Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Tomáš Ducháček**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Jan Soudek**
Title of the thesis:	**Analysis of decision making of the Czech Office for the protection of Competition in public procurement cases**

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

The work analyzes for objections against decisions in public procurement. Whereas such topic seems like a strange choice for an economic thesis, in fact it has much to do with economic motivation of individual firms moving in complex legal environment of public procurement.

Thesis presents rather basic numbers on firms and office behavior, which however consists of solid groundwork with use of good knowledge of legal side of practice, that are later combined with elementary economic analysis. Whereas the analysis and conclusions are rather simplictic, it has to be noted that they are first of a kind in Czech republic, and in my opinion may bring relevant inputs into current policy debate on subject. OPC has severe problems outlined in the thesis – such as excessive length of decision making, which deems most of the decisions irrelevant, as authorities typically already cancel their tenders.

From purely economic and methodological point of view, I thus see little merit in the work. It however does well in terms of combining legal and economic insights to provide novel policy relevant findings, which makes it solid bachelor thesis in discipline of Law and Economics. **I recommend to grade it as execellent**.

Comments:

1. In 5.1, the share of reviewed contacts is first estimated to 3-5%, however further on it is found to be less than 3 %, as if this was implied by previous text (which is not). Here possibly author confuses volume and number of contracts.

2. While giving real-life examples, like in 5.3.1 it is appropriate to refer more precisely, for instance by referring to case number and page where information are published.

3. Given that individual dummies are strictly non-overlapping, the model presented in 5.4 should essentially return average lengths of distinct procedures. From this follows, that discussion of their significance in 5.4 has low merit, as it only deals with difference of average value from arbitrary intercept chosen by model.

4. It might be interesting to study histogram of procedure lengths in case of protest withdrawals. To support hypothesis of strategic protests, the procedure lengths just below the time limit for decision would perhaps be very frequent. This way, the analysis is rather dull, relying on authors opinion.

Recommended questions:
1. Are the protests really rare? Following Gordon (2013) might be misleading in Czech environment. If the difference with abroad figures is large, it might be worth mentioning in thesis.

Report on **Bachelor / Master Thesis**

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

Student:	**Tomáš Ducháček**
Advisor:	**PhDr. Jan Soudek**
Title of the thesis:	**Analysis of decision making of the Czech Office for the protection of Competition in public procurement cases**

2. As you notice in 5.3.2, the net gains of tender cancellations from both parties in case of EU funds are negative. How do you explain, that authorities resort to this step so often, even if they don't have to?

3. As noted in 5.5 the rate of appeals is increasing each year, whereas their success rate possibly does not. How do you explain motivation for such appeals?

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	25
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	15
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**85**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Jiří Skuhrovec*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *7.9.2015*

_____
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