

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Zuzana Stehlíková</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>PhDr. Radek Janhuba, M.A.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Cross-Country Analysis of Life Satisfaction</b>

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

The thesis explores determinants of several subjective well-being measures based on econometric analysis of macroeconomic data on a cross-country level. I have consulted the study extensively during its writing and all substantial comments were addressed before the thesis was finalized. Hence, I only provide the evaluation and minor comments. The student spent substantial time on the thesis.

### **Contribution**

The thesis uses previously found methods on a newly updated data from the whole world. The author also extends the analysis to examine data from OECD countries by analyzing a richer set of dependent variables. Thus, the study extends the previous literature by including some explanatory variables which were previously unanalyzed on the macroeconomic level. The thesis brings some interesting findings, such as the share of female representation in the parliament predicting the subjective well-being in European countries.

### **Methods**

The author demonstrates the ability to use panel data methods and use formal testing procedures to select the appropriate econometric specification. Moreover, in the analysis of positive and negative affects, she utilizes a beta regression, which is a method beyond the bachelor econometrics curriculum.

### **Literature**

The review of literature is carefully written and includes all of the relevant studies.

### **Manuscript form**

The manuscript is well structured and satisfies the formatting needed in a bachelor thesis. There are some minor formatting mistakes such as Table 1 being duplicated in the text. The thesis is written with the sufficient level of English, which got continuously better with every draft exchanged between the author and supervisor. Still, in case of potential further attempts to publish the thesis, I would recommend it to go through further rounds of English editing and proofreading.

### **Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense**

The thesis is well written and, in my opinion, satisfies the conditions to pass the defense as a bachelor thesis. It is visible that the author spent extensive time on the thesis. I recommend the thesis for a defense with an Excellent grade.

I would suggest the following questions for the defense:

- Which advantages and disadvantages do you see in using macro- and micro-based models to analyze subjective well-being?
- How would you explain the differences in terms of some coefficients in the analysis of the whole world versus the OECD data?

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	27
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	19
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>91</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Radek Janhuba

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** Jun 1, 2018



**Referee Signature**