The tutor's final report on the Master thesis by Fariza Tolesh: Population distribution and interregional migration in Kazakhstan

The thesis extent: 67 pages of text, 14 tables, 32 charts, 41 titles of bibliography

From the beginning of 90's Kazakhstan is going through extensive transformation processes. These processes have many political, economical and also demographical consequences. In this context the question about the role of the migration processes in the above-mentioned changes arises. The internal migration is (besides the international migration) one of the most important component of the regional development. Migration is multilaterally conditioned and therefore it expresses a mutual effect of the whole complex of phenomena.

Submitted thesis deals with the problem of the relationship between migration and economic and demographic factors on the regional development in Kazakhstan. Most of the analyses cover the period between 1999-2008. The master thesis has more or less conventional structure. The analytical part follows after the theoretical and methodological introduction. In the analytical part are firstly mentioned the basic information on regional differentiation of demographic and economic conditions in Kazakhstan. The migration processes characteristics and the analyses of the key migration factors which shape the regional migration in Kazakhstan follows.

The introductory chapters comply with requirements on this type of thesis. The author formulates research questions and hypotheses, which she verifies in the analytical part. In the theoretical section she employs three basic concepts, which are relevant to the studied topic. The author shows sufficient knowledge of the general trends in the studied field.

The strongest point of this thesis is its analytical part. A thorough analysis of the demographic and economic situation in the relationship with the migration processes is done in this part. Despite these analyses didn’t bring always unambiguous results, we can consider them as a contribution from the methodology point of view of methodology and as an inspiration for follow-up researches.

It is necessary to emphasize, that author had very active and independent approach to the thesis elaboration. Only minor remarks of formal nature can be raise – despite overall good quality of the thesis from formal point of view. Namely, some references in the text are missing in the bibliography. Likewise, also the citation of internet sources is not accurate. It is necessary to distinct consistently between the decimal point and the comma, which separate thousands (e.g. table 4 p. 30). It is a pity that author didn’t have the GIS base for the Kazakhstan regions. In such regionally focused study the cartograms would be more illustrative than tables.

Despite these partial remarks the submitted thesis represents a contribution to the research of the migration mobility of Kazakhstan. In conclusion is necessary to state, that the author shows sufficient knowledge of the studied topic and proved the ability to work independently and creatively. Also the formal layout of this thesis is on a good level and it complies with requirements on this type of thesis. Therefore, I recommend master thesis by Fariza Tolesh for defense.

7th October 2009

[Signature]

doc. RNDr. Zdeněk Cermák, CSc.