

OPINION

for the award of educational and scientific degree “Doctor” at D. A. Tsenov academy of Economics - Svishtov

The opinion is prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Veryana Boeva, Ph.D., Department of Management at the Technical University – Gabrovo, member of the scientific jury for the award of educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in doctoral programme “Planning”

at D. A. Tsenov academy of Economics – Svishtov

Author of the dissertation: Tanya Minkova Nikolova, part-time doctoral student at the Department of “Strategic Planning” at D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov

Dissertation Topic: Strategic Solutions for Poverty Reduction in the Northwest Planning Region

I. I. General presentation of the dissertation:

The object of the dissertation is poverty in the Northwest Planning Region and its **subject** is strategic solutions for poverty reduction in the Northwest Planning Region. They are relevant to the aim of the dissertation and correspond to the set research objectives. Methods adequate to the given objectives are used, the application of which is provided mainly with information from official sources. The limitations of the study are clearly defined.

The dissertation has 204 standard pages – enough to achieve the completeness of the study.

The structure of the dissertation is well balanced and consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, references and appendices. Each of the chapters ends with conclusions and is structured in up to 4 sections. There is a good balance and proportion between the chapters and the sections within them.

The relevance of the topic is indisputable due to the complex influence of the factors and contradictory results of public policies related to poverty. In light of this, the topic is also beneficial in terms of searching for scientific solutions for prospective strategic interventions on the phenomenon of “poverty”.

The aim and objectives and the research thesis statement are clearly stated.

There is a sufficient number of **literary sources**, up-to-date in terms of year of publication and cited in the text as required.

There are 7 **appendices**, which contribute to a more complete presentation of the results achieved by the doctoral student.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation.

The problems related to poverty and social exclusion do not cease to be relevant and to be the subject of scientific research in Europe and worldwide. Poverty and its manifestations have been studied in a number of scientific studies, on which the doctoral student demonstrates good knowledge.

The introduction contains the foundations for a dissertation – justification of the relevance of the topic, aim, object, subject, objectives, research thesis statement, methodology and limitations.

Chapter One of the dissertation examines the essence, nature and root causes of poverty. An analysis of publications related to research on the topic is performed. National and global dimensions of poverty are examined, a large volume of data being analyzed. Based on an analysis of good global and European practices, the importance of state intervention to address poverty, as well as the importance of trust in national institutions, are highlighted.

Chapter Two examines the characteristics of the Northwest Planning Region (NWPR). The levels of relative poverty in individual areas are presented based on their specific characteristics. The socio-economic potential of the NWPR for overcoming poverty by region is assessed. The challenges facing the NWPR are highlighted – demographic, in terms of education, etc.

Chapter Three presents a survey, with the main aim of surveying the opinion of respondents from the NWPR regarding the causes and consequences of poverty, the institutions that have a role in the fight against poverty, and the possible instruments for the implementation of policies. The analysis of the results is presented in detail.

A model of the strategic solution to combat poverty is proposed, and its application is visualized based on the testing of two different scenarios. A model of “Success of the Strategic Solutions to Fight Poverty in the NWPR” is developed.

In the Chapter Three conclusions, the main factors for the success of strategic solutions to address poverty in the NWPR are highlighted, the first of which is the will of the state. Several different software solutions to combat poverty are presented, and a comparative

analysis of the existing software solutions and the author's idea for one is made in tabular form.

The conclusion reaffirms the fulfillment of the research objectives, thereby confirming the research thesis statement defined in the introduction.

The presented main points of the dissertation justify the opinion that there is a high degree of development of the researched scientific problem.

The **language and style** used in the dissertation are appropriate for a scholarly presentation.

No violation of scientific ethics is observed. The used literary sources are cited correctly.

The presented **author's abstract** consists of 33 pages and covers accurately and fully the dissertation and the results achieved by the doctoral student.

III. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation.

The presented dissertation contains results of scientific and scientific-applied significance. The scientific contributions are precisely formulated and supported by the research results presented in the dissertation. I accept the contributions as formulated by the applicant.

IV. Critical notes, questions and recommendations to the dissertation.

The presented survey leads to valuable results and conclusions, the value and significance of which would be emphasized by a more detailed presentation of its methodology.

The proposed dissertation presents significant achievements and the critical note above in no way detracts from its merits. It should be seen more as a recommendation when planning similar future studies.

V. Summarized assessment of the dissertation and conclusion.

The dissertation submitted for review meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov.

The author shows a good knowledge of the object of the research and ability to apply the scientific tools, and offers a complete and significant scientific research. The set main aim is achieved, and the thesis is successfully defended. The dissertation contains valuable scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

All this gives me grounds to give a positive assessment and to propose to the scientific jury to award Tanya Minkova Nikolova the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional direction 3.8. Economics, Doctoral Program "Planning".

Date: 05.07.2024

Prepared the opinion: _____

(Assoc. Prof. V. Boeva, Ph.D.)