

REVIEW REPORT

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD)

This review is prepared on the basis of Order 49/ 20.01.2023 of the Rector of "Dimitar A. Tsenov" Academy of Economics - Svishtov for appointing the scientific jury

Review prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Dimitrov Lyubenov - DSc, "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse

Author of the dissertation: Ana Borisova Ivanova

Topic of the dissertation: Healthcare financing models: limitations and capabilities

I. General overview of the dissertation

The dissertation contains 191 pages of text. It includes an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, bibliography and appendices. The dissertation contains 50 figures and 7 tables. The bibliographical list contains 101 sources - some of them are in Latin alphabet (more than 20%), and the remainder are in Cyrillic alphabet, incl. regulatory documents and electronic sources. The correct formulation of the object and subject of research, the research thesis, the purpose and research tasks, and hypotheses of the doctoral dissertation, as well as its structure, contribute to the analysis of the topic of the dissertation.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

Undoubtedly, the chosen topic and the results of the presented dissertation are justified by the well-argued relevance and significance of the researched models for healthcare financing at the national and regional level. The positive results of this research determine the approval in principle as having the

necessary qualities of a dissertation for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "Doctor"(PhD), as well as the correspondence between the topic and the content. The abstract of the dissertation is presented in the established form and content. It reflects in summary the main results of the research and gives a good idea of the theoretical and applied achievements of the author.

III. Scientific and scientific-and-applied contributions of the dissertation

The detailed reading of the dissertation allows the formulation of specific positive results, the most important of which are:

- the main characteristics of financing models on a global scale are indicated. The positive characteristics of each model and its scope of application in different countries, according to the regional specifics, the degree of development of the markets, etc. are argued.
- a questionnaire survey of three main groups - managers of medical facilities, medical doctors and patients, has been carried out, and conclusions of verbal-graphic models referring to medical facilities and for patients are made.
- a regression-correlation analysis of the dependence of health insurance payments on revenues and transfers in the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has been made, revealing the existence of a significant correlation between them.
- an empirical study of data from financial statements of selected medical institutions from the North-West Planning Region has been carried out, and it confirms the existence of significant disparities both in terms of geographical location and in terms of ownership and financial results in the public and the private sectors.
- the need for a comprehensive reform in the sector is indicated in order to increase the efficiency of financial flows in healthcare and achieve a social result - better health for all and a positive economic effect.

IV. Questions on the dissertation

The achieved results and their characteristics, specificity and synthesis provoke conclusions, but also the following questions:

- What should be the minimum sample size for the purpose of the survey conducted in each of the three groups, considering the normal distribution probability law
- In addition to financial indicators, does the quantity and quality of health services depend also on non-financial indicators, and if so- which ones?

V. Overall assessment of the dissertation and conclusion

The abovementioned positive results of the dissertation of Ana Borisova Ivanova titled "Healthcare financing models: limitations and capabilities", as well as the fulfilment of the national requirements in terms of number of points, provide sufficient grounds for an overall positive assessment of the scientific potential and research opportunities. This allows me to vote in favour of awarding Ana Borisova Ivanova with the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) in professional field 3.8. Economy, Doctoral Program "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Finance)".

Date: 10.02.2023

Review prepared by:

(Assoc. Prof. L. Lyubenov, DSc)