

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Julia Georgieva Dobрева

of a dissertation for the award of the scientific degree "**Doctor of Science**"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and law sciences

Professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: Dr. Piotr Fronchek

Topic: Management of financial costs and efficiency of selected instruments in the social security system in Poland on the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship

1. General description of the submitted materials

By order № 111 of 21.04.2022. of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance Prof. Dr.J.Sc. Boris Velchev I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury for providing a procedure for the defence of a dissertation on "Management of financial costs and effectiveness of selected instruments in the social security system in Poland on the example of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship" for the acquisition of scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics. The author of the dissertation is Dr. Piotr Fronchek.

The materials submitted by Dr. Piotr Fronchek include documents from the presented list:

1. Reference scientometric indicators
2. Reference to citations
3. Diploma for the acquired educational degree "Doctor" (PhD) with the topic: Persons with disabilities in the local labor market on the example of Sanok, Leska and Bieszczady districts.
4. Dissertation - 260 pages (with appendices - 290 pages)
5. Abstract
6. List of contributions
7. Summaries of publications

The candidate has submitted 12 publications, 2 of which are co-authored (110 points) and a dissertation. He cited citations that meet the scientometric criteria, namely 105 points out of the required minimum - 100 points.

The dissertation has a total volume of 290 pages, incl. bibliography and applications.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

The candidate in the procedure, Dr. Piotr Fronchek, is a lecturer and at the same time director of the Institute of Social Sciences, State Higher School Jan Grodka in Sanok (Poland). Dr. Perth Fonchek is the holder of disciplines related to the problems of financing social assistance in Poland. He also successfully combines his teaching work with research in the field of social assistance as a member of the regional municipal council for people with disabilities in the office of the Governor of Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Poland); he was until 2019 also a member of the Supervisory Board for Economics of Municipal Enterprises in Sanok, Poland, and before that until 2013 also a member of the Regional Examination Commission for Professional Specialization of Social Workers in Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Poland).

3. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation is 290 pages long and consists of an introduction / general content, four chapters, conclusion, bibliography, list of tables, diagrams, figures.

The author manages to prove his thesis that transfers for social assistance in Poland are ineffective because they are targeted at certain groups (families with children), instead of being targeted at the most needy. This thesis raises the potential for even larger research of the Eastern block countries, which share the same model of transition from a planned to a market economy and thus have a common characteristic of the models of social assistance that have been created in the process over the past 30 years. The author emphasizes that despite the increase in state budget expenditures, Poland is not ready to solve social problems, and they will be central both in Poland and in the whole region in the future, especially the problems with the ageing population or refugee benefits. from other countries (including Ukraine).

The first chapter presents the theoretical positions on the social security system, which is an element of Poland's economic and social policy, as well as social problems and the social security system from the point of view of economics and other social sciences. The author's approach to presenting the history of social security in Poland and its institutional order, as well as selected economic and social conditions in the country and their impact on the national social security system, is significant and distinctive.

The second chapter is entirely devoted to the financing of the social security system in Poland in the period 2012-2018. Here are presented the types of benefits in the Polish social security system and the financial costs allocated by the state budget for the functioning of social security.

The third chapter analyzes the financial management in the Polish social security system on the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship in the period 2012-2018. The socio-economic conditions of the region and the financing of the social security system in Podkarpackie Voivodeship are also presented.

Chapter 4 presents the results of a research aimed at analyzing the effectiveness of social contracts, which are one of the tools used in the Polish social security system, as well as the results of a survey of social workers in the Subcarpathia on the effectiveness of this. tool.

The bibliography of the work contains a total of 393 titles.

4. Contributions and significance of the development for science and practice

A particularly distinctive feature of the presented dissertation is the analysis of the aspects of the financing of social activities, as well as the creation of a system for social assistance. Another important contribution is the formulation of recommendations for the improvement of the social security system in Poland, so that it is oriented towards real and active assistance in the social and professional integration of people in need of support, and its functioning is organised and financially effective.

Specifically, the contributions that stand out in the study are:

- Development of a new theoretical and methodological approach in the field of economic research in the public sector in Poland to study the social security system.
- Identification of future challenges to the social security system in Poland, as well as confirmation that this system is not adapted to solving social problems, which will be a major challenge for Poland in the future.
- Carrying out an in-depth analysis of the management of financial costs in the social security system in Poland and Podkarpackie Voivodeship based on the presentation of the socio-economic conditions of Podkarpackie and their impact on the social security system.
- Proposing a concept for the analysis of instruments (social contracts) used in the Polish social security system and empirical verification.
- Identification of recommendations, the implementation of which will improve the efficiency of the functioning and financing of the social security system in Poland.

5. Evaluation of the dissertation publications

The PhD candidate has submitted 12 publications, 2 of which are co-authored. All submitted publications meet the necessary criteria. The dissertation does not repeat the dissertation for the defence of educational degree "Doctor" (PhD) and contains original contributions.

6. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

I believe that the documents presented in this way are correct and contain the necessary completeness of information for assessing compliance with the regulatory requirements and are in accordance with the minimum national requirements.

7. Abstract

In terms of content, the abstract is appropriately structured, prepared according to the requirements and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no specific critical remarks or recommendations. I wish the candidate to continue his research work.

It would be interesting if the candidate answers the following question during his defence:

Which is the most effective approach to overcoming inequalities and is the improvement of the system of social transfers enough for ensuring the allocation of incomes or it is also

necessary to combine this with another approach, especially in a situation of increasing inflation, unstable political environment and demographic problems (incl. refugees)?

CONCLUSION

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 (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for the implementation of ZRASRB. 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 Dr. Piotr Fronchek has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional Field 3. 8. Economics, **demonstrating** qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to 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. Piotr Fronchek in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3. 8. Economics;

14.05. 2022

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева