STANDPOINT

From: Prof. Bozhidar Ivkov DSc – Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at BAS, Section „Public Policies and Social Change".

Subject: dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree „Doctor" in the scientific specialty 05.11.01 „Sociology" in the professional field 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences.

Author: Stefano Cobello - Italy.

Topic of the dissertation: „Inclusive education for children with disabilities in a relational perspective".

Grounds: Order № RD-09-543 / 17.11.2020

1. General characteristics of the presented dissertation

The PhD thesis of St. Cobello *"Inclusive education for children with disabilities in a relational perspective"* is dedicated to an extremely important and socially significant problem for any modern society – the inclusive education of children with disabilities.

The total volume of the dissertation is 271 pages, of which 248 pages are the main text, and the literature sources are 382, of which 260 in Italian, 117 in English and others. The work is structured in 5 chapters, which are elaborated in such a way that there is a logical sequence and connection between them.

Based on classical and modern theoretical and conceptual developments, Stefano Cobello skillfully introduces us to the problematic world of education of children with disabilities and in particular of inclusive education, which involves not only the children and teachers, but also the families of children with disabilities, public institutions, policies and ideologies. The author demonstrates extremely good knowledge of the developments in the field of sociology, sociology of disability and sociology of education, as well as in the field of special pedagogy, which allows him to choose an adequate methodological arsenal to develop his analysis in the context of relational perspective. Thus, disability is understood as a social product, a social construct that arises, builds and develops in the process of social interactions, including social, psychological, material and other resources of the environment and

participants in social interactions. Giving a special place to the role of the family in the process of education in general and inclusive one in particular is a very important approach used by Stefano Cobello, because everything starts and ends in the family and breaks through it, especially when we talk about children's with disabilities education.

2. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results

In general, the dissertation is written at a very high theoretical level and has significant scientific and scientific-applied results, both for the theory and for the practice, policies and mechanisms of inclusive education. I would like to highlight two very important points from Mr Cobello's results.

1. The emphasis on the very fact that the person with a disability exists, that he **is**. The person with a disability is a value in himself/herself and an integral part of the society and communities in which he/she lives. And from this point of view, any effort for his education and social inclusion is socially significant and is of fundamental importance to society.

2. Without being explicitly presented as a contribution or result, Mr. Cobello uses and applies in his analysis a kind of holistic approach, which in itself is a rare but worthy of respect and recognition.

3. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

The scientific and scientific-applied contributions of Mr. Cobello in his dissertation are adequately, meaningfully and correctly formulated. Here, the disadvantage is the modesty and thrift in their derivation and formulation. In my opinion, the contributions under numbers 3, 4, 6 and 7 deserve special attention.

4. Evaluation of the abstract

The abstract of the PhD thesis without being verbose, fully adequately and accurately reflects the essence and content of the dissertation. In addition, it in itself provides an opportunity to acquire a relatively comprehensive and complete picture of it.

5. Critical remarks, recommendations and questions

I do not have any serious critical remarks on the dissertation. I would like to make two recommendations to Mr. Stefano Cobello.

1. After the respective editing and revision, I recommend the PhD thesis to be published as a monograph, which will be an important contribution to the sociological works in the field of education of children with disabilities.
2. To preserve this holistic approach in his future work - theoretical and practical.

6. Personal impressions of the candidate and other data not mentioned in the previous points.

I met Mr. Stefano Cobello during his enrollment as a doctoral student at IFS. What impressed me throughout his work was his exceptional activity - participation in various seminars, conferences and other events in which he did not fail to mention that he is a doctoral student at the Institute. In addition, Mr. Cobello is an extremely consistent, in-depth and dialogical researcher.

7. Motivated and clearly formulated conclusion

Based on all that has been said so far, without any hesitation or reservations, I recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury for the present defense to unanimously award Mr. Stefano Cobello the scientific and educational degree „Doctor" scientific specialty 05.11.01 „Sociology" in the professional field 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences.

Proff. Bozhidar Ivkov, DSc: .....