

**TO:**  
The chairman of the scientific jury  
for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (Ph.D.)  
in the doctoral program "Political Economy"  
at the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov"- Svishtov

**SCIENTIFIC REVIEW**  
for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "D o c t o r" (Ph.D.)  
under OPEN PROCEDURE in defense of dissertation

**Scientific review by:**  
PROFESSOR SAVA HRISTOV DIMOV, PhD  
Lecturer at Burgas Free University - Burgas  
Program Manager Department Finance and Accounting

**Grounds:**  
- Order №209 of April 29, 2021 of the Rector of the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov", Svishtov Professor Mariana Bozhinova, Ph.D.  
- Article 70, paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov  
- Decisions of the Faculty of Finance, Protocol №7 / 27. 04. 2021

**Author of the dissertation:**  
Ph.D. student TANYA IVANOVA RISEMOVA, D010218196  
Doctoral Program in Political Economy  
Scientific adviser: Associate Professor Lyudmil Ivanov Nestorov, Ph.D.

**Topic of the dissertation:**  
"SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREAS ON THE BULGARIAN DANUBE COAST - SITUATION AND PROSPECTS"

**I. General presentation of the dissertation**

№	Elements	Contents	Characteristics	Reviewer's rating
1	<i>Subject research of</i>	Socio-economic development of the districts along the Bulgarian Danube coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- scientifically proven subject of research;</li> <li>- underdeveloped in Bulgarian literature;</li> <li>- logically constructed research structure;</li> <li>- wide practical applicability;</li> <li>- in the context of the National Concept for Spatial Development 2013-2025;</li> </ul>	Very high

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- related to the new Operational Program "Regional Development" 2021-2027 and</li> <li>- European Strategy for the Danube Region. (EUSDR)</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Research thesis</b>	The available potential and opportunities for development are the main prerequisites for solving socio-economic problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- available potential;</li> <li>- development opportunities;</li> <li>- areas of the Bulgarian Danube coast;</li> <li>- socio-economic problems;</li> <li>- priorities and perspectives for economic development.</li> </ul>	Very high
3	<b>Methodological tools</b>	A set of theoretical and empirical research methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multifactor analysis;</li> <li>- Comparative analysis;</li> <li>- Documentary analysis;</li> <li>- Cluster analysis, through SPSS (Statistical Program for Social Sciences);</li> <li>- SWOT analysis.</li> </ul>	Very high
4	<b>Approbation of the dissertation</b>	Faculty of Finance, respectively:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of General Theory of Economics;</li> <li>- Under the guidance of Associate Professor Lyudmil Nestorov, Ph.D.</li> </ul>	Very high
5	<b>Literary basis</b>	Judgments, observations and empirical research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- author research;</li> <li>- Bulgarian authors;</li> <li>- foreign authors;</li> <li>- official statistical information listed on pages 9-10 of the dissertation.</li> </ul>	Comprehensive enough
6	<b>Volume</b>	187 pages, including Appendices, pages 167-187 (20)	Covering the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abbreviations;</li> <li>- Introduction;</li> <li>- Three heads;</li> <li>- Conclusion;</li> <li>- Literature;</li> </ul>	Logically justified volume

			- Applications.	
7	<b>Structure</b>	<p><i>Chapter 1.</i> Theoretical and methodological approaches to socio-economic development</p> <p><i>Chapter 2.</i> Problems of the socio-economic development of the districts along the Bulgarian Danube coast</p> <p><i>Chapter 3.</i> Perspectives for the socio-economic development of the districts along the Bulgarian Danube coast</p> <p><i>Literature</i> includes 108 sources, of which 42 in Bulgarian, 17 foreign and 49 websites;</p> <p><i>Graphic images:</i> - 31 tables, 35 graphs and 3 figures (in main text); - 27 applications.</p>		Logically justified
8	<b>Plagiarism</b>	I personally have not found plagiarism or "theft" of other people's scientific work, thoughts, ideas and their presentation as my own.		I do not state

