeated twice, using WP version of the paper instead of its published version (Prusa et al., 2013).

The thesis contains a number of typos, in this respect the thesis could have been written more carefully. Some of the typos are relatively serious since they make some parts of the text diffucult to read and understand.

Questions for defense:

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Since the diplomant says in the Conclusions (p. 64), that low wholesale price makes all energy sources non-competitive, what is the relative position of photovoltaics energy? There should be distinction between “not viable without subsidies/government support) and non-competitive in this thesis. Given the relevant market of the Czech Republic and given the physical and economical characteristics of the commodity energy/electricity, the competitiveness of particular type of energy is a relative category with respect of other sources of energy available to Czech customers.

Could the diplomant comment on the current political support of renewables and solar energy in particular (see for example the plans for significantly higher share of renewable energy in Australia and in ACT (Australian Capital Territory) in particular)? Similarly for EU, the 2020 20-20-20 targets are somehow out of date today, since the current EU reference is its 2030 Framework for climate and energy, therefore the relevance of solar energy could be discussed in this most current context.

I recommend the thesis for defense.

In the case of successful defense, I recommend the grade „excellent“ (grade 1).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	24
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	82
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Karel Janda

DATE OF EVALUATION: September 14, 2015

Karel Janda

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