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Masters Thesis: Human Capital and the Transition in Serbia: Accumulation, Allocation, and Implications for Development

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The aim of this thesis is the discussion of different aspects of human capital in the development of Serbia. In fact, there are three main topics here: the role of education and the role of emigration for the accumulation of human capital (parts II and III) and the problems of allocation of human capital in part IV. In the 1.st part, an introduction about human capital and Serbia is given and in the last part, conclusions from parts II, III and IV are summarized.

This thesis is well structured and formally without any problems. I have some critical remarks to the contents:

- In all the parts II, III and IV, the author starts with the general description of the topics and then comes to the problems of Serbia in the specific area. In my opinion, the general descriptions are "too general", I would prefer to have the general discussion to be more tied with the discussion of problems in Serbia.
- The chapter "Education in Transition" is too much based just on three sources – Radó, Crighton and Halász. It makes the "essay" in this chapter too "flat".

For the final discussion, I suggest to discuss the argumentation on page 71 – that the high share of students at some faculties can be used as an indicator of a rent seeking behavior bias. I find this argumentation highly interesting but controversial as well.

I recommend this thesis for the final discussion and I suggest evaluate it no worse than B.

Prague, 17. 1. 2006

