Advisor' s Report on **Master Thesis**

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

Student:	Eva Němečková
Advisor:	Jana Votápková
Title of the thesis:	Medical tourism within the Czech Republic

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

The thesis analyzes medical tourism within the Czech Republic using a binomial logit model. It finds out which districts (okresy) and regions (kraje) send most patients beyond their borders for health care. Hospitalizations and medical treatments are analyzed separately. After the preliminary analysis which restricts the sample for the main analysis defining the regions which are most represented and are thus subject to the analysis, the thesis aims to determine reasons for medical tourism (a) from districts; (b) from regions; to receive (i) treatments and (ii) to be hospitalized.

The thesis finds out that the patients are very much attracted to university hospitals. Since there are only 10 university hospitals in the Czech Republic, the people travel there. Women and older people travel less, consistent for inpatient and outpatient care, even though the effect is only marginal (note however a huge dataset). Effects of selected diagnoses was analyzed too, suggesting that the people suffering specific diagnoses are willing to travel more than others. Severity of the illness seems to be an important determinant whether the people decide to travel or not. On the other hand physical disability independent of the diagnosis, e.g. when a patient requires assistance, seems to decrease willingness to travel for healthcare.

The topic that the thesis analyses is brand new not only in the Czech Republic but also the international context. Healthcare migration is a widely analyzed phenomena in the word, however, no one has ever analyzed healthcare migration within one country. Administrative division of Czech regions and districts suggests a space for such an analysis which Eva nicely grasped. While working on the thesis, Eva showed a great devotion and an eager attitude. She independently learnt how to handle a huge dataset, studied the methodology and literature. However, primarily due to a large dataset which we initially had troubles to obtain, but succeed later on; and the amout of work Eva had to deal with and manage the large dataset, she seems not to have enough time for the text of the thesis itself. In the text I miss deeper discussion of the intersting results and a link among different analyses which Eva carried out. Also, her academic style and English need to be polished a little.

I have just one additional note to the thesis which I have not raised while Eva was writing it.

The analysis for regions (kraje) shows a better fit of the model than the analys of districts (okresy). This finding seems to show that districts (okresy) are not large enough units to be analyzed and we should primarily deal with districts. In other words, if every district (okres) does not offer the same services and the people travel just because the service is not available, travelling between districts, even though frequent, cannot be considered medical tourism.

Despite the limitations of the thesis I meantion above, however, I suggest that Eva Němečková should be awarded **grade A (excellent)** and the thesis should be rewritten into an IES working paper which will correct the above stated missperfections.

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	*(max. 20 points)*	20
Methods	*(max. 30 points)*	30
Contribution	*(max. 30 points)*	26
Manuscript Form	*(max. 20 points)*	10
TOTAL POINTS	*(max. 100 points)*	**86**
GRADE	**(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)**	**1**

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Jana Votápková

DATE OF EVALUATION: August 10, 2016

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	GRADE		
81 – 100	**1**	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	**2**	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	**3**	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	**4**	= fail	= nedoporučuji k