

Opponent's Report – Master Thesis Evaluation
Philosophical Faculty. University of Hradec Kralove

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Title of the Thesis: Social policies in the Central European countries: What could learn Nicaragua from them? Fiscal policies, youth employment policies and pension systems in the Visegrad Group

1. The objective of the thesis: B

The objective of the thesis is described and stated clearly, but rather broadly. Such a broad-based objective might lead to a simplified and superficial view of the problem. The author deals with this issue by decomposing the main objective into partial objectives- applied and symbolic-that are easier to follow and examine. Also, chapter four, highlighting good practices in countries, chosen as examples and examined samples, anchors the main and partial objectives.

2. Structure of the thesis A

The structure of the thesis is well-arranged, clear and logical. It is easy to find each selected issue in the thesis because its structure has a form that can be expected to support the interpretation from general to special.

3. Evaluation of the theoretical part of the thesis: A

The topic of the thesis is very up-to-date, as the issue of social and fiscal policies are of great importance not only to the young generation coming to the labour market, but also for the older people, who will get dependant of the social allowances produced by the younger labour force. I highly appreciate the thorough overview of the current state of research and comparison between chosen countries. Based on the academic literature and other sources, the author argues her points of view.

4. Evaluation of the methodological part of the thesis: A

Appropriate scientific methods, as analysis, synthesis and comparison have been chosen and explained systematically and the assumptions have been motivated. The author's personal experience from the home country has been incorporated into the thesis as well.

5. Evaluation of the research results: A

The results are plotted in clear and very good figures. The analysis was carried out at great length and enough relevant details were provided to support the author's conclusions and recommendations

6. Evaluation of fulfillment of the objectives and elaboration of the conclusions of the thesis: A

The author applies the chosen methods very well to achieve the stated objectives. She provides comprehensive conclusions, based on the fulfillment of stated objectives.

7. Evaluation of the formal level: A

The level of the used non-native language, like grammar or professional terminology, is above average and answers the academic standard of the master thesis. The sources are all up-to-date and relevant to the given topic. They are cited appropriately to prove the presented facts. I highly appreciate the quality work with the text editor and charts and tables supporting the processed data.

8. Benefits for the social practice of social policy: B

The thesis provides a comprehensive overview of the fiscal and social policy advantages, disadvantages, and implications for chosen countries. This specific topic is of great importance to social policy stakeholders and managers, so it can be recommended as additional study material for master students and specialized courses.

9. Questions, which should be discussed within the scope of the thesis defence:

What is the author's opinion on the Czech taxation specialty-super-gross wages-in general? And does it encourage young people to look for a regular job? What is, according to the author, the impact of high housing prices on the youth labour market in the Czech Republic? Is there a similar issue in Nicaragua?

10. Final evaluation of the thesis: A

See in the text of the report. The thesis required extensive knowledge in the field of social policy, including its various forms and impact on different types of economies, to provide appropriate conclusions and recommendations. Considering the author's personal contribution, I evaluate the outcome as an original master thesis. The final evaluation of the author's effort depends on the oral presentation and defence, too.

Hradec Králové, 9. 8. 2019

Olga Sovová
Doc. JUDr. Olga Sovová, Ph.D.