

**TO**

**The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,  
nominated by Order No. RD 38-91/20.02.2023 of  
the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"**

## **REVIEW**

**About:** Dissertation work on the topic: "Migration processes and problems of socio-economic development in Karlovo after the Liberation", developed by Penka Lubomirova Pisacheva, PhD student at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with academic supervisor Prof. Dr. Marin Rusev, for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in scientific field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Geography of Countries - Regional and Political Geography)

**by** Prof. Dr. Spartak Keremidchiev - Economic Research Institute at the BAS, member of the Scientific Jury

### **I. General characteristics of the dissertation work**

The dissertation consists of 295 pages, incl. main text of 222 pages, list of abbreviations used, list of references and 22 appendices. The literature used includes mainly Bulgarian sources together with English sources, strategic documents, regulations and the Internet source.

The study is composed of four main chapters along with an introduction and a conclusion. The introduction presents the main parameters of the dissertation work such as object and subject, purpose and research objectives along with the research hypothesis. The first chapter presents the indicators of socio-economic development and basic theoretical statements about migration in the context of regional development.

The second chapter covers the historical origin and development of Karlovo from antiquity through the Early Middle Ages to the Ottoman rule. In the third chapter, the emphasis is on the formation of the appearance of Karlovo as an economic and administrative-political center from the Liberation to 1989. In the fourth chapter, contemporary socio-economic trends and problems in the development of the municipality of Karlovo and its administrative center are presented.

In the final part, a summary of the achieved results is made and scientific contributions are formulated.

The abstract in a summarized form reflects the main points of the dissertation work. It presents the most important productions and contributions of the author, which gives quick access to the work and the achieved scientific results in the dissertation work.

## **II. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results in the dissertation work**

1. The topic of the dissertation is local history, which is rare and very difficult to develop given the limited previous and current research and the difficulties in securing information. Similar topics also require a very broad preparation, because material from the historical, economic, infrastructural, political, geographical and sociological spectrum is covered.
2. The study period is very long. It covers the time from the emergence of settlements in the Karlovo region from ancient times to the present day. Thanks to this, the overall development trajectory of a territorial unit is described
3. The way of structuring the research is logical. The sequence from theoretical statements to practical analyzes and derivation of reasoned results is followed. The dissertation uses professional language and terminology. The serious efforts in the acquisition and successful use of the literature collected for the needs of the study must be emphasized.
4. The research done is built on three foundations: historical heritage and inertia, comparative territorial advantages and their use, and population dynamics. Thanks to their successful development and combination, the main scientific contributions in the dissertation were achieved.
5. Based on a good theoretical analysis, the links are argued in great detail and the dependence between socio-economic development and migration processes in the territory of Karlovo is proven.
6. A valuable and original contribution is the established reactions of a territorial community to the signals of the external environment from its origin to modern times. On this basis, the topic can be upgraded with subsequent research on the momentum in the development and adaptability of a territorial community to changes in its external environment.
7. Another scientific contribution is the identified problems of the development of the Municipality of Karlovo with a focus on migration processes.

## **III. Critical notes and recommendations**

I would like to make the following critical remarks and recommendations for the future research of the doctoral student to the presented work:

1. A more precise formulation of the purpose of the study would be desirable, so as to indicate its relation to its results.

2. The influence of cohesion policy and European funds on the current development of the municipality of Karlovo is not affected, and perhaps part of the answer to population migration lies there.

3. The formulation of scientific contributions is not precise enough. The final contribution related to the survey conducted is a research method and not a final result of it. The fourth contribution, which is written in the following way: "The socio-economic and demographic development of the city of Karlovo and the municipality and their connections with the migratory attitudes of the people during the different periods was studied", also does not present achieved results, but presents an activity carried out during the implementation of the research.

4. The defense documents do not indicate publications related to the dissertation.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

In summary of the analysis of the presented dissertation work, my assessment is that it fully meets the requirements laid down in the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", which gives me the reason to propose to the respected members of the present scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in scientific field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Geography of Countries - Regional and Political Geography) by PhD student Penka Pisacheva.

Member of the Scientific Jury:

Prof. Dr. Spartak Keremidchiev

05/04/2023

Sofia city