

Tutor's assessment of the diploma thesis of Nailya Verdiyeva „Population forecast for the Republic of Azerbaijan for the period 2009-2050“

The diploma thesis of Nailya Verdiyeva „Population forecast for the Republic of Azerbaijan for the period 2009-2050“ consists of 104 pages including 20 pages of appendixes. The text consists of five chapters including the introduction. Further there are the lists of abbreviations, tables and figures, conclusion and the appendixes as a part of the thesis.

The profile theme of the submitted diploma thesis is forecasting of population development of Azerbaijan for the following 40 years. Nailya Verdiyeva approached the topic actively and independently. Prior to the work with empirical data she studies in detail population forecasting methodology. Collecting the data N. Verdiyeva started with their examination and evaluation of their reliability. On the basis of obtained results she looked for methods allowing estimation of missing and unreliable data. Two types of models were used – interpolation/extrapolation and distributional ones. Completing the necessary sets of data she approached analysis of recent developments of fertility, mortality and migration fluently moving to scenarios of future developments and to the prognostic estimations of the projection model parameters by the components of population development. In the following step she introduced the parameters into the model and produced the aggregated forecast drawing the variant future course of the population size and its sex and age structure. Finally the author of the diploma thesis presented the basic as well as detailed forecast results in a standard manner.

The strengths of the thesis can be identified in the methodological parts as well as in introductory modelling. Especially mortality estimates, analysis and finally also forecast were elaborated in detail and with application of modern sophisticated methods. In the case of other two components more traditional methods and approaches were employed. On the other side, the weakness one can see in relatively wide stroke of the partial analyses and relatively soft accent on forecast oriented analysis, on the search for development and structural regularities. It resulted in less intensive discussion and advocacy of particular scenarios and subsequently also relatively poor discussion of final results.

Besides the mentioned facts this diploma thesis has no other significantly problematic points. The formal problems are concerning namely less precise tabulations. Especially frequently and mostly incorrectly broken tables represents one of the most disturbing elements of this work. Worth of more careful presentation are also formulas used for description of the used models. Not all their parameters are properly introduced and defined in the text. e.g. the parameter T on the page 19.

However, as a whole, the submitted diploma thesis can be evaluated as correctly elaborated and innovative work. After some formal improvements it could be presented as a full-valued national population forecast for the Republic of Azerbaijan which has no own official forecast currently in use.

Regardless the above mentioned positive as well as critical remarks I can state that the author has proved her expertise by compiling her thesis independently and with the use of the quoted literature. The resulting text fulfils the basic requirements of a diploma thesis in Demography. Hence I recommend the diploma thesis of Nailya Verdiyeva for defence.

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RNDr. Tomáš Kučera, CSc.
tutor