

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Lucia Psenakova</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Karel Janda</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Government Export Support: A Comparative Study of European Post-Communist Countries</b>

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

This thesis is dealing with government support of export in all four Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary). Firstly the descriptive overview of international trade of these countries is provided. Then the summaries of the official government export strategies for all these countries are presented. This is followed by a description of Export Credit Agencies in all Visegrad countries. Finally a gravity model of export with government support is estimated for Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland.

This is a nice bachelor thesis which combines well done institutional description with a nicely executed empirical applied econometric investigation. This bachelor thesis has a good potential to be significantly improved and elaborated to make an excellent diploma thesis in a year or two time.

Very nice feature of this thesis is the effort put into summarizing the common features and differences among 4 covered countries. It is much better than often seen bachelor/master comparative theses which take country by country and describe the analysed topic in each of the countries separately without any real comparison.

The introductory description of international trade is relatively well done, but it is not sufficiently tightly connected to the export promotion and to the empirical section (gravity model) of the thesis. The section is primarily descriptive, the inclusion of some ideas, conjectures, evaluations would improve this section. This section could be improved, to make it into a well written original description of international trade with a clear connection to the topic of the rest of the thesis (export promotion, export credit and insurance). The description should be well balanced across countries, time, topics, covering the most important and relevant features of the whole analysed period.

The section on official government export strategies has a potential to be a good original descriptive treatment of this topic. I am not aware of any good academic paper which would be covering this topic, so here is a good publication niche. This section is directly relevant to the topic of the thesis.

The description of the export credit agencies is a standard part of any article dealing with the export credit promotion. It is difficult to come here with anything original, interesting. The description in this thesis is well done. I especially appreciate the

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parts which compare the products provided in different countries and different forms of export credit agencies.

The gravity model section is currently suffering from insufficient data. After inclusion of sufficient data from all Visegrad countries and after some fine-tuning it could be comparable with Baltensperger and Herger (2009). While the level of econometric analysis is perfectly O.K. for IES bachelor thesis, the future extension to diploma thesis will require more econometric sophistication. Also the empirical investigation should move into the position of the central (core) part of the thesis well connected to other supporting sections of the thesis, not to be just a supplement of the main descriptive part of the thesis.

The major bottle-neck, the obstacle to extending this thesis to the level of top field journal like Journal of International Economics is to find some way how to really evaluate the effect of government support. To find some way of having treatment and control group.

As a conclusion, I recommend this thesis for the defense and I recommend the grade Excellent (grade 1).

## References:

BALTENSPERGER, E. and HERGER, N. Exporting against risk? Theory and evidence from public export insurance schemes in OECD countries. Open Economies Review. September 2009, 20(4). 545-563.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	16
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	22
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	25
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	18
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)</b>	<b>1</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *Karel Janda (the advisor for this thesis)*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** *August 9, 2012*

*Karel Janda*

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*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