

Tutor's assessment of the diploma thesis of Rustam Abilov "Mortality development in Central Asian countries in 1986-2006"

The diploma thesis of student Rustam Abilov "Mortality development in Central Asian countries in 1986-2006" consists of 117 pages of text and 11 pages of appendices. The text is divided into nine parts including the introduction and conclusions. In addition there are incorporated the lists of abbreviations, tables and figures, references and appendices.

The goal of the diploma thesis has been understand better recent mortality developments in Central Asian region and its countries through a detailed descriptive analysis of this process and through a direct comparison of its levels and developments in the Czech Republic. Besides age and sex also differences in mortality by causes of deaths are examined in this work. Relevance of the selected topic is underlined by the particular mortality crisis in the region.

The work has solid logical structure. The first five chapters covering approximately one third of the thesis volume are devoted to the standard technical question. The remaining two thirds of the text are devoted to the different conceptual issues. In the introductory part, R. Abilov is defining the problem he is going to study, presenting the goal of his work and structure the problem through the correct specification of his research objectives and questions. This part of the thesis contains also literature and the outline of basic terminology and as well as an attempt for a critical discussion of the used data related questions and methodological frameworks of mortality analysis. The core of the thesis starts with a view on general mortality trends presented mainly by the 6th chapter. Development of the cause specific mortality is described and further analysed in the 7th chapter. The 8th chapter is devoted to discussion of the impact of socioeconomic factors on mortality developments, in particular the living standards, development of the health care system, education and situation on the labour market. The results of R. Abilov diploma research are summarized in the Conclusion.

Rustam Abilov worked on his diploma theme independently with the use of relevant literature and statistical data originating in reliable sources (WHO). The literature listed in the end of the text contains most of relevant titles and sufficiently covers the theme regarding the given theme and purpose. The most of the text is written in understandable English but unfortunately is not errors free. More frequent in this text are imperfections in formulation rather than those of formal origin. R. Abilov has learned the principles of text formatting on a good level and is able to apply them in practice.

Regarding the content it can be stated that this diploma thesis represents quite original contribution to the detailed cognition of mortality in the region of post-Soviet Central Asia. Moreover, the comparisons with situation in the Czech Republic allowed R. Abilov to identify reserves and possible sources of future innovative developments in this sphere.

In sum, there is no doubt about adequate quality of Rustam Abilov work and therefore I can recommend his diploma thesis "Mortality development in Central Asian countries in 1986-2006" for a defence.

Prague, September 19, 2010

RNDr. Boris Burcin, Ph.D.
tutor