

REVIEW

from

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Subject: dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management" at the Department of "Regional Development" at the General Directorate of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

Author of the dissertation: Elena Mitova Kamenova

Topic of the dissertation: "INFLUENCE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CAPITAL AND THE SILVER ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AFTER 1990"

Scientific adviser: Prof. Dr. Kliment Minev Naydenov

Grounds for presenting the review: participation in the composition of the scientific jury for the defense of the dissertation according to Order № RD -20-119 / 22.02.22 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " and decision of the first meeting of the scientific jury from 17.03.2022. The review was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria of the academic staff at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

1. Information about the dissertation

PhD student Elena Mitova Kamenova holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " in 2004, and in 2007 - a master's degree in International Relations at the same university. She is enrolled in the doctoral program "Regional Development" in professional field 3.7 " Administration and Management" at the Department of Regional Development of the Faculty of Geology and Geography at Sofia

University. According to Order № RD 20-145 / 18.01.2019 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "Prof. Dr. Kliment Naidenov has been appointed scientific supervisor. The training was carried out in regular form during the period 2019-2022. By order № RD 20-450 / 17.02.2022. Of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "due to the expired term, as of 01.02.2022. The doctoral student was expelled with the right to defend her dissertation.

Elena Kamenova has extensive administrative experience in the public sector. In the period 2005-2018. is a state expert in the Communications Directorate at the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. She has worked in areas related to the educational policy of the National Assembly and institutional public communication, she was a Correspondent of the National Assembly with the European Center for Parliamentary Research and Documentation.

Elena Kamenova also has many years of teaching experience. Since 2004 she is a freelance teacher. He teaches English and Bulgarian for foreigners.

He is fluent in English, speaks German and Spanish.

2. General evaluation of the presented dissertation

2.1. Structure and volume of the dissertation

The total volume of the dissertation is 376 pages and includes three chapters, introduction, conclusion, bibliography. There are 43 pages of applications related to the research in the dissertation. The main text is supported by 55 tables and 115 figures.

2.2. Relevance of the problem

The deteriorating demographic situation in Bulgaria over the past 30 years affects all aspects of socio-political life on the one hand, but on the other hand may be influenced by specific, targeted measures to mitigate the negative effects of demographic processes. In this regard, it is important to study the impact of the demographic situation in the country on the development of human capital and the silver economy.

The development of the silver economy is key to meeting the challenges posed by an aging population. Demographic aging is a process that should be monitored and requires timely action. In the context of the dynamics of demographic processes and the continuing trend of population aging worldwide, it will be essential to draw up regional development strategies outlining specific activities aimed at older people.

2.3. Main research thesis

The main research thesis is related to examining the extent to which the dynamics of the demographic situation in Bulgaria affects the development of human capital and the silver economy and the extent to which taking specific measures can change certain demographic trends.

2.4. Aim and tasks of the dissertation

The aim of this dissertation is to outline the main parameters of the demographic situation in Bulgaria in the period 1990 - 2019, researching and analyzing the factors and causes that shape demographic processes and how they affect the development of human capital and the silver economy in the country, as well as to justify that the process of influence is two-way.

To achieve this goal in the dissertation are set and solved the following tasks:

1. Clarification of the current demographic situation in the Republic of Bulgaria;
2. Study of the demographic development of the country;
3. Analysis of the impact of demographic processes on the development of human capital and the silver economy in the Republic of Bulgaria; study of the potential of human capital in Bulgaria at the regional level; monitoring the dynamics of the factors leading to demographic aging of the population in Bulgaria and the demographic indicators related to aging in the context of the dynamic demographic situation in the European Union;
4. Analysis of the development of the silver economy in Bulgaria and review of measures to promote active life of the elderly; the silver economy as an important European priority - a comparative overview of the development of the silver economy in Germany and Japan;
5. Study of the challenges posed by the aging population;
6. Outlining specific ideas for overcoming certain demographic problems, as well as recommendations for improving the potential of human capital in Bulgaria and for the development of the silver economy in the country.

