

Doctoral dissertation of Mgr. Fariza Tolesh "Population prospects of Kazakhstan till 2030" – supervisor's review

Dissertation of Mgr. Fariza Tolesh "*Population prospects of Kazakhstan till 2030*" has 138 pages of text plus 69 pages of appendices. Its text consists of eight chapters plus introduction and conclusion. The work includes also the lists of figures, tables and maps and references.

The submitted dissertation has two principal parts technical and content one. The technical one covers an introduction, literature overview, conceptual framework, critical review of relevant data and their availability, and well structured methodological part. The content part is represented by the chapter dealing with identification of the population systems being the subjects of forecasting activities, relatively brief forecasting oriented analysis of particular population development components, by a section devoted to forecasting projection model parameters, and finishing by the chapter presenting the obtained results and by conclusion.

The mentioned two parts of the dissertation, technical and content ones are not only different regarding their general orientation. There is also a marked difference in quality of their elaboration. If the first part could be labeled without any big exaggeration as a result of professional work, the second part is carrying several visible traces of amateurism and negligence. From the chapter five the work is suffering from decline of its quality. In the direction to the end, the author is leaving out some important partial themes (e.g. the question of incorporation of migration into the applied projection model) or she elaborates them superficially, the conciseness of expressing is growing and formal deficiencies are more and more frequent. The references represent the highlight in this respect.

The other case is the design and description of the particular graphical objects in the submitted dissertation. There are only few unifying elements in data visualization as presented by its author, regardless one looks at the title, legend, description of axes and their locations or different size of similar objects. This approach of F. Tolesh is really difficult to understand taking into account she had explicit rules and recommendations in all these respects in her hands from the very beginning and she is not missing technical skills and tools to do all that properly. Moreover, student's attention was repeatedly drawn to most of the deficiencies discovered in the submitted work.

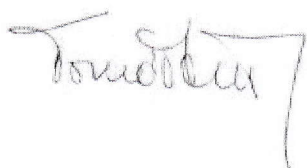
It is possible to have many reservations to any population forecast and the assumptions in its fundament but in the case that all parts of the work are logically coherent, formally well elaborated and there are no errors in analyses or projection calculations, practically any forecast is defensible. But the problems starts when the sixth stage of the forecasting process, the forecast presentation and its important elements are undervalued or even neglected like in the case of this dissertation. Adding to that some errors similar to those in graphs in the Figures 68,

69 and A1 on pages 112, 113 and 140 respectively, we receive rather explosive mixture.

In sum, I have no doubt that Fariza Tolesh has a high study potential, is able to work hard and to be highly efficient. This work in some of its part and especially in many respects remaining hidden "behind the scene" is quite unique and demonstrates real student's abilities. I also appreciate her position not to prolong studies unnecessarily and to finish them betimes. On the other side, her indecent rush and neglectful presentation of all that immense work done and its results devaluate what has been done correctly and properly.

Under these conditions it is very difficult to pronounce the final judgment. However, being aware of the fact we are obliged to assess here the student's professional qualities through her written work as a whole, I recommend to the commission for defense of doctoral dissertations to consider **the doctoral dissertation of Mgr. Fariza Tolesh "Population prospects of Kazakhstan till 2030"** in the process of her defense and recommend her to correct and to complete properly the dissertation, and to submit it for defense once again.

Baku, 12.11.2012



RNDr. Tomáš Kučera, CSc.
supervisor