STANDPOINT

by Assoc. Prof., Doctor Petar Kirilov Neshev, Trakia University – Stara Zagora, elected as a member of the Scientific Jury under the procedure for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" by Joanna Nikolova Dragneva, according to Order No. RD-6-92/08.03.2023 of the Director of the Institut for Population and Human Research – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and appointed to prepare on statement on the basic of Protocol No. 1/15.03.2023 y.

Subject: submitted dissertation on topic "Integration and motivational aspects in migration processes depending on the geographical distance of the host countries Germany and the USA" for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.2. Psychology, doctoral program "Social Psychology" with author Joanna Nikolova Dragneva.

For the development of the standpoint, I was provided with a dissertation, an abstract, the candidate's curriculum vitae, a list of publications. The documents show that Joanna Dragneva has successfully completed all the planned activities in the individual study plan for the entire duration of the doctoral studies and has successfully gone through the necessary procedure for admission of defense for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in accordance with Law of Higher Education, the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and for occupying academic position at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

General impression of the dissertation work

The dissertation submitted of defense is a thorough and reasoned study of an actual and significant problem in the field of modern social psychology. The developed issues have been studied purposefully and systematically. The author competently explains the reasons for migration and the psychology of Bulgarian emigrants in Germany and the USA. The dissertation consists of an introduction, two parts, a conclusion, appendices, bibliography and is 222 pages long. The text contains 107 tables and 22 figures. 225 adequate scientific sources were used, of which 36 were in Bulgarian language and 189 were in a foreign language.

Joanna Dragneva reveals in the introduction the main purpose of the dissertation work. In the first part, the scientific concepts are precisely defined. A successful literature review of various scientific concepts and theoretical approaches to explain migration behavior has been made. One of the strengths of the work is in revealing the psychological specificity of the researched problem. The author seeks and gives a scientifically based answer to the question: how does the geographical distance of the host countries Germany and the USA affect the identification, acculturation and motivation of migrants?

In the second part, the author presents the purpose, tasks, hypotheses and methods of her empirical research. The research is very well planned, organized and implemented in practice. The factors of the research are demographic characteristics, identification, acculturation, motivation to return to Bulgaria, perspectives for the generation among the Bulgarian emigrants in Germany and the USA.

Significance and persuasiveness of the results obtained, the interpretation and conclusions and nature of the scientific contributions

In the second part, a comprehensive comparative analysis of the research results is made. The results are presented convincingly, being comprehensively arranged in tables and figures. Their relevance to the purpose, tasks, and hypotheses of the research is shown. The results achieved and the conclusions drawn are valuable for the work of psychologists on the successful

integration and adaptation of migrants. This, in my opinion, is another of the many merits of the dissertation work.

The abstract adequately and accurately presents the content, structure, scientific merits, leading ideas, achieved results and contributions of the dissertation work. In the dissertation work, I did not find texts that were plagiarized by other authors, and no signals of this have reached me. All the texts that Yoanna Dragneva used were quoted correctly, and the established standards were respected. The author's contributions have a theoretical and practical-applied nature. The more significant contributions, in my opinion, are the following:

- for the first time in Bulgarian psychology, socio-psychological profiles of Bulgarian emigrants in Germany and the USA were made;
- it is clearly stated how the remoteness of the host country affects the identity, acculturation, motivation and perspectives of emigrants;
- a working psychological toolkit was created and implemented in practice for the study of emigrants who are at a distance;
- the knowledge of the psychological specifics of the emigrant Bulgarian communities depending on the remoteness of the host countries will help to improve the professional and state support towards the Bulgarians in Germany and the USA.

Quality of research papers reflecting dissertation research

The theoretical and applied achievements presented in the dissertation are popularized in the author's scientific publications. The quality of proposed publications and research related to the topic of the dissertation corresponds to the high scientific requirements. I have no critical remarks about the dissertation work and the abstract to it. My recommendation is that the author continues to work as inspired, conscientious and thorough in her future research.

Reasoned conclusion

The presented dissertation on the topic: "Integration and motivational aspects in migration processes depending on the geographical distance of the host countries Germany and the USA" is structured very well, it is theoretically justified, a valuable empirical study has been conducted. The results have been processed precisely and reasoned conclusions with specific practical focus and applicability have been made. All this gives me sufficient grounds to confidently express my positive opinion and categorically vote for Joanna Nikolova Dragneva to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "doctor of psychology" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.2. Psychology, Doctoral Program "Social Psychology".

Sofia, 06.04.2023 y. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petar Neshev