

OPINION

Of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree
“Doctor” at “D. A. Tsenov” Academy of Economics – Svishtov

Member of the Jury:

Lyubomir Ivanov Todorov, PhD, Assoc. Prof.,
Professional Field 3.8 Economics, Scientific Specialty “Statistics and
Demography”, Certificate №25578/18.05.2009

Author of the Dissertation:

Plamena Yordanova Koleva

Dissertation Title:

Statistical Survey of Tourism in Bulgaria

Scientific Supervisor:

Plamen Petkov, PhD, Assoc. Prof.

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation work contains a title page, table of contents, a list of abbreviations and acronyms used, an introduction, an exposition in three chapters, a conclusion, a declaration of originality, a list of references and appendices. The total volume of the dissertation work is 204 pages, of which 162 pages are the main text. The bibliography contains 154 sources, of which 90 are in Cyrillic and 64 in Latin. There are 22 appendices in the form of tables with primary data and results of the author's research. The main text of the dissertation work contains 13 tables and 32 figures for visualization of the results of the research work. It can be concluded that the presented version of the dissertation work complies with the specific requirements specified in Art. 68, para 2 of the Regulations

for the Development of the Academic Staff at the “D. A. Tsenov” Academy of Economics.

II. EVALUATION OF THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The main text of the dissertation consists of 162 pages, divided into an introduction, an exposition in three chapters, and a conclusion. The structure is balanced, with the focus being on the practical results of the research, presented in the third chapter.

The introduction of the dissertation work justifies the significance and relevance of the topic, indicates the main directions of research on the chosen topic, defines the object and subject of the study. The purpose of the study, six research tasks and the research thesis are indicated. The methods used and the limiting conditions of the study are correctly presented.

The first chapter of the dissertation consistently examines the organization of statistical observations in the field of tourism at the global and European level, the methodologies used for conducting tourism observations by the UN World Tourism Organization, Eurostat and the National Statistical Institute. The conceptual foundations of the statistical study of tourism and its information provision with data for Bulgaria are examined.

The second chapter of the dissertation presents the methodological aspects of tourism research, examining statistical methods for studying the dynamics, seasonality and structural changes in tourism.

The third chapter presents the results of the study of foreign visits to Bulgaria. The author analyses the dynamics of incoming tourist visits, the presence of seasonality in visits within individual years, and performs a structural analysis of changes in incoming tourist visits to the country.

The conclusion of the dissertation summarizes the main results and conclusions from the analysis performed.

The abstract correctly reflects the content of the dissertation work and the main results of the scientific research.

The doctoral student has submitted 4 publications on the topic of the dissertation, fulfilling the minimum national requirements, according to Article 2b of the Law of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

III. SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DISSERTATION

The reference for the contributions of the dissertation work lists five contributions, two of which (1 and 3) are of a theoretical-methodological nature, and the other three (2, 4 and 5) are of a practical-applied nature.

I accept the proposed contributions without comment.

IV. QUESTION ABOUT THE DISSERTATION

I have no comments and/or questions regarding the dissertation presented to the scientific jury.

V. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF THE DISSERTATION AND CONCLUSION

The dissertation work presented to the scientific jury on the topic "Statistical Survey of Tourism in Bulgaria" by doctoral student Plamena Yordanova Koleva is complete and represents a comprehensive and in-depth scientific study of a theoretical, methodological and applied nature. The results obtained are valuable from the point of view of systematizing existing knowledge and deepening and expanding empirical research in the field of tourism in Bulgaria.

In summary, I express my positive opinion about the quality of the dissertation work and vote "YES" for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Plamena Yordanova Koleva, in the scientific specialty "Statistics and Demography".

I call on the other members of the scientific jury to support the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Plamena Yordanova Koleva.

14.03.2025 г.

Prepared the Opinion:_____

(Lyubomir Ivanov Todorov, PhD, Assoc. Prof.)