

Opponent's review on Ph.D. thesis of Ainur Saparbekova "Migration policy and its role in implementation of population development strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan"

Kazakhstan plays substantial role in Central Asia region also from the point of migration flows. International migration has become an important challenge not only for Kazakh's society but in the same time for the whole region. Migration policy as an important part of population strategy represents one of the top policy issues in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The role of migration in population development in Kazakhstan, migration policy and population strategies are studied in the broader context (development and implementation) in presented doctoral dissertation. Monitoring migration related policy to assess its impact on the economy and society at all represents the important part of the research.

The extent of the presented doctoral dissertation is 172 pages including references and appendix and thematically is divided in to 11 chapters. The structure is logical and the study includes all required necessities (lists of abbreviations, tables, figures, appendices). The research goals and objectives, relevance of the research and contents of the study are given in chapter 1 (Introduction). Crucial information about research goals and objectives is clear but too brief in relevance to the doctoral dissertation. It is impossible to agree with author that chapters 1 – 4 have technical character (see page 16); these chapters are devoted not only to the methodological issue, but also to the theoretical problems. Discussion of the literature from the relevant fields is presented in second chapter and it documents good orientation and knowledge of the author in this issue. Chapter 3 has theoretical character and conceptual questions are also discussed. Research questions and hypothesis are well-arranged and I appreciate the information about the concept of ethnicity in Soviet and Kazakhstan context which is important for understanding the problem under study. Chapter 4 has methodological character and data availability, their quality and methods used for evaluation of migration processes and migration policy are presented.

Chapter 5 deals with strategic goals of population development in Kazakhstan and is based on legislative actions and information published in mass media. Historical overview of migration in Kazakhstan (including Russian colonization, deportation of nations and forced migration) is described in chapter 6. Chapter 7 is devoted to the international migration and its impact on population development in Kazakhstan in the period of independence since 1991. Migration policy and its legislative base and institutional framework nowadays are discussed in chapter 8. Similar topic but separately for individual types of migrants (ethnic return migration, refugees, asylum seekers, illegal migration) is the subject of following chapter 9. Evaluation of migration policy and its effectiveness in Kazakhstan represent the important part of this chapter. Perspectives of population development in Kazakhstan, expected effect of migration and possible role of migration policy are the subject of chapter 10. In conclusion author summarized the principal findings of the research but there is no reference on research questions and hypothesis mentioned in chapter 3. List of literature is rather numerous and includes all important titles concerning migration in the broad context.

The research documents very good author's orientation and knowledge of the problem. Dissertation is well-arranged and includes all important aspects of migration issue. There are no serious deficiencies of presented Ph.D. thesis and it represents useful base for population policy decisions.

Ph.D. thesis of student Ainur Saparbekova fulfils demands put on the doctoral thesis and therefore I recommend it for defense.

Dobřichovice, March 9, 2013

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Kalibová', written over a horizontal line.

RNDr. Květa Kalibová, CSc.
opponent