2.5. Object and subject of the research

The object of study is the demographic situation in Bulgaria in the conditions of deteriorating demographic indicators and its impact on the development of human capital and the silver economy in the country.

The subject of research is the analysis of demographic processes in the period from 1990 to 2021, which determine the development of demographic policy and affect the potential of human capital and the development of the silver economy in the country.

2.6. Research methods

The dissertation uses basic scientific methods - analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, historical method, hypothesis method. In addition, demographic methods, mathematical-statistical and graphoanalytical methods were used.

2.7. Dissertation analysis

The introduction correctly states the topicality of the problem and the topic of the dissertation. The purpose and tasks of the development are defined, as well as the object and the subject of the research. The main trends in demographic development at the global level are outlined.

Chapter 1: THEORETICAL STATEMENTS OF HUMAN CAPITAL AND THE SILVER ECONOMY

Both the historical development of the concept of human capital and the methods for measuring human capital are considered. It is noted that human capital formation is a process that results from investments in education, health, on-the-job training, migration and information. In the XXI century, a number of countries around the world, including Bulgaria, follow modern global trends, which are expressed in the construction of new living standards and the formation of human capital, which are in sync with time. The doctoral student shares that education is considered a key factor for economic growth since the model of American economist Robert Solow¹ for growth was presented. The link between education and economic development is realized through the labor market. Skills acquired in the education system should be used by companies in the production of goods and services so that workers are paid wages that are commensurate with their productivity. The aging of the population is considered, as well as theoretical aspects and models of the silver economy.

Chapter 2. THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN BULGARIA: DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS WITH A FOCUS ON THE LAST 30 YEARS (1990 - 2019)

The general demographic trends, number and age structure of the population in Bulgaria are analyzed. A detailed analysis was made of internal and external migration of the

¹Solow, R. 1956. "A Contribution to the Theory of Economic Growth." Quarterly Journal of Economics 70 (1): 65-94 ; Available on 20.10.2021 at: <http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/files/Solow1956.pdf> ;

population in Bulgaria, birth rate and fertility in Bulgaria, marriage, cohabitation and divorce, mortality in Bulgaria, aging population in Bulgaria.

Chapter 3: MEASURING THE POTENTIAL OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN BULGARIA IN THE PERIOD 2000 - 2019 ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN BULGARIA ON DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENT

This is the real part of the dissertation, which appears with the greatest contribution moment. The potential of human capital in Bulgaria in the period 2000 - 2019 was measured. The approaches in measuring human capital are considered. Indicators for the potential of human capital have been developed. The educational potential in Bulgaria by planning regions is analyzed. It is rightly noted that the state of the educational system in Bulgaria in the last 30 years is directly influenced by the demographic processes taking place in the country. The health and labor potential in Bulgaria by planning regions has not been overlooked either. Also of interest are the socio-cultural and intellectual potential in Bulgaria by planning regions. In conclusion, the overall potential of human capital in Bulgaria by planning regions is analyzed. Prospects for the development of the silver economy in Bulgaria in the context of current demographic trends are presented. Measures for the development of the silver economy are considered through a comparative review of the approaches of Japan and South Korea.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the dissertation presents the main conclusions and results of the analysis of the demographic situation in Bulgaria, the study of the potential of human capital in the country and the review of the state of the silver economy. The research and analytical work in this dissertation confirms the thesis formulated in the introduction and defends the conclusion that demographic processes related to the number, growth and structure of the population influence and largely determine the social, economic and political development of Bulgaria in the long run. However, demographic phenomena do not determine everything, because demographic trajectories can be changed through economic measures, political and institutional reforms, changes in technology, cultural norms and behavior. In the dissertation the demographic processes in the country are studied in depth and the main trends in demographic development are outlined. In addition, concrete evidence has been presented that adverse trends are deepening and stand out with sustainability. We fully agree with the dissertation that human capital has an important role in economic development, labor productivity and innovation and that the development of human capital and the silver

economy in Bulgaria will play a crucial role in overcoming the existing regional disparities in the country. regarding the five components of human capital, which are studied in this dissertation - educational, health, labor, socio-economic and intellectual potential, as well as the dominant demographic trend of population aging.

