Opponent's Report on Dissertation Thesis

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Title of the Thesis:	Interbank markets, monetary transmission and bank efficiency
Type of Defense:	**DEFENSE**
Date of Pre-Defense:	February 28, 2018
Opponent:	**PhDr. Michal Hlaváček Ph.D.**

Address the following questions in your report, please:

a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?
b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?
c) Is the thesis defendable at your home institution or another respected institution where you gave lectures?
d) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?
e) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?
f) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes, (b) the thesis can be defended after revision indicated in my comments, (c) not-defendable in this form.

(Note: The report should be at least 2 pages long.)

The refereed dissertation thesis consists of three independent but thematically related essays that have been already published in the impacted and renewed foreign journals (Economic Systems with impact factor 1.197, Economic Modelling with IF 1.463 and Comparative Economic Studies with 0.390). Especially the second paper is of high impact; personally I am using it as an important reference in my own research. Therefore the main body of the dissertation thesis already undergone strong quality checks and the whole thesis fulfills all standard requirements on academic publications. In addition, the earlier versions of all three articles were published as the CNB Working Papers (1st article as CNB WP 1/2013, 2nd as WP 9/2015 and 3rd as WP 10/2015) that also undergo thorough referee process (I was member of the referee committee for all three papers). This fact also underpins the policy relevance of all articles both for monetary policy and financial stability considerations. In fact all three articles are innovative as they bring in financial and banking sector indicators in the standard monetary policy discussion.

I find quite significant contribution of the dissertation thesis of J. Lešanovská in several ways. All three articles use the micro data on the Czech banking sector that have not been analyzed so far or were used only in a limited number of the studies. All three articles refer correctly to the important international studies so the contribution could be at least seen in comparison of the results of these studies with the situation in the Czech banking sector. On the other hand

thesis on several occasions correctly illustrates the specifics of the Czech financial sector that are linked to the empirical results. The first article nicely shows the link between the bank characteristics on the money market rates and on the pass-through from the central bank instruments (2W REPO rate) to the interbank market. Second article follows up the issue of the pass-through of the monetary policy rates to the client rates, thus pushing the bank specific issues in the further stage of the transmission mechanism. The article includes also bank efficiency among explanatory variables bringing another issue into consideration. The bank efficiency is estimated by stochastic frontier analysis and alternatively by data envelopment analysis. The last article analyzes the interaction between capital and bank efficiency by considering both directions of the Granger causality for the Czech banking industry. It thus contributes to the discussion about the relation of the banking efficiency issues and the macroprudential policies targeting the capital requirements.

As I find all three essays included in the dissertation as innovative, using the appropriate analytical methods on less common data, relevant for the policy discussions and generally of high quality, I recommend the thesis for defense without substantial changes (valuation a)).

In my report for "small defense" I stated several minor remarks to the essays. Though these remarks took mainly form of the "suggestions for further research", all of them were correctly implemented in the thesis by J. Lešanovská. I also welcome reaction to them included in the end of the thesis.

Date:	
Opponent's Signature:	
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