

STANDPOINT

by Prof. Dr. **Mariana Mateeva Petrova**
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of dissertation for awarding 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, Insurance and Social Security“

Author: Piotr Frączek, PhD

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 presented materials

By order № 111 of 21.04.2022 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance Prof. DSc Boris Velchev I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for providing a procedure for defense of a dissertation on the topic of “**Management of financial costs and efficiency of selected instruments in the social security system in Poland on the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship**” for obtaining the educational and 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, Insurance and Social Security". The author of the dissertation is **Piotr Frączek**.

The materials submitted by **Dr. Piotr Frączek** include documents according to the presented inventory: reference for the scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the dissertation; reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for acquisition of degree "Doctor of Sciences" in professional field 3.8. Economics; dissertation work; autoreferate. The doctoral student has attached a list of 18 publications on the topic of the dissertation, 3 are in print, includes a list of citations.

2. Relevance of the topic and expediency of the set goals and objectives

The formulated topic is dedicated to a relevant and significant for modern conditions economic problem: the theoretical and practical aspects of the functioning of the social security system in Poland (by the example of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship), in order to increase the financial and economic efficiency of selected instruments in this area of the economy.

The research thesis models the logic of the dissertation research and the applied analytical tools. The dissertation is structured in a non-standard way, formed in sections and subsections, but in accordance with the set goal, hypotheses and the subject of the research and reflects the author's approach to the researched topic.

3. Knowledge of the problem

Piotr Frączek, PhD shows a thorough and objective formulation and evaluation of the problems explored in the dissertation. 393 literary and internet sources of specialized scientific literature in different languages, normative documents were used and analyzed.

4. Research methodology

For the realization of the set goal and for the solution of the research tasks theoretical and empirical methods of research, analysis of thematic literature and available documentation, triangulation of research methods, triangulation of data sources, survey of 420 social workers.

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation consists of an introduction, presentation formed in 12 thematic subsections, grouped in 4 sections, conclusions, literature, list of included figures, tables and formulas, conclusion, appendices. The development is in a total volume of 290 pages, 132 tables and 15 figures are presented, 393 are the used literary and internet sources.

The subject of the dissertation is the functioning and financing of the social security system in Poland and the effectiveness of the individual tools used in this system.

The goal of the dissertation is presented through sub-goals related to determining: 1. own concept for theoretical and methodological analysis of the functioning and financing of the social security system in Poland; 2. the importance of cash and non-cash benefits in the social security system in Poland; 3. the efficiency and the structure of the management of the financial expenses, directed to social assistance; 4. the effectiveness of the individual tools used in the social protection system, i.e. social contracts.

The set goal is important for the economic system, and the solution of the tasks ensures its achievement.

The first section consists of 5 subsections and is devoted to the theoretical aspects of the issues. This section also presents the social problems and the social security system from the point of view of economic and other social sciences, outlines the history of social security in Poland and its institutional order, as well as selected economic and social conditions in Poland and their impact on the national insurance system.

The second section contains two subsections and is entirely devoted to the financing of the social security system in Poland in 2012-2018. 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 are presented.

The third section contains two subsections and analyzes the financial management in the social security system of Poland on the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship in 2012-2018. It presents the socio-economic conditions of the region and the financing of the social security system in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, one of the 16 administrative regions of Poland.

The fourth section consists of three subsections and presents the results of research aimed at analyzing the effectiveness of social contracts, which are one of the tools used in the Polish social security system.

Recommendations are formulated to be implemented so that the social security system in Poland is oriented towards real and active assistance in the social and professional integration of people in need of support, and its functioning to be organizationally and financially efficient.

6. Contributions and significance of development for science and practice

The scientific activity is meaningful when it provides tools for improving and supporting the process of management of the researched object and increases its financial and economic competitiveness.

The acquaintance with the dissertation allows to assess that the goal of the research has been achieved, and the tasks arising from it have received adequate solutions. As a consequence, the belief is formed in me that in the dissertation there is enough evidence for scientific and applied contributions.

