

Scientific field: 3. Social, economic and Law studies
Field of study: 3.3.Political science
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
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OPINION

from Assoc. Prof. Angelina Miroslavova Markovska, Ph.D.
Veliko Turnovo University "St. st. Cyril and Methodius"
of the Dissertation of **Vesela Stefanova Politova, "Quality of regulation and
the importance of impact assessment in education"**,
submitted for obtaining the Doctorate degree (PhD), Code 3.3 "Political
Sciences", specialty "Public Administration"

1. Information about the procedure, the dissertation, avtoreferat and the publications:

The dissertation of the PhD student Vesela Politova, presented to the attention of the respected scientific jury, is an analytical and in-depth scientific work with a marked practical-applied value, which focuses the research interest on the poorly developed in the Bulgarian research field topic of the role, place and especially the application of impact assessment in the development of normative acts in the field of education in the Republic of Bulgaria. On a second research level, Ms. Politova's dissertation "adds value" to the often underestimated by Bulgarian researchers and experts on the topic, the importance of the impact and effect of the overall process of creating relevant regulations in the field of education on the quality of the regulations themselves. In this sense, I appreciate the choice of the topic by the PhD student and his supervisor, as extremely adequate and timely in relation to the goals set by the state in the field of pre-school and school education, as part of the pan-European education policy and their subsequent and regular reporting.

The relevance of the chosen topic is evident from the frequent and recurrent "mistakes" in our education system, the bitter fruits of which are also

evidenced by its permanent state of instability. I believe that the scientific work proposed to the attention of the esteemed jury is a step forward in the direction of overcoming the aforementioned deficits.

Vesela Politova's dissertation thesis research consists of 189 pages of active text, harmoniously supplemented by a bibliographical reference and two appendices, thematically linked to the practical-applied value of the work, in a total volume of 223 pages. The dissertation has a classical structure, including three problem chapters, conceptually and logically subordinated to the author's main thesis, aims and objectives. Impressive is the rich set of analytical and normative documents used, professionally systematized and reflected in Appendix 2.

Excellent handling of the conceptual apparatus, extensive knowledge in the field of theory, creation, implementation and management of public policies, goal setting and strategic analysis is demonstrated. The doctoral student's erudition in formulating judgments and conclusions, as well as in-depth knowledge of management processes in the field of pre-school and school education as a tool for overcoming the mentioned deficits in the field is evident.

The methodology used by the PhD student is in a wide range - from the fields of sociology, public administration, political science and economics. The approach is distinctly interdisciplinary and systematic in terms of the PhD student's attempt to delineate the problem areas related to identified deficits and gaps between the accepted and legally regulated procedures/steps in the creation of regulations in the field of education and their implementation in practice in public policy making.

The introduction clearly defines the object, the subject, the aims, the objectives, and formulates the main research thesis. The selected research tools are also stated. In their presented formulation they are defensible and fully appropriate for this kind of text. The list of literature used includes a wide range of titles - sufficient for writing a scientifically correct dissertation. The sources are varied and authoritative. The abstract is 28 pages and adequately summarizes the content of the dissertation.

2. Evaluation of the scientific-applied results and contributions of the dissertation

My overall positive impression from the presented dissertation is mostly related to the critical and statistically richly supported author's analysis regarding the systematic non-compliance with the individual steps and procedures in changing the legal framework in the field of pre-school and school education. Admiration to the doctoral student for the courage to point out the "deficits" in the sphere of public management, which directly affect the quality and, above all, the stability of our education system. On the basis of his extensive professional experience, the doctoral candidate also brings out specific recommendations for their overcoming or at least partial minimization.

In my humble opinion, Vesela Politova's dissertation is distinguished by the following more significant contributions and merits:

1. On the basis of a developed and applied methodology of criteria and indicators for assessing the quality of legislation in the field of pre-school and school education, a new approach for analyzing and studying the quality of legislation in this field is introduced, based on an author's methodology of criteria and indicators, tailored to the Bulgarian specifics, legislation and regulations.
2. Through a variety of methodological tools and case studies, the author's thesis is substantiated and defended, on the right-relationship between qualitative normative texts unchanged after their initial adoption and their high degree of effectiveness in unforeseen situations in the context of pre-school and school education, with minimal "deviations" from the established stability of the system.
3. On the basis of a chronological and conceptual review of the changes and evolution of the regulation process in the field of public governance, the importance of impact assessment for improving the quality of regulations and normative frameworks is identified, which refers not only to the field of pre-school and school education, but also in a broader context.
4. As a contribution in practical-applied aspects, I also bring out the critical "snapshot" that the author makes regarding the non-/compliance with the statutory imperatives in the process of public governance in the context of pre-school and school education. As presented, it is correct, quantitatively and qualitatively measured and could serve as a foundation for future adjustments regarding the process of creating, implementing and controlling public policies in this sphere.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no formal reason to make critical remarks on the peer-reviewed dissertation, because they would be the result of my analysis and opinion on the issues under consideration. I would just like to consult the opinion of the PhD student, as an expert with extensive professional experience, to what extent his proposed new approach could also be applied to the analysis of the quality of the regulatory framework in the field of higher education? And if this is reasonable, would it also require specific adjustments in the proposed author's approach?

4. Assessment of the dissertation

The dissertation of **Vesela Stefanova Politova, "Quality of regulation and the importance of impact assessment in education"**, contains research contributions of significant scientific, methodological and practical value and fully complies with the requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

I give a positive assessment and recommend to the honorable jury to award Vesela Stefanova Politova the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Political Science" in a professional field 3.3. Political Sciences (specialty "Public Administration")

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