

Opinion

for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" according to an open procedure for the defense of a dissertation in the PhD program "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance" (Finance)

Prepared the opinion: Assoc. Professor A. Radulova PhD, scientific specialty "Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance (finance)", member of the Scientific Jury for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Author of the dissertation: Martin Nikolaev Harizanov, PhD student, No. d020219181

Dissertation topic: "Financial Provision of the Development of the North West Planning Region

Grounds for presenting the opinion: participation in the scientific jury, approved by Order of the Rector of the SA "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov No. 489, dated June 27, 2022.

I. General presentation of the dissertation

The subject of this dissertation is the financial provision of the development of the North-West Planning Region, and its **object** – the North-West Planning Region.

The dissertation has a volume of 187 standard pages. Structurally, it consists of an introduction, an exposition in 3 chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. The literary sources, a total of 134 in number, are correctly cited in the main text of the development. The presentation is enriched with an optimal number of figures (42 figures) and tables (24 figures), which correspond to the text and serve as

evidence for the conclusions and generalizations based on them. The dissertation is for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (Economics) in the doctoral program "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance" (Finance) and is on the topic: "Financial provision of the development of the North-West Planning Region".

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

The dissertation has a classic structure of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. The relevance of the topic is unequivocally and categorically justified in the introduction. The scope of the research and the limitations in the implementation of the present scientific research are accurately indicated and the main attributes - thesis, subject, object and goals – are formulated.

The theoretical statements in chapter one are scientifically based and logical and are undoubtedly a good prerequisite for researching the reasons for the existing disproportions in the socio-economic development of the North-West Planning Region of the Republic of Bulgaria. The exhibition emphasizes the essence, significance and economic dimensions of the "backwardness" in the development of the region. On the basis of an in-depth review of the normative and methodological framework of regional and local development, the author's view of the essence of the concept of "regional development. A thorough critical analysis of the existing European and national documents, regulating the organization of the development processes, socio-economic development of the planning areas designated in the country, has been made.

The emphasis in the second chapter is on the main theoretical aspects and instruments for financial provision of the socio-economic development of the planning areas. A comparative analysis of the main economic indicators of the NUTS 2 regions of Bulgaria and Romania was carried out. The assessment of the condition of the North-West Planning Region covers the main socio-economic indicators: income and living conditions, labour market, investment, infrastructure, taxes and fees, administration, demography, education, health, security and justice, environment and culture.

The third chapter analyses the financial contribution of European and national project funds aimed at improving the socio-economic development in the country for the last two program periods. The main financial benefits of the implemented projects in the country and, in particular, in the North-West Planning Region are presented.

In the conclusion, the main results, the conclusions and the author's view on the issues related to the need for targeted financing of activities leading to an increase in the socio-economic development of the North-West Planning Region are presented.

The scientific research impresses with a good presentation style and a thorough study of the literary sources. The theoretical concepts are well described and interpreted for the purposes of the study. Empirical data are analysed. The author's opinion on the issues discussed in the dissertation is well expressed.

The abstract correctly reflects the main structural elements of the dissertation work, gives an idea of the objectives of the scientific research, the methods and approaches to analysis, the main results of the scientific research and precisely brings out the contributing points.

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

As a result of the conducted scientific research, the following scientific and scientific-applied contributions were established:

First, the author's view of the essence of the concept of "regional development" is derived, defined as: "a set of sustainable, coordinated actions taken by political persons and a process of regular and purposeful implementation of strategic decisions, expanding and stimulating the social, economic and environmental situation of the region, through which the aim is to promote regional competitiveness, improve the socio-economic and political situation and accelerate regional growth".

Secondly, on the basis of empirical statistical information, an analysis of the reasons for the deviations from the average indicators for the country and compared

to the planning regions in terms of basic economic and socio-demographic indicators of the North-West Planning Region (BG31) was carried out.

Third, the effect on the process of overcoming the backwardness in the development of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven and Lovech regions, as a result of the successful implementation of programs with European funding during the first two program periods, was evaluated.

Fourthly, the needs of the priority national and European funding of the development plans at the level of districts and regions with a view to achieving accelerated convergence on the main indicators of economic and socio-demographic development are brought out.

Fifth, a prospective spatial model was developed for sustainable rezoning and ensuring the regional development of Bulgaria and, in particular, of the North-West planning region.

IV. Summary evaluation of the dissertation work and conclusion.

The dissertation work of doctoral student Martin Nikolaev Harizanov is a scientific study, which, as a topic, theoretical summaries, conclusions and recommendations, has its indisputable importance for the development of financial theory and practice.

Doctoral student Martin Nikolaev Harizanov has indisputable skills for carrying out scientific research work, the proof of which is the quality of the three independent scientific publications.

On the basis of the indisputable scientific qualities of the presented dissertation work, I propose to the respected members of the scientific jury *to award Martin Nikolaev Harizanov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"*.

Date: 24.07.2020

Prepared the opinion: .

(Assoc. Professor A. Radulova PhD)