Report on **Bachelor Thesis**

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

Student:	Richard Karolík
Advisor:	doc. Ing. Tomáš Cahlík CSc.
Title of the thesis:	The Effect of University Education on Employment in the Visegrad Group

OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

Contribution
The topic of the thesis is already a well-studied phenomenon and the overall results of the thesis confirm previously established findings. The main contribution lies in the focus on the Visegrad group and in the comparison of results for individual countries, which is done well and brings relevant if not especially insightful findings.

Methods
The author employs a logistic regression to estimate the impact of education on employability. The results are presented clearly both as odds ratios and average marginal effects. A linear probability model is used as a robustness check. The author discusses the assumptions of all models and as a result correctly employs the weighting of data and robust standard errors. The author shows a firm grasp and understanding of the methods used, which are more than appropriate for a bachelor thesis.

Literature
The literature review is exhaustive and sufficiently maps the vast literature on this well studied topic. Differences in results and methods of this thesis and previous literature are discussed and explained. The literature review lacks any studies on the topic from Visegrad countries, even though previous research based on data from said countries seems to exist.

Manuscript form
The thesis is written succinctly and clearly, with all parts being well explained. The regression results are presented in well-arranged tables that are easy to read and interpret. Grammatical errors are sparse and the text would deserve revisions only in a few places.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The thesis studies a notorious and complicated problem of returns to education, specifically its impact on employability in countries of the Visegrad Group. Despite the complexity of the topic, the author skillfully navigates through the existing literature and previous research and provides his own take and contribution to the topic.

In three logistic regression models the thesis examines the relationship between education and employment, firstly in a Visegrad group as a whole, then in its individual countries and lastly he explores also the differences between bachelor's and master's degree. All models are employed correctly and their results are clearly presented and carefully discussed. The author confirms the already well established negative correlation between education and unemployment, but also shows some interesting differences between the four Visegrad member states.

Overall, the thesis is well written with a solid empirical analysis that is more than appropriate for a bachelor thesis. I do have three questions/comments for the defence:

1) The empirical analysis of education is well known for problems of omitted variable bias where unobserved variables like skill and aptitude of people may render the effect of education invalid. While the author correctly talks merely about correlation rather than causality, he could at least mention the problem and its possible solutions given the available data.

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2) The thesis compares the results among the subsamples of individual countries, as well as the differences in two types of tertiary education. It does not however show whether the differences are statistically significant, which implies the question what differences are significant and how can it be tested.
3) The author only briefly mentions one suggestion for future research in the explored topic. More suggestions would be welcomed as well as some policy implications of the findings of the thesis (if there are any).

In conclusion, I strongly recommend the thesis for defense and suggest the grade B.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	24
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	29
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	17
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	18
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**88**
GRADE	**(A – B – C – D – E – F)**	**B**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Mgr. Tomáš Troch

DATE OF EVALUATION: *23.8.2018*

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Referee Signature

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