

OPINION

By: Assoc. Prof. Evgeni Georgiev Evgeniev, Ph.D - Department of Human Resources and Social Protection at the *University of National and World Economy*

Subject: Dissertation for the award of a doctoral educational and scientific degree in the professional area 3.4 Higher education field of Social activities, 3. Social, business and legal sciences

Dissertation Author: Dimitar Vasilev Shterev

Dissertation topic: ORGANIZATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL MODELS
IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
SYSTEMS

Grounds for presenting the opinion: my appointment as a member of the Scientific Jury in connection with the defense of the dissertation pursuant to Order No. 3472 of Dec. 16, 2019 by the Rector of Trakia University of Stara Zagora.

1. Dissertation details

The candidate has covered an independent doctoral program at the Department of Social Activities with the Faculty of Medicine at Trakia University

2. General description of the dissertation

The dissertation submitted for opinion contains 189 pages and it is structured in five chapters, appendixes and a bibliography with 114 sources used.

The dissertation topic is particularly relevant in the context of the current state of the social security and social assistance system. The dissertation is well structured. Chapter One gives explanation to the issues about the nature of the welfare state, the features of the policies and strategies in this area as well as some demographic trends and related living standard issues. Chapter Two contains a historical overview and a comparative analysis of the types of social security models, focusing on those of Bismarck, Beveridge and the Chilean pension model. The chapter concludes by examining the main trends in the development of the current social security models. The issues clarified in the first two chapters provide a good basis for the research carried out by the author.

Chapter Three and Four of the dissertation are devoted to analysis of the condition of the social security and social assistance in Bulgaria, covering quite a long period of time. We should note here the well-formulated **purpose, subject and object** of the research, as well as the huge volume of information sources and empirical data used and analyzed by the author.

In Chapter Five, the author has constructively developed and proposed a new organizational and functional model for the operation of the social security and the social assistance systems which are in fact two different systems. Using facts, he has explained the nature and basic principles of the model and outlined its main advantages over the current model. In conclusion, the author has reached beyond mere presenting of the model, specifying the necessary organizational measures that should be taken towards its implementation.

3. Evaluation of the scientific and applied results

The research completed by the author in his dissertation is based on a well-developed methodology, which provides solid grounds concerning reliability of the conclusions drawn and the suggestions made. The stated objective and the so formulated thesis have been well justified.

As a result of the author's work, an in-depth and extensive analysis has been made of the condition of the social security and social assistance system, which can serve and be used not only to justify the proposed model, but also for other practical purposes in the management of the social security and social assistance systems.

4. Evaluation of scientific and applied contributions

The author presents in his dissertation three groups of contributions, namely:

First group: regarding the development of theory in the area of social security and social assistance;

Second group: contributions concerning the management approaches used in the area of social security and social assistance;

Third group: achievements that enrich methodology and the methodological means

The contributions presented are authentic and can be applied both theoretically and in practice.

5. Evaluation of the related publications

The publications presented by the author reflect to a large extent each part of his study and are related to the topic of the dissertation.

6. Evaluation of the abstract

The abstract prepared by the author fully corresponds to the content of the dissertation, presenting it in its entirety and completeness.

7. Critical notes, recommendations and questions

In our opinion, the author should elaborate and be more specific on the organizational measures required for implementation of the proposed model. This, of course, does not devalue the overall work done and the results achieved by the dissertation.

In this connection, I would like to ask the author the following question: *In his opinion, what institutional steps should be taken for putting the proposed model in place and how will they be arranged with regard to their timing?*

8. Conclusion

To conclude, I believe that the presented study covers all the requirements of a dissertation according to the Act on development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the author has shown the necessary capacity and scientific merits.

Based on the aforesaid, I propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to award to Dimitar Vasilev Shterev a Doctoral Degree in the scientific specialty: Organization and management outside the sphere of material production.

Sofia, February 19, 2020

Signature: