Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Bc. Marie Kubíková**
Advisor:	**Petr Janský**, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	**Fiscal Gains from Extra Investment into Roma Education in the Czech Republic**

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

The aim of this thesis was to estimate fiscal gains from extra investment into Roma education in the Czech Republic. Marie Kubíková fulfilled this objective in an excellent way.

The thesis deals with the important topic of Roma education in the Czech Republic is novel in a number of ways. In her thesis Marie estimated different net contributions of Roma with various educational levels to the national budget. Furthermore, she estimated the yearly loss of the national budget due to lower education among the Roma. As far as I am know, these are first such estimates for the Czech Republic and the government should pay attention to these results (and of course there are other than fiscal benefits): if the Roma would be as educated as are the Czechs, the government budget would get additional annual income of around 3.7-11.7 billion Czech crowns.

Marie cooperated with the endowment fund Verda, which financially supports Roma students, and conducted a survey among its former clients with the aim to find the relationship between their education, employment status and other variables. Marie was aware of the risks associated with this data collection and knew that the setting did not allow for a rigorous research design. Unfortunately, some of these risks were realised and, importantly, only a small sample of former clients has been collected, despite the best efforts of Marie. Although the results are not as revealing as we hoped, I appreciate the energy that Marie put into this part of the research and her thinking on how this could be done better if there was more and higher quality data available.

Unusually for the IES thesis, Marie collected primary data (from the Verda former clients) and attended a research workshop abroad (in Budapest) as a part of her research for the thesis. Although some master theses at the IES use arguably more rigorous, econometric methods than Marie did in her thesis, she used the appropriate methods for the research questions and data at hand and that is what really counts. Overall, I appreciate that Marie approached the research in a very elaborate way and I am looking forward to seeing the results influence the public policy in the Czech Republic.

Marie Kubíková did a very good job of writing a thesis and I recommend a grade of **excellent (výborně, 1).**

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	18
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	24
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	28
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	20
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**90**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: **Petr Janský, Ph.D.**

DATE OF EVALUATION: **5th February, 2015**   ***Referee Signature***

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