

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Tereza Michálková
Advisor:	doc. PhDr. Julie Chytilová Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Determinants of Induced Abortion in Selected European Countries

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

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution: Motivated by the recent increase in abortion level across Europe, this thesis aims to examine the relationship between various socio-economic determinants and induced abortions level in selected European countries.

Methods: The core methods used to explore the relation of interest are Fixed Effects (FE) and the Random Effects (RE) models with the Newey-West robust standard errors. Specifically, the author estimates these models using the panel-data analysis of 15 European countries for the 2007-2017. The variables the researcher explains with econometric models are: total number of legal abortions and abortion ratio. The set of control variables include crude birth rate, female tertiary education achievement, female unemployment rate, GDP per capital, real GDP growth rate, social benefits, political stability index, divorce rate and the marriage rate. Further, the author performs Hausman test to select which model Fixed Effect or Random Effect is the most appropriate.

Literature: The literature review consists of three main parts. First, the author briefly outlines how abortion legislation affects the economy and society. Second, the author discusses economic theories used to explain the behavior of the family members. Third, the author summarizes socio-economic factors which might have impact on the of abortion levels. It is important to note that the second part of the literature is not very informative. The student tries to present different economic theories related to family behavior but he does not explain why they are relevant for his analysis. Additionally, the literature review is missing conclusion that summarizes gaps in the existing literature.

Manuscript form: The manuscript has the correct academic structure. It begins with an introduction of the topic, which is followed by the literature review, the data description, the methodology section, the results and the conclusion. Overall, the structure of the thesis is logical and well written, though the document includes some inconsistencies in the text format and need some extra editing (not much).

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense:

In summary, the bachelor thesis is a competent work exploring potential impacts of various socio-economic determinants on the legally induced abortion level in Europe. The manuscript documents the decreasing tendency in the abortion level since 2007. Moreover, the declining rate differs across different European countries.

For the discussion during the defense, I would have few clarifying comments. The authors motivation to perform the study and the contribution of the study is not clear. The author summarizes what is done in the literature, but does not point on the gaps. Also, it would be interesting to include a brief discussion of possible policy implications of the findings of this thesis. The author suggests to perform a similar analysis for Asian countries and compare the results. However, the comparison might not be that straightforward due to different economic trends across regions.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	13
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	84
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	B

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

DATE OF EVALUATION:



Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F