In the course of the research the following scientific results have been established, which have the potential for scientific contribution:

- Development of a new theoretical and methodological approach in the field of economic research in the public sector in Poland with regard to 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.Посочване на бариери и ограничения при провеждането на ефективна финансова политика в системата на социалната закрила.
- Proposing a concept for the analysis of social contracts used in the Polish social security system.
- Empirical verification of the effectiveness of the tools used in the Polish social security system.
- Identification of the reasons for the low efficiency of the tools used in the Polish social security system and financial expenditure management.

- Establishing that in Poland there is a process of "dismantling" the social protection system, as it takes the form of transferring funds to specific social groups, instead of being directed to the most needy people.
- Defining recommendations, the implementation of which will improve the efficiency of the functioning and financing of the social security system in Poland.

7. Evaluation of dissertation publications

The results of the research on the topic of the dissertation are correctly presented to the scientific community with 33 scientific publications, independently and in co-authorship, 17 of them are short publications in collective monographs, 1 scientific edition of a monograph, 1 in a collection from a conference. Of the 9 studies mentioned, I cannot accept eight as such, as their form and content do not meet the requirements for studies, and the one under number 8 does not have a complete bibliographic description and number of pages. I can accept the mentioned 31 publications in collective monographs as short publications with the characteristics of an article, but not as chapters in a monograph. Conditionally, only the latter, under number 31, can be partially accepted as such, but it is on the topic of the dissertation for a doctor.

They are an indicator of the deep scientific interests of the doctoral student, as well as that the scientific contributions to the dissertation are the personal work of the doctoral student. All publications (except those published in Bulgaria) are published mainly in local publications, collective monographs and conference proceedings, there are 2 publications in established international journals (WoS).

One monograph is published in the publishing house "Prof. Marin Drinov" in Bulgaria. It is a pleasant impression that the candidate has published some of his peer-reviewed publications in Bulgarian publishing houses - BAS and VUZF.

The publications reflect the achievements of the dissertation obtained in the course of research. The reference shows reflected citations in Google Scholar - 52 citations, H = 4, WoS - 2 article from 2021.

8. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

Attached is a Certificate for fulfillment by the doctoral student of the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 3.8. Economics. The total number of points is on the border with the required minimum.

9. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

The presented dissertation on the topic „**Management of financial costs and efficiency of selected instruments in the social security system in Poland on the example of Podkarpackie Voivodeship**“ is a conscientious scientific and applied research.

I have no doubt about the personal contribution of the doctoral student, expressed in in-depth research, creative thinking and further development of the theory and the problem solved in the work, namely studying and developing the theoretical and practical aspects of the functioning of the the social security system in Poland (bythe example of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship), in order to increase the financial and economic efficiency of selected tools in this area of the economy.

10. Autoreferate

The autoreferate consisting of 36 pages has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of LDAS and RILDAS. It is structurally correct and properly reflects the logic and consistency and contributions of the dissertation. It demonstrates the skills of **Dr. Piotr Frączek** to synthesize and summarize in order to present her most important ideas and conclusions.

11. Critical comments and recommendations

Although the work is now being defended in 2021, it does not reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on economic efficiency.

The answer to the following question is also interesting: Would the conclusions of the work change due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic?

In some places there is some duplication and repetition of texts.

I recommend presenting the results in specialized international publications with IF / IR, which will allow higher visibility of scientific results and will create conditions for more intensive citation.

12. Personal impressions

I do not know the doctoral student personally. We do not have joint publications and developments.

My impressions come from the dissertation, author's autoreferate and dissertation publications. They show a serious and erudite researcher, a bona fide scientist with an extensive theoretical background and proven ability for independent research.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements (s) of LDASRB and RILDASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results correspond to 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 **Piotr Frączek, PhD** 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 give my positive assessment of the research presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, autoreferate, results and contributions, and I invite the scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Science" to **Piotr Frączek, PhD** in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3. 8. Economics; PhD program "Finance, Insurance and Social Security".

17.05.2022 r.

Member of Jury: 

Prof. Dr. Mariana Petrova