Assessment of Master Thesis – Opponent

Study programme: **Quantitative Methods in Economics**
Field of study: **Official Statistics**
Academic year: **2018/2019**
Master Thesis Topic: **Evaluation of the accuracy of the population forecasts in the Czech Republic**
Author's name: **Bc. Polina Bezushchenko**
Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Petr Mazouch, Ph.D.**
Opponent: **RNDr. Tomáš Fiala, CSc.**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Comprehensibility of the Master´s Thesis topic and objectives	**1**
2.	Fulfilment of defined objectives	**1**
3.	Logical structure and cohesion of each parts	**1**
4.	Extent and relevance of description of the current level of knowledge	**1**
5.	Adequacy of methods in respect of the topic (selections of the methods and their application)	**1**
6.	Extent, quality and precism of description of the thesis´s results	**2**
7.	Relevance and correctness of discussion of the thesis´s results	**1**
8.	Correctness and relevance of information sources	**1**
9.	Grammar, stylistic style, terminology and overall formal and grahic level of the Master´s thesis	**2**

Comments and Questions:

The theme of the thesis is very attractive because the accuracy evaluation of the past population projections in Czechia was conducted just once. Not only official projections of Czech Statistical Office but also some other projections (by university researchers or Eurostat or United Nations were compared. Author showed her ability of independent scientific work and of analyzing large amount of data. It should be pointed out that the comparison of projections involved not only the total population size but also some particular age groups and some scenario indicators (total fertility rate, life expectancy at births and net migration). Not only Mean Absolute percentage Error but also Keyfitz's "Quality of prediction index" were used as comparison criteria. The goal of the Thesis was fulfilled and i recommend the Thesis to defense.
I would like to ask the following question: What would you recommend to improve the accuracy of the population projections (not only) in Czechia in the future?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 01/06/2019

RNDr. Tomáš Fiala, CSc.
Opponent