

## **Statement**

by **prof. Yolanda Konstantinova Zografova, PhD**

Institute for Population and Human Studies, BAS

Professional field 3.2 Psychology

Regarding procedure for obtaining doctoral degree in professional field 3.2.

Psychology

by **PhD candidate Gergana Ilieva Kuzmova-Paneva**, dissertation topic:

"Decision making in negative emotional states and the threat of being left out from a group"

*(Summary)*

The dissertation project "Decision-making under negative affect and threat of being out of a group" is dedicated to the study of a broad set of issues including cognitive-affective, personality and group influences and effects of rejection or exclusion from intragroup interactions.

The problematic this study addresses is important in theoretical and scientific-practical terms; processes of intragroup interaction and subject experiences are also covered. Both types of phenomena play a role in the effectiveness of personal and group realization across different age groups and fields of study or profession.

An interesting multi-layered research design has been conducted in 4 experimental procedures. It incorporates combinations of Prisoner's dilemma game with Cyberball. Test methodologies, scales for measuring mood before and after participating in games, as well as personality trait questionnaires have been used.

The dissertation contributes to the development of knowledge in the discussed research area by expanding the scrutinized personal phenomena and diversifies the experimental scheme by combining game situations, including new adapted scales and questionnaires.

My notes and suggestions are the following:

- The preliminary justification of the general hypothesis could be more

exhaustive.

- It would be useful to seek analogues of experimental situations or to compare data with real-life studies.

In conclusion, despite the remarks, on the basis of the qualities and value of the dissertation presented, as well as its contributions, my proposal is to award the educational and scientific PhD degree to Gergana Kuzmova.