

STATEMENT

From: Assoc. Prof. Gena Tsvetkova Velkovska, Ph.D., scientific specialty National Economy (including, regional economy and demographic potential of the territory), professional field 3.8. Economics, field of higher education 3. Social, economic and law sciences, Thracian University of Stara Zagora, Economic Faculty, Department of Regional Development.

Subject: Dissertation thesis developed by Ph.D. student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev, D020417151, for acquiring Doctor's academic and scientific degree under doctoral programme "Economics and Management (Agrarian Economics)" with a topic: "Fluctuations of the development of rural areas in Bulgaria".

I. General Presentation of Dissertation.

The presented dissertation addresses a very topical issue of the current moment - the question of the existence and overcoming of the manifested fluctuations in the development of rural areas in Bulgaria and the creation of conditions for their sustainable development.

In this regard, the doctoral student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev has logically and purposefully specified the **subject** of research, and namely:

Examination and analysis of the manifested and emerging fluctuations in the rural areas of the Republic of Bulgaria under the influence of various factors, including in the context of the implementation and impact of the Rural Development Programme with the relevant measures and axes, on the development of rural areas, stimulation of the same, expansion of the scope of the beneficiary entities and rational use of funding means in order to achieve optimal results, both in the development of rural areas and in the development of

the agrarian sector and the planning regions, reducing the **object** of study to the rural areas themselves with their specificities, differences, fluctuations and concrete results, reflecting the implementation of the different measures of the Rural Development Programme.

Within the scope of the dissertation volume used by the PhD student - 153 pages (excluding sources used and appendices), Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev manages to accomplish the aims and objectives of the dissertation and to develop at a good level the research thesis.

Structurally, the dissertation fully meets the established standards and demonstrates the doctoral student's ability to successfully pass from the theoretical onto the analytical part and on this basis to present his objective vision with the relevant argumentation on the fluctuations in rural areas in our country.

The **sources** used and referred to by the doctoral student (pp. 154-166) are relevant, thematically appropriate to the subject of the study and the objectives of the research and are cited and referred to in good faith in the exposition.

The four appendices enclosed to the dissertation from page 167 to 176 also support the research thesis.

II. Assessment of the dissertation format and content.

In the introduction on page 6 of the dissertation, PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev correctly qualifies the relevance of the problem - the existence of inequalities within and between rural areas, as a signal to place emphasis on both state regional policy and rural development programmes, on overcoming fluctuations as a significant factor negatively affecting regional development.

In this regard, PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev, both in the theoretical and analytical part of the dissertation and in his author's vision, convincingly supports the relevance of the topic by substantiating it with the relevant analytical package.

PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev's **linguistic style** is clear, with logical transitions and a good handling of the conceptual apparatus of the field under study.

The lexical structures used are well refined and well connected to each other, and the **length** of the dissertation is sufficient to develop a qualitative and complete exposition.

The **set of instruments** used for the purpose of the research by PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev is in line with the subject, object, objectives and tasks of the thesis.

PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev's **abstract** conforms in content and structure to established standards and presents the dissertation in a synthesised form in full and without omissions.

III. Scientific and Scientific-Applied Contributions of the Dissertation Thesis.

In-depth research work on doctoral candidate Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev's dissertation has yielded relevant scholarly accumulations for the doctoral candidate's contribution to the chosen scholarly field.

The main **contributions** listed on page 35 of the abstract are authentic, original and can be qualified as a serious scientific contribution and at the same time a scientific basis for the development of other research by the PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev in the field he has studied in his dissertation.

IV. Questions on the dissertation:

1. Can it be assumed that overcoming fluctuations is directly dependent on the management approaches applied in the management of the Rural Development Programme?
2. Is the control exercised over the implementation and results of the measures sufficiently flexible and effective?

V. Summarised evaluation of the dissertation

In general, the dissertation proposed for defence by PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev on the topic "Fluctuations of the development of rural areas in Bulgaria" meets the established criteria and standards in the Republic of Bulgaria for a dissertation work.

There is a good knowledge of the subject matter, a thorough scientific analysis, a clear style of presentation of the theoretical propositions, problems and concepts and an ability to draw logical scientific conclusions, on which the author's hypotheses and theses can be derived accordingly.

The proposed dissertation with its aforementioned characteristics and scientific merits, together with the scientific active work of PhD student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev (publications and participation in scientific events), warrant a positive evaluation.

VI. Conclusion

In my capacity of the member of a scientific jury (Order No. 1043, Svishtov, 02 December 2021 of the Rector of "D. A. Tsenov" Academy of Economics – Svishtov, Prof. Mariyana Bozhinova, Ph.D.) under an opened procedure for a public defence of the dissertation thesis developed by the Ph.D. student Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev, D020417151, for acquiring Doctor's academic and scientific degree, under a doctoral programme "Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)" with a topic „Fluctuations of the Development of Rural Areas in Bulgaria“, **I hereby give my positive opinion for the award of the Doctor's academic degree to Rosen Kostadinov Kotsev.**

26.12.2021

Statement prepared by:
(Assoc. Prof. Gena Tsvetkova Velkovska, Ph.D.)