



**ВУЗФ**  
Университет  
по финанси, бизнес  
и предприемачество

**HIGH SCHOOL OF INSURANCE AND FINANCE  
REVIEW**

**by Prof. D.Sc. Britchenko Igor  
professional field 3.8 Economics  
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of dissertation for getting the scientific degree "**Doctor of Science**"  
in the field of higher education

3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field

3.8. Economics doctoral program Finance, Insurance and Social Security

**Author: Dr. Peter Fraczek**

**Theme: "Financial cost management and the effectiveness of the chosen methods  
in the social assistance system of Poland on the example  
of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship"**

**1. General description of the submitted materials**

By order № 111 of 21.04.2022 of the Rector of VUZF and a session of the scientific jury of 05.05.2022 I was appointed a reviewer to provide a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on "Management of financial costs and efficiency of selected methods in the social assistance system of Poland on the example of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship" for getting the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, PhD program "Finance and Insurance".

The author of the dissertation is Dr. Peter Fraczek, a lecturer and director of the Institute of Social Sciences on a basic employment contract at the named after Jan Grodka State University in Sanok (Poland).

The materials submitted by the Department and the Center for Research and Doctoral Training at VUZF include all the necessary documents for the procedure, so that in all aspects of the assessment, which I do as a reviewer, to indicate the specific merits of the doctoral student and to make an objective conclusion.

## **2. Brief biographical data about the candidate.**

In 2009, Dr. Peter Fraczek defended his doctoral dissertation at the Economic and Social College of the Warsaw University of Applied Sciences. Dissertation theme "People with disabilities in the local labor market on the example of the regions of Sanok, Lesice and Beschadi". The materials of the dissertation for the Doctor degree of Peter Fraczek are not repeated and have not been used in the preparation of the dissertation for the Doctor of Science degree.

Dr. Peter Fraczek is a lecturer and director of the Institute of Social Sciences on a basic employment contract at the named after Jan Grodka State University in Sanok, Poland. Since 2014, Dr. Peter Fraczek has been the holder of disciplines that focus on the problems of financing social assistance in the Republic of Poland. He combines his teaching work with research in the field of social assistance management, which has led to the realization of the current dissertation, the subject of this review.

In addition to the teaching work of the main employment contract, he deals with the following positions, which are directly related to the topic of the presented dissertation:

From 02.2016 - 02.2020 - Member of the Regional Municipal Council for People with Disabilities at the Cabinet of the Governor of Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Poland)

From 01.2015 - 05.2019 - Member of the Supervisory Board for Economics of Municipal Enterprises in Sanok (Poland)

From 01.20213 - present - Member of the Regional Examination Commission for Professional Specialization of Social Workers in Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Poland)

From 01.2013 - present - Member of the editorial board of the magazine "Disability – Problems and Solutions", PFRON (National Fund for Rehabilitation of the Disabled), Warsaw (Poland)

From 2012 to 2014 - Active participant in cooperation in the field of publishing and expert activities with the web portal prawosocjalne.pl (sociallaw.pl)

From 10.2010 - present - Head of the Department of Social Work named after Jan Grodka State University in Sanok (Poland)

From 2014 to 2016 - Head of specialized training in organizing social work at the State Higher School named after Jana Grodka in Sanok (Poland)

From 09.2002 - present - Member of the Commission for Disability Assessment in the Office of the District Governor (Poland)

From 01.2000 - 09.2002 - Regional Center for Family Assistance in Sanok (Poland)

From 1998 to 2002 - Secretary of the Committee on Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Municipal Council of Sanok (Poland).

### **3. Relevance of the theme and expediency of the set goals and objectives**

Dr. Piotr Fraczek has dedicated his research to the the financial aspects problem of the formation and functioning of the social assistance system in Poland. The relevance of the theme is beyond doubt, as improving the well-being of citizens is one of the most important functions of the state and society. The social assistance system is very important in this regard.

In his scientific publications, Dr. Fraczek considers the social assistance system in Poland as an element of the country's socio-economic policy, in which the social assistance financing system and the prospects for its development play a special role. After an in-depth study of the theoretical aspects of the socio-economic policy of the

state, the author pays great attention to the practical aspects of financial management of the social assistance system.

Emphasizing attention to the practical aspects of the organization and functioning of social assistance in Poland positively distinguishes this work from many similar works, which are mostly theoretical in nature. Revealing the shortcomings of the existing organizational and financial mechanisms of the social assistance system in Poland, the author proposes specific practical measures and ways to improve it. One of them is the use of the social contract as an effective tool for social assistance.

