

**Oponent's review on Ph.D. thesis**  
**Fariza Tolesh: Population prospects of Kazakhstan till 2030**

The goal of presented dissertation is to produce population forecast of Kazakhstan till 2030. Collection of accessible statistical data and the evaluation of present level of demographic reproduction and migration was the first step of the research. In Kazakhstan there is no official population forecast made by state statistical institutions up to now and projections produce by international institutions differ significantly speaking about future population size. From this point of view the study is topical and without doubt will have practical application in many spheres of planning. Because of the diversity of population in Kazakhstan, three different points of view in delimitation of population system under study was taken into account: total population, rural/urban population and regional aspect. To compare results of the three population forecasts enabled to find principal determinants of population development in Kazakhstan. The primary intention was to produce forecasts till 2060 (see Minor thesis). The present demographic dynamics and possible higher level of uncertainty of predicted future development was the main reason of the change. The dissertation consists of eight chapters (plus Introduction and Conclusion) and its extent is 207 pages (proper text 138 pages + Annex). List of figures, tables and maps included in the text is added but there is no information about Annex which represents one third of the study.

The structure of the dissertation is logical. In Introduction author presents general information about importance of population forecasts, the structure of study and research questions are putting. First chapter is devoted to the literature overview, second one has theoretical character and informs about basic population theories. Data availability, their quality and their limitation are discussed in the third chapter. Fourth chapter has methodological character and informs about population forecasting methods, models and possible approaches. The overview documents good orientation in the topic, author discusses advantages, disadvantages and possible limitation of individual methods. More detailed information about methods used for Kazakhstan prospects would be expected.

The fifth chapter informs about demographic situation in Kazakhstan usually in the period 1999-2010. Time periods given for individual characteristics widely differ and there is no explanation why - perhaps the availability of data was the main reason for such unusual arrangement. The population systems delimitation and their specification is given in this chapter, before no more detailed information about three types of population forecasts were available. The chapter sixth is devoted to the construction of the model to find out the schedule and patterns of the main population components. Formulation of assumptions about the future course of population change with respect to fertility, mortality and migration and forecasting model are presented in chapter seventh. The results of the three population forecasts for Kazakhstan population till 2030 are presented in the last eighth chapter. Conclusion briefly summarizes the results of presented study and author tries to find answers on research questions given in Introduction.

Proposals and critical notes:

I miss comparison of presented prospects with the results of prognosis made by international organizations – not only the future size of total population, but first of all the estimated future development of fertility and mortality (explain and give reasons for such differences). The ideas and experience of experts from international organizations would be good base for such analyses.

One of the introductory pages (Disclaimer) informs about the conditions under which the presented prospects are valid. It would be also interesting to inform readers about expected development in Kazakhstan (economic, social, political etc.), it means about a broader

circumstances of population development in a near future. I suppose that such consideration was taken into account to estimate future development of fertility, mortality and migration. In dissertation there is no such information.

The chapter References: Quotation of internet sources is completely missing in spite of the fact, that data produced by Kazakhstan statistical agency were the principal source of information. In dissertation sometimes is quoted as "stat.kz" (pp. 60-75, 89-106), sometimes as [www.stat.kz](http://www.stat.kz) (pp. 76-81) etc., but no quotation in References. The only internet source is quoted (see p. 134) and it was used in Introduction in rather unusual way (see p. 11): second paragraph is completely the same as in the source (without quotation marks). Inaccurate quotation see also Kučera, T. (1998), p. 133.

There is a variety of further shortcomings, e.g.:

The graphic layout is not well done. It concerns not only the choice of colors (some figures is very difficult to read) but often the information about values on axes are missing (e.g. Fig. 30 and Fig. 66-69) or are not uniform: *Age groups* Fig. 43 and 47-50, on the contrary *Age* Fig. 44, 57-58, 62-64. Also information on axis "Population (000)" and "Migrants (000)" is not usual.

The way of references on sources is not uniform and it is not clear if the source concerns only data or total graphic presentation (see almost all figures).

Table 2 (page 75) concerning ethnic composition is in per cent, but the total sum is not 100 (maybe the "others" are not included?).

List of abbreviations using in the text is missing. Besides, sometimes author uses abbreviations without their previous explanation.

Title of first chapter is not the same in Content and in the text (Literature review/Literature overview).

Presented dissertation concerns very topical issue and its importance for practice in many spheres of life in Kazakhstan is evident. Just the broad usage of the research ought to be one of factors taken into account in evaluation of the study. From this point of view the elimination of shortcomings mentioned above would be one of the steps for improving and better understanding the study. Nevertheless author proved rather good orientation in the problem under study, mainly in theoretical issues.

The presented dissertation of Fariza Tolesh fulfils demands put on doctoral thesis only partly but nevertheless I recommend accept it for defense.

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Úvod si přečíst a doplnit do textu

Str. 120 teprve pořádné vysvětlení zkratk