

SOFIA UNIVERSITY „ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI“
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

REVIEW

by

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PhD Programme “Analytical data research (Data Science)”
in Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

1. Introduction and general information

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific committee reviewing applications for associate professor in the field of 3. Social sciences, Economics and Law, 3.8. Economics, PhD Programme “Analytical data research (Data Science)” by order № ПД 38-283 from 03.06.2024 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

Mihaela Angelinova Angelova, a PhD student, has presented her thesis and supplementary materials for the defense. All submitted documents are following legal requirements. Research papers submitted are relevant to the PhD thesis topic and are accepted for review.

Table 1 provides a compliance summary in accordance with established national PhD requirements:

Group	Minimal requirements	Mihaela Angelova
Indicator group A	50 pts	50 pts
Indicator Group G	30 pts	73.3 pts

Table 1. Compliance summary in accordance with minimal national PhD requirements

2. Relevance of the PhD thesis topic, goals and tasks

The thesis addresses important issues that have a sound impact on the economic and social development of Bulgaria, especially if we consider the demographic and migration processes over the last few decades.

Studying the factors that influence the satisfaction and active life of people aged 50+ is extremely important from the economic and social point of view, for the formation of relevant long-term government policies. The discovery of specific factors for Bulgaria is particularly valuable in order to stimulate economic activity with increasingly aging population.

3. In-depth knowledge

The PhD student demonstrates extremely good and in-depth knowledge of the problem, which is reflected in the analysis of previous and current scientific research on the discussed issues, in the first chapter of the study.

Scientific studies were correctly used in the construction of the research methodology in Chapter 2, as well as in the argumentation and interpretation of the obtained results in Chapter 3.

An additional argument in support of the good knowledge of the problem and the quality of the research done are the eight noticed citations of the doctoral student's publications, five of which are by foreign authors.

4. Research methodology

Analytical tools and approaches adequate to the assigned tasks were used in the research. Particular attention should be paid to the appropriate choice of algorithms for clustering and analysis of the data from the different waves of SHARE (Appendices 2 and 3, Table 18 and Table 19, respectively).

The appendix section of the thesis contains all the necessary tables, graphs and detailed results, supporting the conclusions drawn and allowing the reader to familiarize himself with the conducted studies in detail.

5. Assessment of the PhD thesis

The dissertation has a total of 303 pages, of which 233 pages are the main text, including an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, author references, a list of used literary sources and seven appendices. A large number of sources were used, mainly in English.

Accordingly, the main and additional objectives are defined as three research tasks, each of which has 4, 5 and 2 sub-tasks respectively.

It should be noted that four hypotheses were precisely defined and verified in the study, and in my opinion, the last of them could be further specified.

6. Research contributions

The PhD thesis, as well as the publications attached to it, contain scientific and applied contributions. The following items deserve special attention:

- a methodology is suggested to identify changes in factors for satisfaction and active life of people aged 50 and over in Europe;
- a large number of factors influencing the life satisfaction of the researched target group were identified;
- a foundation has been laid for the implementation of purposeful social policies aimed at people aged 50 and over.

I have no reason to doubt the personal contribution and original developments of the PhD student.

7. Assessment of submitted research papers

The PhD student presented a list and full text of three publications - two of them in journals and one in the proceedings of an international conference. The content shows important moments of the dissertation research, giving an opportunity to promote the results achieved.

The personal contribution, position and arguments of Mihaela Angelova stand out, which allows all interested parties to get to know and evaluate the research done.

8. Abstract

The abstract has a total of 55 pages (47 of core content) and reflects all the major results and findings of the research. Its structure and content comply with the requirements specified in the relevant regulations.

9. Remarks and recommendations

The dissertation research has a pronounced practical orientation and examines processes that are important in the context of demographic and economic trends in the country. The main tasks are solved consistently, concisely and clearly. In my opinion, the proposed author's methodology for better management policies could be supplemented with a section on the assumptions and limitations made.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains interesting scientific and applied results. The reviewed PhD thesis and research papers meet the relevant national and internal legal requirements and regulations.

The submitted research papers and thesis confirm that the PhD student Mihaela Angelinova Angelova has knowledge and skills in the field of data analysis. She has proven her capabilities for conducting independent high-quality research studies.

I would like to state my **positive** assessment of the conducted research, PhD thesis, abstract and scientific results. I would also like to propose to the scientific committee **to award** the educational and scientific degree “doctor” (PhD) in 3.8 Economics (Analytical data research (Data Science)) to Mihaela Angelinova Angelova.

22.07.2024

Reviewer:

/ prof. Stanimir Kabaivanov, PhD /