Report on **Rigorosus Thesis**

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

Student:	**Marek Pažitka**
Advisor:	**Julie Chytilová**
Title of the thesis:	**Effect of education on health: The Czech Republic case**

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

The aim of the thesis is to investigate the effect of education on health. To deal with the endogeneity issue, the author uses a clever identification strategy: month of birth relative to elegibility cuttoff at the age of six years. The author builds on related studies from other contexts and applies it to the case of Czech Republic. I must say it is a very competent piece of empirical work, the paper is clearly motivated by existing work, the author knows the usual threats to identification, and uses the right ways to address them. He is very mature in interpreting the findings as well. In fact, his main finding is that in the Czech context, the instrument is too weak, preventing him to draw meaningful conclusions about the effects of education on health. Although this might be a weakness if the aim were to publish the piece in an academic journal, the thesis reveals many of author's talents, as I describe above. A potential question for defense is whether the author have any idea for a potentially suitable instrument for education, which could be used in the future work.

In sum, I recommend the thesis to be accepted.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	20
Methods (max. 30 points)	30
Contribution (max. 30 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	**90**
(doporučuji, nedoporučuji)	**Doporucuji**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Michal Bauer

DATE OF EVALUATION: ***February 19, 2015***

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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			
81 – 100		= excellent	
61 – 80		= good	
41 – 60		= satisfactory	
0 – 40		= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě