

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Milen Rumenov Penerliev
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Regarding: dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 4.4. "Earth Sciences" and scientific specialty "Economic and social geography - regional and local development" at the Department of "Socio-economic geography", Geological - geographical Faculty, at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with research supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Patarchanov

The author of the dissertation is TANYA BORISOVA BELICHENOVA, and the topic is: MEDICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL FOR SPA AND CLIMATE TREATMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VELINGRAD AS A FACTOR FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Grounds: By order of the Rector of Sofia University Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov, I was appointed an external member of the scientific jury, and after the first meeting I was appointed to prepare a scientific opinion for the doctoral dissertation of Tanya Belichenova.

The opinion of the dissertation of the dissertation is prepared according to the legal requirements (ADASRB, the Regulations for application of ADASRB and the Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski").

I. Data for the PhD student

Tanya Borisova Kostova-Belichenova is a professional physician. She acquired two specialties: in "Children's Diseases" and "Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation", and a number of other specializations such as "Pediatrics", "Laser acupuncture and laser treatment" and others. The PhD student is a doctor with vast experience and many specializations. She specialized in new SPA and WELLNESS technologies in Paris, London, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Barcelona, Bergamo, Milan, Malta. He is a licensed lecturer in new SPA and WELLNESS technologies. She has worked as a head of a rehabilitation department, manager of medical centers and others.

In the current procedure she is a doctoral student in self-study, enrolled by order of the Rector of Sofia University from 2.07.2020. This shows that in a very short period of time Dr. Belichenova manages to complete all those actions and procedures so as to reach to date. This shows the character, ability and detailed knowledge of the matter with which he works.

II. Details of the procedure

This procedure meets all the documentary requirements of the DAS Act. In the documentation are attached orders for enrollment, deduction, positioning of the scientific jury, decision of the first meeting of the scientific jury for selection of reviewers, personal information about the doctoral student, contributions to the dissertation and others. All documents were received on time. Plagiarism not detected.

III. General characteristics of the presented dissertation

The dissertation is divided into an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, appendices, a list of tables. The volume is 196 standard pages. It is illustrated with 13 tables and 6 figures. The literature includes 83 sources, of which only 14 are in Cyrillic and all the rest in Latin. This fact makes an extremely pleasant impression: a large volume of English-language literature has been analyzed, which essentially provides the foundations of medical geography. The applications are dominated by map images (mostly cartograms), which makes the work even easier to perceive and enhances its analytical-geographical nature. In the Introduction the topicality of the problem, the goals, the object, the subject, the tasks and the leading methods of the research are set as standard.

Without dwelling specifically on the individual scientific chapters, we can safely say that this is a dissertation in which the main categories in social geography are skillfully intertwined: nature - society - economy. All natural conditions and resources on the territory are analyzed. It, the territory has its geographical boundaries. Within its framework and in time vectors, their influence on humans is studied with different parameters and results. Here is the place to highlight the fact that the doctoral student, given his long professional career, has managed to collect, analyze, and present to us an exceptional set of research data. To such an extent that the analysis gives them the completeness of the facts and contributions presented. And probably beyond those presented. We believe that an even more detailed demographic analysis is possible.

In the category "economy" the economic activity of the region as a Balkan SPA center is fully revealed. Balneological, climatic and other types of medical therapies are analyzed, which proves that the municipality of Velingrad is a tourist "jewel" within Bulgaria. In economic terms, the resources are also characterized (eg the individual water wells), which is essentially an economic-geographical assessment of these data.

We do not see any significant shortcomings in the presented text. The conclusion reflects in a collective plan all the tasks set in the introduction. From a scientific and methodological point of view, it is evident that the dissertation is fluent in the terminological apparatus, which is specific to social geography and in particular medical geography. Skillfully reveals the causal relationships mostly in the categories of resources-types of treatments. It applies the general scientific methods "analysis" and "synthesis" and the private-scientific ones: regional analysis, spatial analysis, genetic approach, etc.

III. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results

The topicality of the topic and the issues arising from it are proved in the dissertation. The dissertation has positive aspects that can be characterized as scientific achievements and contributions. Contributions are properly divided into scientific, practical and practical. They reflect the overall vision of the dessert with the material it deals with on a daily basis. We believe that the greatest contribution is in the role of Dr. Belichenova as a mediator, trainer, "repeater" of all scientific and applied actions and models to young fellow doctors, therapists and employees in the rehabilitation sector. This dissertation validates decades of work that can be used as a desktop guide for any follower.

V. Evaluation of the dissertation publications

The author presents 17 publications, all independent. They are in the issues of the dissertation work, reflect the main results and specifics of the individual cities and provide the necessary publicity of the research. I evaluate the scientific production as sufficient, according to the approved normative requirements.

VI. Evaluation of the abstract

The abstract of the dissertation proposed for attention has been developed according to the established rules and meets the requirements for the development of a dissertation. In terms of content, it fully reflects the work done in the work and includes all the necessary elements.

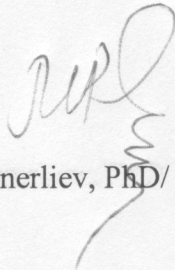
VII. Conclusion

The chosen topic is dissertable, current issues of urban development are studied, including sustainability, conscientiously and competently processed a significant amount of diverse information, most of which personally by the doctoral student, reaching in-depth conclusions and recommendations.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student has theoretical knowledge and ability to conduct independent research. His personal contribution to the research and the results achieved are indisputable. Therefore, I allow myself to propose to the Distinguished Members of the Scientific Jury to decide on the award of Dr. Tanya Belichenova ONS "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Economic and Social Geography - Regional and Local Development", from professional field 4.4. Earth sciences, field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics.

1.09.2021
Shumen

Opinion written by:


/Prof. M. Penerliev, PhD/