

# Master's Thesis Reviewer's Expert Opinion

Student: Reinolf Agyei  
 Title of Master's Thesis: Corruption and International Trade. The Case of the V4 Countries.  
 Thesis Supervisor: Ing. et Ing. Veronika Linhartová, Ph.D.  
 Thesis Reviewer: Ing. Pavel Zdražil, Ph.D.  
 Thesis Reviewer's workplace: Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Pardubice

## Thesis Evaluation Criteria

	Excellent	Very good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Cannot be evaluated
Degree of achievement of the aim of the thesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequacy of the methods used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depth of analysis (relative to topic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logical structure of the thesis and scope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working with literature including citations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal arrangement of the thesis (text, charts, tables)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language level (style, grammar, terminology)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Other Comments on the Thesis

The thesis offers an interesting insight on the issue of corruption and its possible links to the international trade. I appreciate the theoretical foundation, which describes more approaches to the issue. I also appreciate the efforts embedded in the interpretation of results in relation to findings of other research studies. However, there is also a number of negative elements involved, above all:

1) I disagree with interpretation of results and conclusions derived from the OLS regression. In particular, the results of OLS show very low numbers of effects that are statistically significant. Nevertheless, the student draw "strong conclusions" based on these mostly insignificant results. For instance, one can read on page 48: "The result of this analysis indicates that there is a positive relationship between GDP and the export rate of the V4 countries". However, Table 3 shows the only significant result for the GDP-export relationship has been found for Hungary, where the effect is equal to 0.

2) I am also wondering about the selection of variables for analysis. Based on the research aim, I would expect deeper analysis of connections between the international trade and corruption. However, this relationship is only minor part of much broader analysis of links between international trade and GDP, inflation etc.

3) The thesis sets very high goals, but it fails at achieving these goals. In fact, the sections focusing on "public sector corruption" and "reducing corruption" are very vague.

4) The list of literature is quite extensive, for one hand. But on the other hand, the student did not work with most of the resources recommended by the Assignment of diploma thesis.

Finally, there are also issues in the formal arrangement of the thesis. For instance, the list of abbreviations should be sorted alphabetically, some tables are titled as figures, there is misspell on the book cover (Pardubicei), etc.

## Questions and Suggestions for Defence

1) Your recommendations are general and derived from the literature recommendations. Considering the particular context of each V4 country, can you provide one specific measure (individually for each country), which would be easily implemented?

## Final Evaluation

I **recommend** the thesis for the defence.  
I propose to grade this Master's thesis as follows: **D**

In Pardubice 19.5.2021

Signature .....