

OPINION

from

Assoc. Prof. Diana Manolova Stoyanova, PhD,
University of Library Studies and Information Technologies,
“Culture, Historical Heritage and Tourism” Department
on the dissertation entitled:

“SOCIALIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A FACTOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BULGARIAN CITIES”

with author

Dimitar Stanislavov Koparov

for obtaining of the educational and scientific degree “DOCTOR” (PhD)
in the professional field 3.5. Social Communications and Information Sciences,
doctoral program “Book Science, Library Science, Bibliography – Policies in the
Library and Information Sector”

with scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Aneta Doncheva Doncheva, PhD

Sofia,

2024

The dissertation work and abstract presented for discussion by Mr. Dimitar Koparov on the topic “The socialization of cultural heritage as a factor for the development of Bulgarian cities” present the results of an up-to-date and significant research for social development, which is based on the understanding and integration of cultural heritage in the context of urban development. In the present work, the author, under the expert guidance of his scientific supervisor, has very correctly made the connection between cultural heritage as an essential strategic resource in the modern living environment and its dual dependence in a positive and negative aspect for the perspective that will take from the point of view of knowledge and the human factor experience.

Dimitar Koparov emphasizes the need for social integration and active participation of society in the management and preservation of cultural heritage in one with the institutions of memory and implementing many examples from practice that testify to the capacity and opportunities that are revealed to society in national and international aspect regarding the sustainable development of society, economic growth, ecological development of cities, etc. Moreover, the author covers one of the most critical topics in the public space, related to the modern European understanding of social cohesion and the value of cultural heritage, bringing to the fore the role of the state in the form of institutions of memory, local government, business, and the citizens. Only in this way can a relatively smooth transition to a green economy, digital transformation, positive change of cultural values, etc. be carried out.

Structurally, the dissertation consists of a preface, four chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography (263 references) and appendices (10), and is 303 pages long. The preface details the most important components: goal, object, subject, tasks, working hypotheses, limitations in the scope of the topic, research approaches, methodology and tools. The motivation of the author for carrying out the present study is also justified. Based on this, the framework of the study was outlined and the reference points for its implementation were very precisely defined.

I believe that the methodology chosen by Mr. Koparov, under the expert guidance of his scientific supervisor, is suitable for conducting the research, because it is based on an in-depth analysis of the relationship “state (institutions of memory and local government) – business – citizens”. In this way, the preservation and socialization of the cultural heritage is presented as a collective process in which the state, local authorities and citizens actively cooperate, but with clearly defined and delegated duties and responsibilities.

No elements of plagiarism have been identified in the scientific production provided to me for the preparation of the opinion. I would like to emphasize that the dissertation and the abstract represent an individual author’s research, and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations to it, and the normative documents of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “doctor” (PhD).

I have no critical remarks, since the topic of the socialization of cultural heritage, although it is widely popular, is still not sufficiently researched. This is most likely due to the dynamics of the processes in society, which is dictated by the strong dependence of society on information and communication technologies, which prevents the generation of sustainable results and their interpretation by the public. However, the doctoral student has managed to conduct qualitative research, identifying and systematizing good practices from the work of public libraries in the country, related to the socialization of cultural heritage and the processes of digitization and development of e-services.

As the written above, I believe that the results of the study contribute to the generation of new knowledge of high practical significance. Especially since the study is related both to the analysis of the actual degree of implementation of existing policies in the field of cultural heritage, and to the challenges, which they give rise to as a result of their application in practice.

I am convinced that the content of the presented materials is sufficient reason to support Mr. Dimitar Koparov in the procedure for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in professional direction 3.5. Social Communications and Information Sciences”, in doctoral program “Book Science, Library Science, Bibliography – Policies in the Library and Information Sector”, and I will vote positively.

May 20, 2024

Sofia,

Author of the opinion:

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