This work is particularly positive and useful in connection with the use of a large statistical, analytical and mathematical base of research based on current data and relevant mathematical calculations.

#### **4. Subject awareness**

The author has undoubtedly studied the problem under investigation in depth. It is evidenced by his numerous publications. The total number of scientific publications is 56, including: participation in collective monographs - 33, one individual monograph published in 2021 at BAS, 22 scientific articles. Most scientific publications are indexed in international databases, including 2 - Web of Science. All publications of the author are directly related to the studied problem. In addition, Dr. Fraczek has been a reviewer, editor and expert of scientific monographs of other authors related to the research field for 9 times.

It should be noted that Dr. Fraczek has been studying this scientific issue for approximately 20 years and since 2003 has published scientific papers on this subject. His works have been cited since 2008.

In his dissertation the author uses 403 sources, including: scientific literature - 322, statistical sources - 42, regulations and legal acts - 20, Internet resources - 9 and his own author's summaries and works.

The author's many years of experience in research and teaching at the Institute of Social Sciences on a basic employment contract at the named after Jan Grodka State

University in Sanok (Poland) is indisputable. The experience of his personal participation as a specialist and managerial staff in enterprises of the respective type of activity is also indisputable.

## **5. Research methods used**

The author uses methods inherent in the topic and field of research - a systematic approach, enriched with a functional and structural approach, as well as expert mathematical methods. Empirical methods were also used: scientific observations and research methods and assessments (opinions), theoretical methods: analysis and summary of literature and normative documents, available materials, including literature related to research tasks and existing assumptions and draft concepts, as well as summaries, comparisons, analytical and statistical data. They provide an opportunity to make an in-depth theoretical analysis, as well as on the basis of questionnaires and analysis of data from them to make practical conclusions that are contributory.

## **6. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation**

Structurally, the dissertation contains an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, bibliography, list of tables, graphs, drawings. An abstract is also attached, which summarizes the actual conclusions and results of the study. The dissertation is written in Russian and the abstract is in Russian and Bulgarian.

After the introduction sets out the main parts of the study in the separate chapters, the following problems are emphasized:

In the **first chapter**, entitled "Social assistance as an element of socio-economic policy of the state", the author presents social assistance as an element of socio-economic policy of the state.

The author reveals the theoretical foundations of the social assistance system from the point of view of economics and other social sciences. Exploring various concepts and definitions, the author gives a reasonable trend about the affiliation of this issue to the field of economic sciences, while emphasizing the great social and societal

importance of this field of research, as well as its indisputable relevance. The author describes the history of the creation and development of the social assistance system in Poland, its legal basis, organizational structure, existing advantages and disadvantages. The author focuses on the methods of further research and on the fact that further research on the chosen theme will be carried out on the example of Poland with the help of data and the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship. In order to give practical significance to the dissertation research, the author pays special attention to the practical problems of the functioning of the social assistance system in Poland. At the same time, these problems are considered in connection with the general economic realities and opportunities of the Polish economy. This gives the research serious scientific and practical significance and distinguishes it positively from the many works that have exceptional theoretical significance.

In the **second chapter**, entitled "Financing the social assistance system in Poland in 2012-2018", Dr. Petr Fronczyk reveals the financial aspects of the functioning of the social assistance system in Poland. The types of social payments and benefits, the criteria for appointment, the target groups of the social benefits recipients and payments are described in detail, the mechanisms for their financing are studied. The decisive role of financial payments in the functioning of the social assistance system in Poland is shown. At the same time, the dominant role of the state in financing social assistance in Poland is shown, too. The budgetary sources of state funding of the social assistance system have been studied. A statistical analysis of the allocated budget funds for social needs was performed. Particular attention is paid to the role of local self-government in financing the social assistance system in Poland.

The **third chapter**, entitled "Financial management in the social assistance system in Poland on the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship in 2012-2018", is dedicated to the financial management of the Polish social assistance system at the local government level on the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship. In order to analyze the effectiveness of the financial management of the social assistance system of local authorities, the author analyzes the general economic situation and financial opportunities on the

example of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship; for this he used appropriate mathematical methods and tools, applying them to the statistics of a particular voivodship. The performed analysis allowed the author to make reasonable conclusions necessary for the formation of relevant practical proposals and recommendations.

