

Opponent's Assessment of a Doctoral Thesis

Altynay Jazybayeva: Regional Population Forecast for the Republic of Kazakhstan

The theme of the thesis is very actual – population forecast for Kazakhstan; not only for the whole republic but also for its four macroregions and for its 16 administrative regions using cohort-component multistate method.

The first chapter describes the methodological background of the projection method and of multistate demography models. The next chapters are devoted to modeling and forecasting of mortality, fertility and migration and to the methodology of multiregional forecasts, especially various types of internal migration models.

The fourth chapter contains general information about Kazakhstan and its regions concerning mainly the basic demographic characteristics. But also some economic features are mentioned. Special attention is paid to the development of internal and foreign migration. Next part is dedicated to the overview of the development of fertility and mortality during the last time period.

The last three chapters are dedicated to the computation of the population projection for Kazakhstan and its regions. The methodological part concerns the construction of the origin-destination migration matrix.

The next chapter contains the scenarios and main results of the two projections being computed. The first one is a projection for 16 administrative divisions of Kazakhstan for the period of 20 years according two variants. The constant variant assumes no change in fertility, mortality and migration while in the medium variant fertility and mortality rates are expected to change.

The second projection is a projection for four macroregions for the period of 40 years. The constant assumes no changes in demographic behavior again while the principle variant assumes decrease in fertility and increase in life expectation.

The main author's contributions of the thesis are the computation of the two regional population projections of Kazakhstan. Numerical results of the projections are presented in colored graphs and tables.

Unfortunately the thesis contains (in the chapter 2) a lot of paragraphs identical (or almost identical) with the text from the article of Booth H. (2006) Demographic forecasting: 1980 to 2005 in review. *International Journal of Forecasting* 22, pp. 547-581.

Because of this fact I cannot recommend to accept the thesis in this form for defense.

In Prague, September 19, 2012

RNDr. Tomáš Fiala, CSc.

Department of Demography

Faculty of Informatics and Statistics

University of Economics, Prague