

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Bc. Veronika Sovičová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>doc. PhDr. Mgr. Ing. Antonie Doležalová, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Corporate Social Responsibility and tax haven use: Evidence from the Central and Eastern Europe</b>

## OVERALL ASSESSMENT

### Contribution

Veronika Sovičová wrote a very good master thesis on a timely topic of corporate social responsibility and tax haven use. This is currently a very intensively studied topics by leading scholars in economics, accounting and other related fields and, despite this, Veronika, managed to carve out a reasonably novel approach, a collection of data and new empirical results, which together constitute a modest, but good enough contribution for a master thesis.

In her thesis, Veronika finds evidence that firms using tax havens are more than 60% less likely to have higher corporate social responsibility score. While Veronika's main contribution is obviously empirical, the thesis is well balanced with a good non-empirical material included and, for example, she interprets one of her main finding cited above as being in line with the corporate culture theory (rather than the risk management theory). Veronika does not communicate what her main contribution is as strongly as she could and I would welcome a more explicit description of her contribution with respect to the existing academic literature.

### Methods

Methodologically, Veronika's approach is adequate for a mater thesis, both in terms of the overall thesis as well as the empirical analysis.

Veronika collects the relevant data and seems to be competent in the data analysis and the results' interpretations. She also seems to be aware of some of the limitations of her empirical analysis and discusses some of them well in her thesis, which is welcome.

One of the limitations of the empirical analysis is indeed the focus on one region only. Was the focus on one region due to the time-consuming nature of the data collection or some other reason? Covering the whole of Europe or the world would increase the currently low number of observations as well as provide a natural comparison for the region Veronika seems to be interested in (highlighting differences across European regions rather than discussing results for one only). I do not see this is a crucial disadvantage (and other theses often take a similar approach) but I wish Veronika discussed this decision more explicitly in her thesis. (In addition, as Veronika notes in her thesis, this sole focus and collection results into a very small number of observations because "As CSR reporting is relatively less common in the Central and Eastern Europe, the number of corporations for which we managed to collect CSR performance data was also fairly limited.")

### Literature

Veronika has done a very good enough job of understanding the literature and relating his research to the most closely related papers. She shows off this command of literature in her thesis very well.

While I am not an expert on corporate social responsibility, I am well aware of the excellent paper of Prem Sikka from 2010: Sikka, P. (2010, September). Smoke and mirrors: Corporate social responsibility and tax avoidance. In *Accounting forum* (Vol. 34, No. 3-4, pp. 153-168). No longer published by Elsevier.

I have thus wholeheartedly welcomed the fact that Veronika repeatedly cites and works with this influential paper.

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Bc. Veronika Sovičová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>doc. PhDr. Mgr. Ing. Antonie Doležalová, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Corporate Social Responsibility and tax haven use: Evidence from the Central and Eastern Europe</b>

The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

## Manuscript form

The thesis is written in very good English. The formatting is adequate for a master thesis.

## Suggested questions for the committee

In your thesis, why have you not collected data for other regions (of Europe or the world) in addition to your focus on the central and Eastern Europe?

## Summary

In my view, the thesis fulfils the requirements for a master thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade C.

In short, Veronika Sovičová did a very good job of writing a thesis and I recommend **a grade of C**.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	20
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	20
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	19
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)</b>	<b>C</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:**

**DATE OF EVALUATION:**

*Digitally signed (15. 8. 2022)  
Petr Janský*

---

**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