

Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Lenka Šperková
Advisor:	PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Ukrainian labor migration and remittances in the EU

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

Lenka Šperková's Master thesis deals with the issue of Ukrainian labor migration and remittances in the EU and represents a well-executed and elaborated piece of academic work that is based on the empirical research conducted in Western Ukraine in collaboration with the team of Professor Douglas Massey from Princeton University. The project was inspired by the similar endeavours in Mexico and Latin America.

Migrants' remittances are generally considered to be one of the most important channels with potential to influence macroeconomics indicators. Lenka's thesis provides a detailed analysis of the different forms of remittances. The econometric model which is carefully constructed and executed consists of statistical summary of the data and three hypotheses and focuses on the probability and amount remitted, consumption behaviour and probability of getting skilled position in the target country. The results show that the probability and amount remitted are determined by demographic factors and direction of effects differs in the case of regularly and onetime payments. Altruism and business financing are primary motives to remit. Remittances appear to be transferred by informal channels into the productive forms of consumption. A procurement of skilled position is positively influenced by human capital factors but also reflects labour market situation in the destination country.

Overall, the work has 9 well-structured chapters, bibliography, and two appendices. The thesis contains a proper literature review and description of the data, methods and discussion of relevant results. The thesis is well-written and structured and bears all prerequisites and requirements one can expect from a rigorous academic paper. The work is original and shows the author's understanding of the topic, her ability to work with the data and formulate and test non-trivial assumptions and hypotheses.

Generally, it seems to me that this thesis exceeds the standards set out for Master theses at the Institute of economic studies, Faculty of social sciences, Charles University in Prague. To me it looks rather like a draft of a well-forged scientific article that, after some slight modifications, might be published in a good peer-reviewed academic journal. I think that Lenka proved that she is capable of independent research work conducted at high standards and producing remarkable results. Therefore, in the case of successful defense, I recommend the student to be given "**výborně**" (**excellent, 1**).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	19
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	93
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: PhDr. Wadim Strielkowski, Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 09.06.2015



Referee's signature