

OPINION

for dissertation work on the topic: **"Intercultural reflection and integration through education /functional analysis for the period 2005 - 2016/"**

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

with author: **Teodora Kostadinova Grigorova** – full-time PhD student in the field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences (Ethnology – Ethnopsychological models in education) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Faculty of History

Scientific supervisor: **Prof. Dr. Irina Koleva**

Prepared by: **Prof. DSc. Georgi Velkov Kolev**, Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen

Presentation of the Procedure

Teodora Grigorova has submitted the necessary documents related to the procedure for defending her dissertation. She has attached a dissertation spanning 156 pages. The dissertation is structured in an introduction, an exposition in three chapters, conclusions, conclusion, bibliography and appendices. The bibliography includes 191 units, of which 143 sources in Cyrillic, 21 in Latin and 27 electronic sources. The appendices include two questionnaires for teachers and principals, a questionnaire for an in-depth semi-structured interview for pedagogical specialists and experts in the field of integration, two lists of respondents, two models of semi-structured and in-depth interviews. Audio recordings of the field interviews are also presented.

The dissertation package meets the requirements of the Law on Academic Staff Development (ZRASRB) and its implementing regulations, as well as the regulations for the conditions and procedures for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The text has been checked through the "Anti plagiarism" system of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Relevance of the Topic

In terms of content, the dissertation presented for defense is in the field of ethnology and ethnopedagogy. The PhD student is a successor to the scientific and empirical school of the reflexive approach in the field of scientific reflexive ethnopedagogical and ethnopsychological research. Teodora Grigorova builds on her ideas from the Bachelor's Degree in Ethnology and the Master's Degree in Ethnology at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Department of Ethnology.

The chosen topic PhD students Teodora Grigorova is relevant and significant, given the national strategy for educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities, the introduction of new professions by the Ministry of Education and Science (MON) - NAPOO in professional fields 011: "Education" and 092 "Social Services," which include such professions as "Educational Mediation" "Support for Vulnerable Groups" and others, resulting from the activities

of the Center for Educational Integration of Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities (CEIMEM) under MON, whose activities are analyzed in the dissertation.

The significance of the topic is also determined by the strategy of the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues (NCCEII) for vulnerable ethnic communities and groups, with a focus on Roma, as well as the plans for the activities of CEIMEM - MON for the period 2005-2016.

In these strategies and plans, the main paradigm is set for developing and applying value-oriented reflexive technologies for social inclusion of vulnerable ethnic communities and groups. Given the informational markers of the socio-educational space in our country, the chosen by PhD students Teodora Grigorova is extremely relevant and significant.

Knowledge of the Problem

Doctoral candidate T. Grigorova, after being credited with the right to defend, works as a teacher in the secondary education system. This allows her to make analyses based on her pedagogical experience. She has participated in traditional seminars organized by the Department of Ethnology for doctoral candidates. Being an ethnologist by basic education, she possesses research experience in the field.

The functional analysis carried out by the doctoral candidate is correct. The significance of parameterizing intercultural reflection and integration through education for the period 2005-2016 is justified.

Methodology of the Research

The methodology presented in the dissertation is built upon the reflexive approach in the field of ethno-psycho-pedagogy and ethnology. The emphasis in the dissertation is on the functional analysis of the Bulgarian national state policy for intercultural reflection and integration through education during the period 2005-2016. The school education system is examined through the activities of CEIMEM - MON in its capacity as a coordinating center for integration through education of students from vulnerable ethnic communities and groups. The subject of the ethno-pedagogical research are ethnological markers for intercultural reflection in the Bulgarian school education system. The object of the ethno-pedagogical research is the process of integration through education, implemented as a state policy.

Characteristics and Evaluation of the Dissertation and Contributions

The dissertation includes:

- Field ethnological research on the factors of educational integration with 29 leading Bulgarian experts in the field of educational integration and intercultural education;
- Field ethnological research on the factors of educational integration with 30 teachers and principals of secondary schools in the country involved in the activities of Center for Educational Integration of Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities – MON;
- Ethno-pedagogical research to establish the intercultural competence of 68 pedagogical specialists implementing educational integration policies during the specified period;
- Functional analysis of educational policies of MON - CEIMEM for the period 2005-2016;

- SWOT analysis of European and national strategic and directive documents in the field of intercultural education and the process of educational integration during the period 2005-2016.

Teodora Kostadinova Grigorova possesses scientific-research competence, which is sufficient grounds for acquiring the educational and scientific degree of "doctor." The dissertation meets the requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "doctor" in paradigmatic and semantic terms. It has the characteristics **of a scientific-applied research**.

 ***The main contributions are deployed in:***

Theoretical plan:

- A functional analysis of the Bulgarian state policy for educational integration and intercultural education in the school education system (period: 2005-2016);
- A functional analysis of the activities, functions, and results of project activities of CEIMEM - MON during the period 2005-2016;
- A SWOT analysis of strategic and directive national documents in the school education system in the field of educational integration of students from ethnic minorities (period 2005-2016);
- A SWOT analysis of strategic European documents in the field of educational integration and intercultural education (period 2005-2016).

Research /Empirical/ plan:

- Diagnostic assessment of the intercultural competence of 68 pedagogical specialists working on projects in the field of educational integration of CEIMEM - MON (period 2005-2016);
- Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 29 national experts in the field of intercultural education and educational integration of students from ethnic minorities, as well as past and present directors and experts from CEIMEM - MON and leading experts from MON directorates related to the goals of the dissertation;
- Thirty in-depth interviews were conducted with principals of secondary schools working in a multicultural educational environment regarding the factors of educational integration;
- A diagnostic tool was developed and tested to assess the intercultural competence of teachers and principals of secondary schools working in a multicultural/interethnic educational environment.

 ***Assessment of Publications and Personal Contribution of the Candidate***

Teodora Kostadinova Grigorova is the author of three publications on the topic of the dissertation presenting experimental program research results. The publications are in editions of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - journal "Terreni" of the Department of Ethnology. She has participated in national and international conferences.

The dissertation is an original and authored study that presents Teodora Grigorova as a researcher with socially oriented behavior consistent with the conducted research.

Abstract

The abstract presents the main scientific paradigms, theses, and conceptual conclusions of the conducted dissertation research. It reflects both formally and substantively the full text of the doctoral dissertation.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation of **Teodora Kostadinova Grigorova**, its scientific contributions presented through the publications on the doctoral dissertation, meet the area and professional direction for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "doctor."

*The scientific and educational activities of the candidate, as well as the achieved research results, give me grounds to recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to vote for **Teodora Kostadinova Grigorova** to be awarded the educational and scientific degree of "doctor" in the professional field 3.1. "Sociology, Anthropology, and Cultural Sciences" (Ethnology - Ethnopsychological Models in Education).*

01.05.2025
Shumen

Prepared the opinion:

/prof. DSc. Georgi Velkov Kolev/

