

Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

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

Academic year: **2016/2017**

Master Thesis Topic: **The Czech Republic: European Integration and the Development of Trade Structure**

Author's name: **Tobias Ibsen Christensen**

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

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

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

Comments and Questions:

I have found the thesis by Tobias to be interesting and relatively well developed. The goal of the thesis is clearly defined and specified with following research questions. The structure of the thesis is logic and fits to the thesis' aims. I appreciate the empirical parts which show that Tobias is able to work out independently a given topic using relevant methods of data analysis. The conclusions are also fair and backed both by theoretical framework and empirical results.

On the other hand, it is evident that the thesis was finished under the time pressure which resulted in some typing errors, language mistakes, missing explaining footnotes under graphs and tables (where relevant) and mainly too short extent of the thesis (below the required standard of 60 pages). I think author could spend more time on elaborating the research questions 2 (determinants of trade structure and international trade flows) and 4 (role of membership in the EU). I consider these sub-goals to be met to a limited extent only. Fortunately, the thesis has an annex in form of Excel file containing many calculations made by author which, in my view, provides a satisfactory compensation for a shorter extent of the thesis so that I can recommend it for the defense, but with a proposed grade of "good" only.

Questions for the defense:

1. What is the ownership principle in the foreign trade statistics and how does it differ from cross border statistics? Please address the question generally as well as specifically for Czech Republic.
2. What are the fundamental determinants of Czech exports?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **3**

Date: 09/07/2016

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