REVIEW

For the dissertation titled: Urban–rural migration: an ethnological study based on examples from Bulgaria, Slovakia and Belgium

for obtaining the degree of PhDoctor in professional field 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Studies

Author: Petya Dimitrova

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliya Iliev

The proposed dissertation puts in the center of Petya Dimitrova’ s research interest migration movements from town to village at the beginning of 21st century. This migration raises with great urgency the question of the modern change in the way of life as a result of internal migration in the direction of the village. The migration processes, object of the author’ s interest, are considered in three models: Bulgarian, Slovak and Belgian. As individual models are always focused on the issue of so- called reverse migration. The focus of the study is a sought- after comparison with European trends in this direction.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters divided into paragraphs, a conclusion, a bibliography, with separate online resources and applications, with a total 269 pages. The bibliography includes 137 items and shows a very good knowledge of the literature and digital resources on the issue. The text is illustrated with 40 author’s photo collages and 1 original table in the conclusion.

The aim of the present PhD thesis is to trace and analyze the tendencies and motives for realization of the researched process before its beginning and after. In this direction, the aim is to look common factors in Bulgaria, Slovakia and Belgium, emphasizing the Bulgarian example. Achieving the main goal is related to solving 4 tasks, correctly formulated by the author. In my opinion, the tasks have been solved successfully, and the reading of the PhD thesis proves that the main goal has been fulfilled.

PhD student Petya Dimitrova offers an original product. A balance has been struck between the theoretical framework and empirical research. Precision has been shown in handling information used by sources. The dissertation is characterized by a clear methodological framework, good structure and clarity of the proposed suggestions. Giving of the specifics of the proposed study, Petya Dimitrova skillfully combines the methods of ethnology, anthropology of consumption, social psychology and anthropology of the landscape, which testifies to the breadth of knowledge and built a specific scientific profile.

Everywhere in the PhD thesis the data analysis is correct and used as intended. It is conscientious to cite sources and literature and this is not done on its own, but is harmoniously woven into the structure of the dissertation.

The proposed PhD thesis is balanced, the language is clear, the statement is accurate, which shows the author’s conviction in the proposed theses.

As a conclusion taking into account the merits of the dissertation "Urban- Rural Migration: ethnological research on examples from Bulgaria, Slovakia and Belgium" and the specifics of its implementation, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the scientific jury to award Petya Valentinova Dimitrova educational and scientific degree "Philosophy doctor".

 Associate Prof. Mira Markova, PhD