

STANDPOINT

by Prof. Mayiana Milcheva Mitevska, D.Sc
Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "PhD"

in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional field 3.4. Social Activities

Doctoral Programme Social Policies and Social Work

Written by: Ekaterina Georgieva Uzhikanova

Subject: Social work with children and families in support of early childhood development

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Lyudmila Pavlova Vekova, PhD , Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

1. Presentation of the procedure and the PhD student

By Order No. RD-21-121 of 20.01.2022 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for providing a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on "Social work with children and families in support of early childhood development" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities, doctoral programme "Social policies and social work". The dissertation is authored by Ekaterina Georgieva Uzhikanova - a PhD student in full-time studies at the Department of Social Activities with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Pavlova Vekova from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The submitted by Ekaterina Georgieva Uzhikanova set of materials on paper is in accordance with Article 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU, includes the following documents:

- application to the Rector of PU for the disclosure of the dissertation defense procedure;
- CV in a European format;
- departmental council protocol related to reporting readiness for the opening of the procedure and preliminary discussion of the dissertation;

- dissertation;
- abstract;
- list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation;
- copies of scientific publications;
- a declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;

the PhD candidate has attached 4 publications.

2. Relevance of the topic

The relevance of the dissertation research results from the dynamic changes in the economic and information environment. The significance of the research is found in the proposed scientifically based solutions for measuring innovative models to support early childhood development as an investment in the future of generations. Its relevance comes from the possibility of partnerships of institutions related to social work. Thus, the emergence and realization of such a development deserves support, as the efforts of Ekaterina Uzhikanova are aimed at supporting the process described above, and the results could optimize it to a high degree at any moment.

3. Knowledge of the problem

Significant for the presented work is the extensive use of documentary sources to confirm or refute the hypotheses. The doctoral candidate has an excellent knowledge of the state of the problem under development. A critical assessment of the state of processes related to current practices of social work in support of early childhood development is noteworthy. A set of approaches and analytical tools for assessment, analysis and forecasting such as documentary method, survey method, qualitative analysis and statistical methods of primary information processing are used. Ekaterina Uzhikanova has applied methodology and developed a methodology adequate to the researched issues.

4. Research methodology

The chosen research methodology allows to achieve the set goals of the dissertation and to obtain adequate answers to the set questions and tasks, it is relevant to the object of the study and the hypotheses. The research methods correspond to the objectives of the dissertation.

5. Description and evaluation of the thesis and contributions

Ekaterina Uzhikanova has realized the analysis of her dissertation in 161 pages with an introduction, three chapters, summary, conclusions, and recommendations for application in practice. The list of cited literature develops into 105 titles, 81 of which are in Cyrillic and 24 in Latin. Thus, the study is very well measured in the scientific context of the research of our and foreign authors. The achieved results are illustrated through 41 figures, thus achieving a broad deployment of the solution of the problems. The problem, although studied over the years, remains relevant due to the dynamics of public attitudes. The chapters of the dissertation are proportionate to each other, possess completeness and are relevant to the stated aims and objectives.

6. Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the PhD student

The publications mentioned in the review list are authored. The articles have been published in refereed scientific journals. The results achieved in the dissertation have found application in the system of social activities and have been used in projects.

7. Abstract

The submitted abstract complies with the requirements and reflects the main theses, conclusions and scientific achievements of the dissertation.

8. Recommendations for future research of the dissertation contributions and results

I recommend Ekaterina Georgieva Uzhikanova to maintain and expand her expertise in social work and practice.

CONCLUSION

Dissertation work contains scientific, research and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LADAB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LADAB and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The dissertation work shows that the PhD student Ekaterina Georgieva Uzhikanova possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Social Activities" demonstrating qualities and skills for independent scientific research.

For the above reasons, I confidently give my positive assessment of the research presented by the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to Ekaterina Georgieva Uzhikanova in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Social Activities, Doctoral Programme Social Policies and Social Work.

1.03.2023

Drafted the standpoint:

(signature)

Prof. Mayiana Milcheva Mitevska, D.Sc