

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International Business - Central European Business Realities**

Academic year: **2015/2016**

Master Thesis Topic: **Purchasing Power Parity – Theory and Practice**

Author's name: **Michal Aleksander Bukat**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Pavel Žamberský, Ph.D.**

Opponent: **doc. Ing. Josef Taušer, Ph.D.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	2
2.	Logical structure	3
3.	Using of literature, citations	3
4.	Adequacy of methods used	2
5.	Depth of analysis	3
6.	Self-reliance of author	2
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	3
8.	Language and stylistics	2

Comments and Questions:

Although the topic of Michal's thesis seems to be very "traditional" one, since it has been exposed to intensive and extensive research for many decades, it is still very relevant and important. The reasons for it are well explained in the thesis. I appreciate Michal's engagement and amount of data gathered and presented. On the other hand, the goals formulated in the form of many research questions were probably too ambitious and could hardly be met to a full extent.

The thesis is more description and comparison than analysis searching for relations or origins for the given state of art in the researched area. Comparisons made on the basis of Big Mac Index are interesting, but one should not take this measure too seriously as it is also stated in the thesis. I do not see much sense in giving the Balassa-Samuelson effect at the very end of the thesis as it has been well known and explained model for relatively long time. Instead, I would put it into the theoretical part and in practical part I would show at least some basic evidence on this effect in a real world ...

As for the formal requirements, there are also some drawbacks. Each graph should be sourced, even if the source is "own elaboration" too. And more generally, sources should be better quoted so that one could easily find the initial source of respective data or information if needed.

All in all, I consider the thesis to be of an average quality and I propose grading "very good" or "good" according to the thesis defense.

Questions for the defense:

1) What is the current comparative price level of Czech Republic and what was its dynamics in the past? What implications would you derive from this data for the Czech economy in terms of its competitiveness and future prospects?

2) Would you consider relatively high comparative price level of a country as a sign of high competitiveness or do you see it rather as a factor of low price competitiveness which hinders the future development of the country? Please explain and justify your answer.

3) What is your opinion on the policy of Czech National Bank to keep the rate of Czech Crown relatively low?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **2**

Date: 06/01/2016

doc. Ing. Josef Taušer, Ph.D.

Opponent