Opponent's review of the Dissertation Thesis

Title: Quality of Life as an Useful Indicator for Decision-making Process of Public Administration at the Regional Level.

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Reviewer: doc. Magdalena Kotýnková, CSc.

Topic, objective and subject

The topic of the submitted dissertation thesis is highly significant, relevant and up to date, as the concept of quality of life (hereinafter: "QoL") and measuring its progress over time should be used as an important decision-making tool aimed at ensuring a decent quality life for populations at both national and regional levels.

Important international organizations are involved into the research and development of the QoL concept and its measurement, such as Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) using Better Life Index, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) using Human Development Index, etc. I therefore appreciate that the author has set herself the task of making recommendations to improve the quality of life in Ukraine using the experience of six other post-Soviet countries, i.e. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia. The research was conducted by comparing the QoL components with emphasis on the main aspects of sustainable development. The QoL components used in submitted dissertations thesis, see Figure 4, page 58.

Within this context the author stated the following main goal: "…..to develop the theoretical, methodological and practical research foundations of the life quality and ways to improve it" and the related objective and subject: "The objective of the research is the conditions that determine the population's life quality; the subject is the specific indicators of life quality and sustainable development". The main goal, objective and subject are mentioned on p.10. of submitted dissertations thesis and the subsequent detailed formulation of the main goal is given in Chapter No. 2.1 (p. 35) and a related detailed formulation of objectives and the subject is given in Chapter No. 2.2 (p. 36).

The topic of submitted dissertation thesis is significant and the main goal, the related objectives and the subject are set clearly and logically.

Structure, methodology and research

The dissertation theses consists of five chapters organized into two main parts: (1) Chapters No. 1 - 3 (pp. 12 - 55) containing the theoretical basis and methods used to assess the quality of life and (2) and Chapters No. 4 - 5 (pp. 56 - 104) containing the own research concerning evolution QoL in seven post-Soviet countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine).

I especially appreciate the theoretical basis of the work. Chapter 1 focuses on clarifying the concept of QoL based on specific stages of formation of the concept of QoL (Table 1) and based on different approaches to the content of the concept of QoL (Table 2). In addition, this chapter contains three lists of key indicators for assessing QoL based on objective, subjective and integrated approach to QoL assessment (Tables 3 - 5). The chapter itself is a valuable

contribution of work, as it provides a theoretical survey of the field. All the described overviews and tables can be used at universities to study courses focused on the quality of life of the populations.

The fourth chapter contains a key part of the dissertation theses focused on the main analysis, whose main idea is based on the process of testing selected core indicators on the benchmark. The "Life Satisfaction Indicator" presented in the World Happiness Annual Report was set as the benchmark. The set of core indicators selected for testing the correlation on the benchmark (i.e. "Life Satisfaction Indicator") included the following indicators: Gross domestic product per capita; Average net monthly wage; Long-term unemployment; Total investments of providers of funded and private pension schemes; Government spending on education; Government spending on health; Research and development expenses; Life expectancy at birth; Exposure to air pollution, exposure to PM2.5; Military expenses; Number of traffic accidents per thousand inhabitants; Corruption Perception Index). Results of the chapter 4 described in subchapter 4.5 are a good introduction to the fifth chapter containing recommendations for Ukraine concerning the QoL improvements.

Remarks:

My remark relates to he GDP per capita index (Table 7). More suitable index would have been the GNI per capita index than the GDP one. GNI (Gross National Income) measures all income of country's residents and businesses, regardless of where it is produced or earned (including remittances earn by country's residents in foreign countries and send home). On the other hand GNI omits the earnings of all foreigners living in the country.

Summary and Conclusion

The research in presented Dissertation Theses is well worked out. The individual chapters follow a logical arrangement and the previous chapters provide the information needed in the next chapters. The research topics, the methodology and methods are consistent. The work is supplemented by many graphs and tables prepared by the author. Sources cited in submitted treatise are relevant to the chosen topic.

For the above reasons, I recommend the Dissertations Theses for the defence and I recommend to the committee to award the PhD degree to Mgr. Tetiana Korovchenko.

Praha, 5. 7. 2020

doc. Ing. Magdalena Kotýnková, CSc.
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