

REVIEW

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

This review is prepared on the basis of Order 489/27.06.2022 of the Rector of 'Dimitar A. Tsenov' Academy of Economics - Svishtov for appointing the scientific jury

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

Author of the dissertation: Martin Nikolaev Harizanov

Topic of the dissertation: "FINANCIAL PROVISION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST PLANNING REGION"

I. General overview of the dissertation

The dissertation contains 187 pages of text. It includes an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, bibliography and appendices. The dissertation contains 24 tables and 41 figures. The bibliographical list contains 134 sources. The correct formulation of the object and subject of research, the research thesis, the purpose and research tasks of the dissertation and its structure contribute to the analysis of the financial provision for the development of the North-West planning region.

In the introduction of the dissertation, the choice of the topic is properly justified in respect to significance, relevance and perspective for the development of the North-West planning region. The object and subject of research, the research thesis, goal and tasks are well formulated. The scientific requisites are specific and clear, which guarantees quality.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

Undoubtedly, the chosen topic of the dissertation and the results of the presented dissertation justify the well-argued relevance and significance of the

financial provision for the development of the North-West planning region, given the fact that it is the poorest region in the EU.

The positive results of the research condition the principle approval of the work as possessing the necessary qualities of a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (PhD), as well as correspondence between topic and content. The general impression of the dissertation speaks of the clarity of the statements within the limits of the clearly formulated subject and object, research thesis, goal and tasks in the context of the topic of the dissertation.

The dissertation and the conclusions drawn are based on a wealth of regional information - very well processed as an illustration and justification of the research results. The overall assessment of the work presented speaks of due diligence and competence in the use of information, with a clear distinction of the contribution of the author of the study.

Presented are 3 publications (one study and two articles), which in terms of volume and thematic focus meet the requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (PhD). They are related to the issues of the research thesis being defended, its goals and tasks, and represent a success in research activity. The abstract is presented in the established form and content. It summarizes the main results of the research and gives the necessary insight into 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 strategic territorial location of the studied area is determined, which justifies the search for financial sources to limit the negative demographic trends of depopulation and reduction of competitiveness.

- The need for financial resources to improve the transport and infrastructural development of the region and its basic sectors - nuclear energy, light, food and textile industry, construction, tourism, etc. is justified.

- The need for a strategic integrated approach to the development of the region, in accordance with national and European normative documents for achieving regional competitiveness, economic, social and territorial cohesion, is substantiated.

- It has been estimated that Bulgaria's membership in the EU since 2007 is a significant prerequisite for ensuring the development of its regions, including the analysed region, through a comprehensive review of the instruments for financial provision of regional development.

- Proposed is a prospective spatial model for sustainable rezoning and ensuring regional development in Bulgaria, and also the analysed region, with the aim of preserving in the long term (until 2080) the legally stipulated number of inhabitants in the regions of level 2.

- The proposed ideas and results have found an echo and recognition in the specialized scientific literature through the author's publications. They have obtained publicity, and no negative opinions about them are known.

- The statement of contributions is relatively well formulated and reflects the reality of the results. I partially accept the first contribution, since determining the genesis of the backwardness of the studied region requires larger and additional studies, because the other two regions on the Danube - North-Central and North-East, both have similar problems.

IV. Critical notes on the dissertation, questions and recommendations

The critical notes on the dissertation are also mainly questions to the author. This is justified by the achieved results, whose characteristics, concreteness and synthesis provoke both conclusions, and also the following questions:

- According to the formulated second contribution - To what extent political persons should and can be responsible for regional development?

- The study places a major emphasis on the financial instruments for regional development of the EU, and significantly less attention to others - national and international.

- How can the lower rate of absorption of financial means for regional development of the EU in relation to the studied area be explained, and is there a connection with the share of the region in the country's GDP?

V. Summary conclusion and opinion

The abovementioned positive results of the dissertation of Martin Nikolaev Harizanov titled "FINANCIAL PROVISION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST PLANNING REGION" provide sufficient grounds for an overall positive assessment of the scientific potential and research opportunities. This allows me to vote in favour of awarding Martin Nikolaev Harizanov with the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) in professional field 3.8. Economy, Doctoral Program "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Finance)".

Date: 25.07.2022

Reviewer: _____

(Assoc. Prof. L. Lyubenov, PhD)