3. Evaluation of scientific contributions

I accept the four scientific contributions of the doctoral student, namely:

1. A theoretical overview of the development of the concept of human capital, its formation and methods for measuring it. Scientific theories and research on the relationship between human capital and economic growth are considered in detail, which were used as a basis for studying the potential of human capital in Bulgaria, and in the course of development proved its key role in economic development.
2. A generalized understanding and theoretical overview of the basic concepts and classifications related to the development of the silver economy in the context of population aging is proposed. Theories of population aging and its impact on economic growth and productivity are discussed. Two successful models of the silver economy are presented - in Germany and Japan. Specific recommendations for the development of the silver economy in the country have been formulated.
3. An assessment and analysis of the demographic situation in Bulgaria has been made, considering the main factors and indicators that determine the demographic development of the country.
4. The potential of human capital and its components in Bulgaria by planning regions in the period 2000 - 2019 was studied. For the purposes of the study, the educational, health, labor, sociocultural and intellectual potential at regional level were measured separately by selecting indicators and applying statistical method. Based on the results of the study, a detailed analysis of the state of human capital in Bulgaria, as well as the impact of the demographic situation on its development. Conclusions and specific recommendations and ideas for increasing the efficiency of human capital in the country have been formulated

4. Publications on the dissertation

The list of publications on the topic of the dissertation presented in the abstract contains four reports (three in Bulgarian and one in English).

1. Kamenova E., "Human Capital Potential in Bulgaria by region 2000 - 2019", First Annual Transform4Europe PhD Conference Proceedings "Societal Transformations and Sustainable Development with Respect to the Environment in the Post-Covid-19 Digital Era", December, 2021 (in press) ;
2. Kamenova E., Naidenov Kl., "Study of the potential of human capital in Bulgaria by planning regions in the period 2000 - 2019", Proceedings of scientific conferences "Geography and Regional Development" - Sozopol, September 2021;
3. Kamenova E., "Birth rate and fertility in Bulgaria after 1990. Comparative overview of the indicators of the Member States of the European Union", Proceedings of scientific conferences "Geography and Regional Development" - Sozopol, September 2020;
4. Kamenova E., "Human Capital Development", Proceedings of scientific conferences "Geography and Regional Development" - Sozopol, September 2019;

5. Abstract

The submitted abstract has a volume of 56 pages. With the exception of the volume, the abstract is compiled in accordance with the requirements and reflects the content of the dissertation. A declaration of originality is also attached.

6. Critical remarks, recommendations and questions

Does the doctoral student intend to continue his / her research?

What recommendations would you give to the government regarding the silver economy?

Conclusion

The dissertation on "Influence of the demographic situation on the development of human capital and the silver economy of the Republic of Bulgaria after 1990." meets the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB, and the Internal Rules for the development of the academic staff at Sofia University "St. K. Ohridski ".

In conclusion, we believe that the dissertation of Elena Kamenova Mitova presented for review has been completed, at a very good scientific level, with an in-depth analytical element and clearly outstanding practical and applied qualities. From the analysis, the report on the contributions and the conclusions in the conclusion, we believe that the doctoral

student has successfully coped with the goals and objectives set at the beginning. The proposed work proves that the dissertation demonstrates in-depth knowledge, skills and preparation for independent use of research methods, scientific literature, statistical and other information. The presented research fully meets the requirements for dissertation work. The dissertation contains the necessary scientific and applied research results. The presented dissertation is up-to-date and completed . The paper demonstrates practical results that represent an *original contribution* of the doctoral student. The exposition is clearly and richly illustrated, and the language and style are in accordance with the standards of scientificity and authenticity .

The quality of the dissertation and the accompanying documents give me reason to give a categorically positive assessment (YES) regarding the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to doctoral student ELENA MITOVA KAMENOVA Scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management.

04/12/2022

Signature:

(Prof. Dr. Ganeta Minkova)