



Novembre 28, 2007

To Who It May Concern

I am writing to strongly support **Andrey Launov** who applied for an academic position in your Department. I first met Andrey a year ago when he came to present a seminar at the Economics Department of the University of Louvain. Since the beginning of October 2007, Andrey is visiting fellow in this Department. He works with me and other colleagues on the structural evaluation of a Belgian program that at the same time monitors more closely the unemployed and provides them with job-search assistance and other active labour market programmes. This recent collaboration with Andrey is already very informative.

Andrey Launov is a dedicated researcher able to develop rigorous theoretical and econometric research and to produce insightful economic analysis. He is at the same time a full-fledged economist and a well-trained econometrician. In addition, he has a very strong background in mathematics. His approach of problems is always very rigorous. He is one of the smartest young academic I ever met in my career.

His research interests are in labour economics, population economics and econometrics.

In labour economics, he is among the leading specialists of the equilibrium search models *à la* Burdett-Mortensen. He uses this model to analyze applied issues such as the profile of unemployment benefits. He also further develops the model (in his research with Christian Holzner submitted to the E.E.R.) and contributes to development of econometric techniques (with J. Wolff). In labour economics, he contributes to the revival of the approach of segmented labour markets. There, he develops techniques to test the segmentation approach. He applies these techniques on data of an African country in the IZA DP 2349. In population economics, he has contributed to the analysis of the determinants of fertility.

A common feature in his research is the application of rigorous modelling and microeconomic techniques to clarify questions with a strong applied content. His interest for issues like poverty and development is clear.

In addition to his intellectual talents, Andrey is hard-working, personable and reliable. As his many collaborations suggest and on the basis of our short joint research, Andrey likes working with others. He would certainly be a very active and pleasant member in any research group. He typically writes co-authored papers but I am convinced that he is a full co-author.

In sum, I recommend Andrey Launov heartily.

Prof. Bruno Van der Linden.