In the **fourth chapter**, entitled "Effectiveness of the social assistance system in Podkarpackie on the example of the chosen instrument - social contract", the author presents and analyzes the social contract as a tool in the social support system and methodological assumptions on empirical study of public contract in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The author defines the social contract and its legal justification, shows the advantages of the social contract as an effective, relevant and active tool for social assistance. The author pays special attention to the methodological description of the social contract as not only a practical tool, but also a scientifically based modern effective mechanism, which is supported by appropriate calculations. The author additionally describes the reasons, motives and consequences of the wide practical use of public contracts in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. This study was conducted taking into account the demographic characteristics of the region. The use of statistical data allows the author to show the role of the public contract for improving the social protection of the population in the region and to make an author's assessment of the chosen social instrument. The role of social workers in the use of the social contract in the system of social assistance is revealed. In this chapter, the author shows the great advantages of a social contract for improving the effectiveness of the Polish social assistance system, while the author widely uses social research as an additional argument in favor of this chosen social instrument. The dissertation ends with the relevant conclusions.

## **7. Evaluation of the abstract and reference for the contributions to the dissertation**

The abstract is very detailed and accurately reflects the achievements in the dissertation. The abstract contains the following parts: justification of the relevance of research and the choice of topic, purpose, subject, object, hypotheses, limitations,

structure and field of research, the author's contribution to the development of scientific knowledge and conclusions of dissertation research, and a summary of the dissertation. The abstract is prepared in Bulgarian language, the dissertation is in Russian language.

The author's contribution is divided into two parts - the author has formulated contributions that have a strong theoretical nature and secondly - practical and applied contributions. The author has presented two main scientific-theoretical and two scientific-practical conclusions from the dissertation in the abstract. All conclusions are scientifically substantiated and logically proven in the dissertation. Conclusions have scientific and practical value. Thus, the abstract fully reflects the essence of the dissertation and meets the requirements for it.

## **8. Evaluation of dissertation publications**

The candidate has presented a list of publications on the topic of the dissertation. They are both personal and co-authored. All are published in peer-reviewed publications. Monographic research and studies predominate, which is proof of the sufficiently solid popularization of the ideas that the candidate defends in his dissertation.

The total number of scientific publications is 56, including: participation in collective monographs - 33, one individual monograph published in 2021 at BAS, 22 scientific articles. Most scientific publications are indexed in international databases, including 2 - Web of Science. All publications of the author are directly related to the studied problem. In addition, Dr. Fraczek has been a reviewer, editor and expert of scientific monographs of other authors related to this research field for 9 times.

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Sanok, Lesice and Beschadi". The materials of the dissertation for Peter Fraczek`s scientific degree of Doctor are not repeated and have not been used in the preparation of the dissertation for the Doctor of Science degree.

#### **9. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements**

It is evident from the reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Economics", which the applicant has applied, that there is an over-fulfillment of these requirements.

#### **10. Personal participation of the candidate for "Doctor of Science"**

There is all the evidence that this dissertation is the work of the candidate himself, the result of his research and work on a topic that is largely within the scope of his teaching and on the other hand - his research and analysis.

#### **11. Weaknesses and issues**

The author has not explored such a topical issue as the functioning of social protection in Poland during the pandemic.

At the same time, it should be noted that due to the lack of research in this field of knowledge, in fact, any direction of research in the field chosen by the author will be very relevant.

#### **14. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results**

I recommend paying more attention in the future research to current aspects of social protection in a pandemic.

### **CONCLUSION**

The review of the dissertation on the theme "Management of financial costs and effectiveness of selected methods in the social assistance system of Poland on the

example of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship", developed by Dr. Peter Fraczek gives reason to conclude that this study meets of the minimum requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The theme of the dissertation provides an opportunity to reveal fundamental issues of economic and management theory, as well as to outline models for practical benefits of the application of theory in practice.

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASRB) and the Regulations for the implementation of DASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements of the Regulations for admission and training of doctoral students at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation shows that the candidate for the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" Dr. Peter Fraczek has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the professional field 3.8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent research.

In view of the above, I confidently give my **positive assessment** of the research presented by the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I **invite the esteemed scientific jury to award the degree of "Doctor of Science"** to Dr. Peter Fraczek in field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional field 3.8. Economics; doctoral program "Finance and Insurance".

06.05.2022 Reviewer:

(Prof., D.Sc. Igor Britchenko)