



Záznam o průběhu obhajoby disertační práce

Akademický rok: 2023/2024

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Ketevani Kapanadze, M.A.
Identifikační číslo studenta: 14311350

Typ studijního programu: doktorský
Studijní program: Ekonomie a ekonometrie
ID studia: 521483

Název práce: Essays in Regional Economics and European Integration
Pracoviště práce: (23-CERGE)
Jazyk práce: angličtina
Jazyk obhajoby: English
Školitel: doc. Ing. Mariola Pytliková, Ph.D.
Oponent(i): prof. Dr. Christian Lessmann, Ph.D.

doc. Ing. Štěpán Mikula, Ph.D.

Datum obhajoby: 19.12.2023 **Místo obhajoby:** Praha
Termín: řádný

Průběh obhajoby:

The Defense Committee Chair initiated the defense by verbal statements confirming (i) that a satisfactory number of Defense Committee Members were present, (ii) that the student Ketevani Kapanadze fulfilled all the requirements as listed in the Study and Examination Code of Charles University including showing the appropriate documents. At the beginning, the curriculum vitae of the student was presented and PhD studies reviewed by the supervisor Mariola Pytlikova. . Following this, the student started the presentation of the dissertation “Essays in Regional Economics and European Integration”, presenting the motivations for her thesis research, methodologies used and empirical findings of the dissertation to the Defense Committee.

After reading the referees’ comments, an open discussion followed. Ketevani Kapanadze answered questions raised by the referees (she also submitted all her answers in a written form to the defense committee) and by the defense committee.

Sebastian Ottinger: When you say that economic integration is beneficial for the overall economy, do you mean Europe’s economy? Does Italy, for example, benefit? It is clearly beneficial for some countries, e.g. Poland, but does every country benefit? I am just wondering what is the story intuitively, I see the empirical result, but it would great to add a few case studies to help the reader understand why the border regions do not profit. Ketevani Kapanadze answered.

Gérard Roland: I have actually the same comment about understanding the negative coefficient. You mention that the

competition is the cause of the negative effects but it would be useful to provide some example cases, otherwise it seems too abstract.

Sebastian Ottinger: You need just a bunch of stories, of Polish or Austrian companies that decided to go to the center. People see data, but they like stories as well.

Sebastian Ottinger: You highlight Těín, but should mention (at least in the paper) that it was annexed by Poland in the late 1930s. I did not see it mentioned in the paper.

Do you know where the owners of the businesses came from?
Ketevani Kapanadze answered.

Sebastian Ottinger: What is it that divides the cities? Is it a river, is it a bridge? Maybe in some cases infrastructure was destroyed.

Ketevani Kapanadze commented.

Christian Lessmann: Thank you I find the answers to my comments quite convincing. There are some minor things that could improve the paper. What I missed from the presentation is the discussion about parallel trend assumption, and I was wondering why there are no anticipation effects? My assumption is that all these people would know that the Polish would come to the Schengen, and they would start investment on the Polish side. For me there must be an obvious anticipation effect, you know it from other parts of Eastern Europe. Germans come, build, and you see it from the night lighting even before the border opens. So how do you deal with that – parallel trends and anticipation effect?

Ketevani Kapanadze answered.

Sebastian Ottinger: Provide a simple event study with your outcome. And you can see all the effect before, and you can run F-test, whether coefficients before were significant from zero.

Christian Lessmann: Just use the Schengen variable here minus one year, and see what happens.

Ketevani Kapanadze commented.

Sebastian Ottinger: Just as a defense committee member, I would like to point out professor Mikula's comment. Show robustness to spatially autocorrelated standard errors somewhere in all papers before you submit it to a journal.

Ketevani Kapanadze commented.

Gérard Roland: I'd like to congratulate you, very nice dissertation, especially chapter two. I have already pointed it out but the explanation of the negative effect in the chapter 1 should be expanded, case study or some explanation, few examples would be useful.

I have one question, you mentioned the interaction effect with the EU and the Schengen. If I believed your interpretation, I would think that the interaction effect with the EU should not be significant (but it is) so why is that so?

Ketevani Kapanadze answered.

Výsledek obhajoby: prospěl/a (P)

Předseda komise: doc. Ing. Daniel Münich, Ph.D. (přítomen)

Členové komise: Sebastian Ottinger (přítomen)

prof. Gérard Roland, Ph.D. (přítomen)