

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

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Advisor:	PhDr. Jiří Schwarz
Title of the thesis:	Does RIA Really Evaluate Regulatory Impact? The Case of the Czech Republic

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

The main goal of this thesis is to provide an analysis of the changes in regulatory impact of laws caused by parliamentary amendments. Results of such study do not only contribute to the theoretical literature on the legislative processes but also have important policy implications. The reason is that one of the targets of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is to provide a possibility to carry out an ex post analysis of successfulness of the regulation and the degree to which it fulfilled its planned goals. But such ex post analysis is not feasible if the parliamentary amendments substantially affect the impacts analyzed in the RIA.

The author first introduces the process of the RIA, and by describing its development explains its numerous targets. Then a thorough and very systematic review of existing literature is provided which reveals that the analysis proposed in the thesis is indeed a pioneering one.

In the empirical part the author analyzes all laws enacted in 2010 in the Czech Republic. The job was a very demanding one, the author of the thesis had to go through hundreds of documents in order to build a dataset of the laws and related amendments, find out which of them were adopted, and estimate their likely impacts on various groups of economic agents. The thesis reveals that the amendments in most cases indeed do have an impact. Due to the generally low quality of RIAs, it was unfortunately impossible at this stage to rigorously quantify the impacts; they are therefore "only" categorized according to the magnitude of their impact and affected parties.

The thesis is pleasure to read, it is written in very good English, and literature is well cited.

Given the level of difficulty of gathering the needed data and the novelty of the research which made it impossible to just copy some established methods of analysis, I suggest a distinction from the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for an extraordinary good thesis.

I have one stimulating question for the defense: Wouldn't it be more correct to include also bills without amendments into the sum of bills which have only amendments with zero impact?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	98
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Jiří Schwarz

DATE OF EVALUATION: 5.6.2011

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