

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Rossen Kostadinov Stoyanov

Professional area 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences

New Bulgarian University

12.05.2021

On a doctoral dissertation

For obtaining the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“, in the professional field 3.3 Political Science (Contemporary Bulgarian Politics), with a dissertation on the topic: „Direct democracy as a tool for activating civil society (the case of Bulgaria 2013-2017) (The role of information on civic activity in the three national referendums)“, presented by Stanislav Todorov, Ph.D. student in the Political Science Department, Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

Scientific adviser: Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Burudjieva, Ph.D.

The dissertation contains 187 pages of scientific text and attached tabular analyzed data. I accept that the text is structured in Introduction, four chapters, Appendices, Bibliography, Notes and Media in Content Analysis. The bibliography covers an impressive 240 titles, 163 of which are in English.

The content of the dissertation fully reflects its topic. The dissertation presented for defense is qualitatively structured, at the required language level for the level, easy to navigate and logical. Through his text and the presented ability for independent scientific research, Ph.D. student Todorov shows that the necessary theoretical knowledge in the respective specialty is available.

Significance of the researched problem in scientific and scientific-applied relation.

The study of referendums, as an institute for direct participation, especially placed in the communication discourse of the political, and analytically considered in the context of political events in Bulgaria in recent years, makes this effort of Ph.D. student Todorov even more meaningful.

Critical thinking and reasoning regarding the awareness through information and uniformness of the voters, especially in the dynamics of the digitalizing societies, is another important in a scientifically applied sense research problem.

I accept the research work of my colleague Todorov as interdisciplinary, and I congratulate him for the deliberate interest and the presented positive academic result.

Precisely formulated goals and objectives of the dissertation.

The tasks are precisely set and challenging in nature. The methods of analysis are presupposed as „empirical and theoretical analysis and synthesis“, which is in accordance with the goal and objectives of the dissertation.

Degree of knowledge of the state of the problem and correspondence of the used literature.

The dissertation uses terminology on the topic, which is relevant and correctly used.

The readability of the text makes a pleasant impression, which in turn speaks of the obligatory personal and civic commitment to the topic on the part of the Ph.D. student, as well as his academic attitude to the researched issues.

Correctness in quoting a representative number of authors.

Impressive and respectful number of cited and useful authors, which suggests a positive assessment of the quality of the scientific apparatus used.

Evaluation of the abstract and the description of the contributions.

The content of the dissertation is correctly reflected in the presented abstract. I accept the contributions of the dissertation described by the author as relevant to the achieved results and to the material in its entirety, I would even encourage him to be a little bolder in his application.

Impacts of the dissertation on the external environment.

The publications on the dissertation are presented in the abstract. I evaluate the articles published by the doctoral student as covering the relevant criteria for relevance on the topic and credibility of the publications.

Opinions, recommendations and notes.

I recommend to my colleague Stanislav Todorov, after the successful achievement of the specific task of the text submitted for defense, to finalize the monograph in a form suitable

for future publication, as if to publish this text, and due to the shortage of publications on the topic by Bulgarian authors.

Conclusion.

Dear members of the scientific jury, I hereby accept the proposed dissertation of Stanislav Todorov on „Direct democracy as a tool for activating civil society (the case of Bulgaria 2013-2017) (The role of information on civic activity in the three national referendums)“, and I vote „YES“ for him to acquire the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ in the professional field 3.3. Political Science (Contemporary Bulgarian Politics).

12.05.2021

Sincerely: 
Prof. Rossen K. Stoyanov, Ph.D.