

Opponent's evaluation of the Master Thesis of Bakhtiyar Kozhakhmetov „Population register and its design for Kazakhstan“

The aim of the thesis is to describe a logical model of the population register for Kazakhstan based on international experiences. The author set 4 particular goals starting from the analysis of international experience or administrative and legislative conditions in Kazakhstan to the developing the proposals for the construction of a population register. It is original theme of the Mater Thesis and could be very useful for practice and also for the future analysis of registers or its implementation in other countries.

The text of the thesis is divided into 6 main chapters; the aim of the work is stated in the first short one, together with some basic information about population registers in general and its advantages against the traditional system based on population censuses only. In the 2nd chapter, there is the overview of relevant literature briefly mentioned (there are only 4 sources cited in this part).

The 3rd chapter starts with the issue of population registers in theory. The typology of registers is introduced as well as the definitions of registers and its basic features and aims. In the second part of this chapter some basic operations within the Register and the classifiers of various fields of activities are presented in the text briefly. Unfortunately the amount of abbreviations (many of them are not included in the list of abbreviations in the introductory part of the thesis) used in the text makes this chapter quite difficult for readers. The scheme in Figure 2 (p. 21) is almost incomprehensible because the abbreviations used in it were not defined in the text before the figure and are not explained within it and also most of them are not included in the List of abbreviations. In the text, there are almost no citations, so it is often not clear what the sources of information were. Except of that, in the printed version of the Thesis the page 25 is missing.

The next chapter returns again to the theme of population registers and describes the administrative conditions in Kazakhstan. Many possibilities of future connection of various fields of statistics are mentioned, because the current use of registers in official statistics in Kazakhstan is still not systematic and reliable. Also in this part very often the sources of information which were used are not cited. Some other inaccuracies could be mentioned too: for example at p. 36, there is written that “*the last 15 years of Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan may be marked by three periods of development*”, but there are four periods introduced in the text bellow.

For some demographers the most interesting part may be the 5th chapter devoted to the practice in the European countries. Several systems of the population registers are described in this chapter and a special attention is devoted to the personal ID numbers and its construction. Unfortunately in this chapter another page (no. 53) is missing (in the printed version) and as a consequence of that again it is difficult to follow the ideas in the text.

Finally the last chapter is about the model of a system of population register in Kazakhstan. It is opened by the analysis of strong and weak points and possibilities of statistical accounting in Kazakhstan. Next

part is devoted to the description of the structure and functions of the population register in Kazakhstan – an ordinary reader cannot be sure in some sections whether it is the proposal of a construction of such a system or whether there is only a description of some already prepared system. Again in many parts of the chapter, there are almost no citations.

It can be summarized that the text could have been written more systematically and could have been prepared in more readable way for an ordinary reader. There are also many abbreviations used in the text which may be introduced somewhere within the Thesis but not all of them are stated in the list of abbreviations at the beginning. Because of that the text is very difficult to understand in some parts. Also many formal inaccuracies should be mentioned – typing errors or errors of typography and in some parts also mistakes in English grammar. The handling of sources and citations is not perfect either – in some parts of the thesis there are almost no citations in the text, some declared sources are not included in the list of references at the end of the work and some sources mentioned in the list are not cited in the text (or not in the proper way). On the other hand it has to be mentioned that this thesis was focused on a specific theme and that finally the goal of the work was reached.

Based on the facts mentioned above, I propose this Master Thesis for acceptance.

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