

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Kristína Sacherová
Advisor:	Barbara Pertold-Gebicka
Title of the thesis:	How discriminatory is the housing market in Slovakia: experimental investigation

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

The bachelor thesis by Kristína Sacherová investigates discrimination of Roma in Slovakia. The author points out that it might be not only difficult for Roma minority to find a job, but also to integrate with the majority population by finding a place to live in the free market. Kristína chose to conduct a correspondence experiment – a research methodology gaining in popularity recently – to find out whether Roma indeed find it more difficult to rent or buy an apartment or house. The results of this experiment revealed that Roma applicants are invited for flat/apartment viewings approximately 10-15% less often than Slovak applicants.

The work by Kristína is one of the best bachelor thesis I have supervised. The student worked independently, showed to be well organized and able to collect all the relevant information. The experiment was designed by Kristína on her own with just minor interventions from my side. It is also important to mention that running a proper correspondence experiment is very time consuming and requires perfect organization. Kristína devoted a lot of her time to looking for flat/house rent/sale advertisements, responding to them and noting down all relevant information, including potential invitation of house/flat viewing. She managed to assure proper randomization and summarized the resulting data in an easily-manageable worksheet. Finally, Kristína analysed the data very carefully and drew relevant conclusions. She considers several specifications to be able to test different hypotheses and compares both the linear probability model and probit, which are both relevant methods when a binary response variable is considered.

One of the most interesting aspects of the bachelor thesis is grouping of districts according to Roma representation in their respective populations and analysing potential Roma discrimination within these groups. This analysis reveals that Roma are the most discriminated in districts with average concentration of Roma minority in the population.

Given the overall quality of the thesis as well as the work style presented by Kristína I suggest the grade “excellent”.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	30
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	96
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Barbara Pertold-Gebicka*

DATE OF EVALUATION: 1.6.2016



Referee Signature