## II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

9	<b>Assessment of relevance</b>	<p><i>The topicality of the topic is determined by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Danube region as the largest macroregion in Europe;</li> <li>- Second macro-regional concept of the European Commission, which covers the second longest river in Europe;</li> <li>- Transnational Cooperation Program "Danube" 2014-2020;</li> <li>- Cohesion policy of the European Union 2020-2027;</li> <li>- Strategy "Europe" 2020;</li> <li>- National Development Program: Bulgaria 2020 and National Strategy for Regional Development 2012-2022.</li> </ul>		Very high
10				Very high



	<b><i>Opinion on the literary language used</i></b>	Stylistically correct and smooth.	The materials provided to me for scientific review are syntactically comprehensible.	
11	<b><i>Opinion about the abstract</i></b>	Following the main content of the dissertation.	Reflects in abbreviated form the researched problems, results and evidence from the research.	Very high
12	<b><i>Other scientific production</i></b>	REFERENCE for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION, (NACID)	<p><i>One article:</i>  “Problems of employment and unemployment in the Bulgarian districts along the Lower Danube” pp. 298-312 (14);</p> <p><i>Three reports:</i>  - “Foreign investments in the Bulgarian regions of the Lower Danube and opportunities for their attraction” pp. 488-500 (12);  - “Opportunities of wine tourism prerequisite for the development of the Bulgarian regions along the Lower Danube” pp. 368-378 (10);  - “Opportunities for improving the economic development of the Bulgarian municipalities along the Lower Danube” pp. 256-263 (7).  <b>Total:</b> 43 pages</p>	Completed, 40 points (with a minimum of 30 points)

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

13		<p>In my opinion, including the following parts:</p> <p><i>Part A. Priority areas and national targets Europe 2020 Strategy. Table 3.11 (page 125)</i></p>	Achieved
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	<i>New scientific ideas and results</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment;</li> <li>- Research and development activities;</li> <li>- Climate and energy sustainability;</li> <li>- Education;</li> <li>- Fight against poverty and social inclusion.</li> </ul>		
		<i>Part B. National Development Program: Bulgaria 2020. Table 3.12 (page 126)</i>		Achieved
		Evaluation, pages 96-105	- State of the districts on the Bulgarian Danube coast and their socio-economic development.	Very high
		Cluster analysis, pages 105-113	- Grouping of the districts along the Bulgarian Danube coast and the municipalities.	Very high
		SWOT analysis, pages 114-124	- The areas along the Bulgarian Danube coast are analyzed.	Very high
		Strategic goals in the field of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority №1: Education and healthcare;</li> <li>- Priority №8: Infrastructure;</li> <li>- Priority №4: Agricultural development;</li> <li>- Priority №3: Competitiveness of the regions.</li> </ul>	Very high
		<i>Part C. Prospects for the development of the districts, pages 141-147, including:</i>		Achieved
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improvement of the infrastructure;</li> <li>- renewal and development of the educational, health and cultural infrastructure;</li> <li>- increasing employment, creating a sustainable business climate and reducing the problems of small and medium enterprises;</li> </ul>		

		- investments in tourism, increasing the added value through tourism and regional cohesion.	
14	<i>Echo and vocation in the specialized scientific literature</i>	<b>Recommendation:</b> The dissertation should be published as a separate monograph. <i>Even publishing with an ISBN (e-book) online is a solution to the problem.</i>	Not enough

#### IV. Critical notes, questions and recommendations on the dissertation

15	<i>Critical notes</i>	In my opinion, Risemova's dissertation could have published a scientific study, for example in the Annual Almanac "Research of Doctoral Students".
16	<i>Questions</i>	<p><b>Question 1:</b> Could you identify the difficulties encountered in your study?</p> <p><b>Question 2:</b> Do you share the thesis that the construction of a third bridge across the Danube near Svishtov will solve some of the problems of the Danube region?</p>
17	<i>Recommendations</i>	The dissertation should be published as an independent monograph.

#### V. Summary assessment of the dissertation and conclusion

**Summary assessment (Conclusion):** *entirely positive, including - I, as a member of the scientific jury, will definitely vote "YES" for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the doctoral program "Political Economy" of the dissertation Ph.D. student TANYA IVANOVA RISEMOVA. After the general vote, I would like to congratulate its research supervisor, Associate Professor Lyudmil Nestorov, Ph.D.*

June 7, 2021  
Burgas Free University

Prepared a scientific review:  
Professor Sava Dimov, PhD