

## OPINION

**From:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamen Dimitrov Petrov - UNWE - Sofia, scientific specialty "National Economy (Goeconomics and Regional Development)

**Scientific specialty:** 3.7. Administration and Management (Regional Development)

**Grounds:** Order №RD- 20-119 / 22.02.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University St. Cl. 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. "**

### **1. Information about the dissertation**

Elena Kamenova was born on July 29, 1981. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and then a master's degree in International Relations. The biography shows that in the period 2005-2018 he worked in the Communications Directorate of the National Assembly Administration. She was enrolled as a doctoral student on February 1, 2019 in full-time education. After the implementation of the individual plan and the exams taken, PhD student Elena Kamenova was expelled from February 1, 2022 with the right to defense. Other biographical data are not attached. It is obvious that the doctoral student has practical experience and a biography, which is favorable for research.

### **2. General characteristics of the presented dissertation**

The dissertation has a volume of 267 pages, including sources without appendices. Includes introduction, three chapters, conclusion, contributions, author's publications, bibliography and appendices. It should be noted that the focus of the dissertation is on the impact of the demographic situation on the development of human capital and the silver economy of the Republic of Bulgaria after 1990. The author tried to bring out the factors influencing the demographic situation and forecasting methods. This is what makes the dissertation relevant, as long as the measurement of factors such as human capital and the silver economy has long been known, but a comprehensive study of possible factors for inflation is really new. An additional argument for the topicality of the topic is the need to work hard on the problems of demography in a country where we are lagging behind. In order to properly assess the demographic situation, it is necessary to know the factors that lead to its change, so that by influencing these factors, where possible, to achieve the desired stability or to seek compensatory mechanisms when the impact on factors not possible. The object, the subject, the time and the territorial scope of the research are correctly defined. It is important to note that the larger volume is justified due to the chosen large period for research. The aim of the dissertation research is to outline the main parameters of the demographic situation in Bulgaria in the period 1990 - 2019, examining 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, seven research tasks have been formulated, the implementation of which is developed in the text of the dissertation. In practice, the work is presented with the first part devoted to the theoretical formulations of human capital and the silver economy. The second part spills over into the demographic situation in Bulgaria: developments and trends with a

focus on the last 30 years (1990 - 2019). And the third chapter is aimed at measuring the potential of human capital in Bulgaria in the period 1992 - 2019. Special attention is paid to the analysis of the impact of the demographic situation in Bulgaria on the development of human capital and the silver economy. With regard to the representativeness of the data presented in the paper, it can be noted that they have the necessary representativeness and relevance. Citing and referring to primary literature, statistical and reference sources is correct. Technically, the dissertation is well designed. The quality of the tables and figures is at the required level. The documentation is accurate and comprehensive. The style and language of the exhibition are at a good level for a dissertation.

### **3. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results**

The general impression of the dissertation is that it is the result of in-depth and conscientious research work. As a result of the conducted dissertation research, described in the three chapters of the dissertation, the set research tasks have been fulfilled and the goal of the research has been achieved. PhD student Elena Mitova Kamenova expresses her motivated opinion on each considered aspect, the scientific achievements are tested with practical realization. I appreciate the enormous amount of work, including the serious efforts made to overcome all the difficulties in processing and analyzing a significantly larger volume of information over an extremely long period of nearly 30 years. I think it is necessary to summarize that my assessment of work is entirely positive and the work has achieved its goals and objectives in accordance with the requirements for such research.

### **4. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

The doctoral student Elena Mitova Kamenova has indicated four scientific and applied contributions to her dissertation. I agree in general terms with the contributions formulated in this way, and I believe that the second, third and fourth can be clarified. I accept that the first two contributions can be classified as scientific and the next two as applied. I believe that the most significant contribution of the dissertation research is formulated under №1, namely: "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 research on the potential of human capital in Bulgaria, and in the course of development proved its key role in economic development. As a result of the conducted theoretical and empirical research on the problems of demography, doctoral student Elena Mitova Kamenova, a number of regularities have been established. I believe that the contributions formulated by the author have been achieved, show the main merits of the dissertation and are related to the enrichment of existing knowledge and their application in practice.

### **5. Evaluation of the dissertation publications**

The author Elena Mitova Kamenova declares four publications related to the approbation of the results of the dissertation.

The first publication "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" is in English. The second publication is co-authored on the topic: "Study of the potential of human capital in Bulgaria by planning regions in the period 2000 - 2019", the third publication is independent

on the topic: Birth and Fertility in Bulgaria after 1990. Comparative Review of the Indicators of the Member States of the European Union ". , The latest publication is on "Human Capital Development". It is obvious that the publications are in the field of scientific research. In conclusion, the main results of the dissertation are shared in the scientific literature. No citation data

#### **6. Evaluation of the abstract**

The abstract, which summarizes the dissertation, is a total of 56 pages. It contains a general description of the dissertation, a summary of the dissertation, major scientific and applied contributions and a list of publications on the dissertation. The abstract correctly and comprehensively presents the content of the dissertation.

#### **7. Critical remarks, recommendations and questions**

The dissertation submitted for review is a full-fledged scientific research. At the same time, some remarks and recommendations can be made regarding the doctoral student's research. An exposition of certain things is found, especially in the first and second chapters. The style of exhibition in certain places creates the impression of educational literature. The conclusion is in the nature of a summary. In my opinion, it should focus primarily on the core of results, but also trends. The review in the second chapter for me could have been more appropriate for the doctoral student given the visible opportunities she shows, but it is her right to choose an approach to analysis. In the third chapter, PhD student Elena Kamenova applies modern and complex methods for analysis of factor influences and forecasting in relation to human capital and the silver economy. Given that complex methods are capricious to the specific conditions of application, the PhD student logically gets some interesting results for stationarity, casualness and others, in my opinion, which need more precise commenting and capturing trends. I hope that Elena Mitova Kamenova in her future work will comment more purposefully and boldly on the trends and peculiarities of demographic development. These recommendations do not detract from the presented dissertation They would contribute to its higher scientific value and practical applicability. Finally, I would like to hear the doctoral student's opinion on the following question: To what extent is the "Updated National Strategy for Demographic Development of the Population in the Republic of Bulgaria (2012 - 2030)" implemented and do you think it is applicable?

#### **8. Conclusion**

The dissertation of Elena Mitova Kamenova "Influence of the demographic situation on the development of human capital and the silver economy of the Republic of Bulgaria after 1990" contains significant scientific contributions and meets the requirements of ZRASRB. This gives me reason to propose to the scientific jury to give the required educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in 3.7 Administration and Management (Regional Development)

City. Sofia,

March 22, 2022

Prepared the opinion:



(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamen Petrov)