Report on **Bachelor / Master Thesis**

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

Student:	**Anna Pavlovová**
Advisor:	**Doc. Julie Chytilová, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Determinants of Life Satisfaction in the Czech Republic and Their Development over Time**

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

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

In her bachelor thesis, Anna studies the life satisfaction in the Czech Republic and how it correlates with a rich set of observable characteristics. The thesis contributes to the rich literature focusing on the determinants of life satisfaction by analyzing the data from the context of the Czech Republic in a wider time horizon compared to the existing studies. Further, Anna studies how the strenght of the relationship between various observables and life satisfaction has changed over time. The research question as well as the contribution of the thesis is important and clearly defined. The results of the analysis are very interesting, especially the development of the link with age – the results document that as people age their life satisfaction diminishes but at certain age it starts to increase again. Over time, this turning point seems to move towards higher age.

Methods

To perform the analysis, Anna uses appropriate methods which are commonly used to study determinants of life satisfaction. She relies on OLS regressions and in the text she explains what the advantages and disadvantages of this method are. I appreciate that she is well aware of the potential limitations of the analysis, especially the ability to identify causal effects. She clearly points to the limitations and interprets the results carefully as correlations.

Literature

It is obvious that Anna carefully read the related literature and has a good knowledge of it. She provides relevant references to academic research, both in terms of resaerch studying related questions in general, as well as the research focusing specifically on the Czech Republic. Chapter 2 provides a nice literature review.

Manuscript form

The thesis reads very well, the text is clearly structured and the whole thesis very well organized. The graphs and tables are easy to understand.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

To sum up, I believe the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, and suggest grade A.

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Suggested question for the discussion:

As I mentioned in the report, I find the result indicating that the point when the diminishing life satisfaction starts to increase moves towards higher age, and appears at relatively high age in general, very interesting. Are you aware of any study from other countries which would document similar patterns?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	30
Methods (max. 30 points)	30
Literature (max. 20 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	**100**
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	**A**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Julie Chytilova

DATE OF EVALUATION: May 28, 2018

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Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

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*

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*

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*

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	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F