

## EVALUATION REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shteryo Stefanov Nozharov,

Assoc. Prof. in professional field 3.8. „Economics“, scientific specialty „Political economy (*micro-economics, macroeconomics, economic policy and sustainable development*) at UNWE, Doctor in professional field 3.8. „Economics“, scientific specialty „Political economy“- UNWE

of DSc thesis for awarding the scientific degree “Doctor of science” in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics

**Author:** Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева

**Thesis:** “Global, regional and national dimensions of the social inequalities”

### 1. General characteristics of the materials presented

In accordance with Order № 698/16.12.2024 of the Rector of VUZF – prof. Boris Velchev, DSc. I have been selected as a member of the Scientific Jury in a procedure for awarding scientific degree “Doctor of science” to a thesis, titled: “Global, regional and national dimensions of the social inequalities” in higher education field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics. Author of the thesis is: Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева at VUZF.

The materials, submitted by Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева include the following documents:

A copy of the thesis, abstract of the thesis, a declaration for paper originality, a completed card for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for scientific degree “Doctor of Science”, list of contributions of the thesis, list of publications, list of abstracts of the publications, related to the title of the thesis, CV, a list of citations of the scientific publications.

The DSc candidate has attached: one (1) habilitation monograph, eight (8) articles, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, one (1) study published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, one (1) chapter of published collective monograph and a list of citations.

### 2. Brief biographical reference of the candidate

The DSc candidate Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева, possess the following education and experience :

Education:

- 2011- PhD Economics (Political Economy) Sofia University, Bulgaria
- 2005 - MBA Business Administration Sofia University, Bulgaria
- 2003 - MA English Literature and Culture Sofia University, Bulgaria
- 2001- BA English Sofia University, Bulgaria

Positions held:

- 02.2022 – currently, Administrative position: Vice Rector - VUZF University, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 09.2021 – currently Professor, VUZF University
- 02.2016 – 09.2021 Associate Professor, VUZF University
- 02.2014-02.2016 Senior Assistant Professor – VUZF University
- 02.2012-02.2014 Lecturer – VUZF University;
- 02.2012-06.2019 Honorary lecturer, University of Sheffield, IF – Sofia

### **3. General characteristics and evaluation of the DSc candidate thesis**

The DSc candidate thesis covers a total of 207 pages. It is structured in table of content, introduction, three chapters, reference list and conclusion. The first chapter consists of seven sections, the second chapter has also seven sections, the third chapter has six sections. The reference list covers a total of 137 sources, including 11 tables and 31 figures.

### **4. Contributions and significance of the DSc candidate thesis for the development of science and practice**

In the DSc candidate thesis, there has been discussed a relevant economic problem – the social inequalities.

Original scientifically-applied contributions of the DSc thesis are as follows:

- A theoretical review of the main terms and indicators used for measuring the inequalities and their application.
- The relationship between inequalities and economic growth is studied

- It is proved that through innovations and creative destruction, through productive investments could be overcome the income inequalities in the conditions of financial and economic crisis, as well as for countries with economies in transition.
- It is distinguished the inequality manifestation in various regions of the world (Asia, Africa, Latin America) in terms of their nature.
- The specifics of inequalities in Europe are highlighted in comparison to the nature of inequalities in leading economies like the USA.
- It is made an analysis of the inequalities in Bulgaria in the context of country specific nature and the trends for the period 2000-2022 are highlighted as well as concrete measures for their reduction in the future are proposed.

## **5. Evaluation of the publications in relation to the topic of the DSc thesis candidate**

The DSc candidate has attached: one (1) habilitation monographs, eight (8) articles, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, one (1) study published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, one (1) chapter of published collective monograph and a list of citations.

## **6. Evaluation of the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements**

I concern that the DSc candidate meets the minimum national requirements according to the documents submitted and in accordance with the regulations of VUZF.

It is made an inquiry about the candidate's fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 3.8. Economy

## **7. Abstract of the DSc candidate thesis**

The content and quality of the abstract is good. It is written in accordance with the relevant regulations and presents the main results, achieved in the thesis.

## **8. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks to the research. I would like to recommend some additional issues to be include in the thesis:

1. In addition to the impact of climate change, it could be also analyzed the impact of circular economy concept over the inequalities. Both processes likely lead to implementation of various policies for climate change mitigation to which different groups of the population have no access.
2. It would be very interesting for the academic community if the analysis, concerning artificial intelligence impact over inequalities, is expanded.

## CONCUSION

The DSc candidate's thesis **contains scientifically applied results, which are original scientific contribution** and **they cover** the requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff of Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its implementation. The presented materials and conclusions in the thesis **correspond** to the specific requirements of the Regulation for admission and training of PhD students at VUZF.

The DSc candidate's thesis shows that Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева **possesses** good theoretical knowledge and professional skills in professional field 3.8 Economics, as **she demonstrates** qualities and skills to independently conduct scientific research.

Having in mind the abovementioned, I give a **positive assessment** of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed thesis, abstract, list of contributions and I **suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award scientific degree „Doctor of Science“** to Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics.



3.2.2025

Reviewer: .....

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shteryo Nozharov**