

OPINION
on a dissertation
for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor"

The opinion was prepared by: Associate professor Nikolay Penev Ivanov, PhD
Thracian University - Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, Faculty of Economics, Department of Economics; Scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; in a professional direction: 3.8. Economics; scientific specialty: "Accounting, control and analysis of economic activity"; determined according to Order No. 489 of June 27, 2022 of the Rector of the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov as a member of the scientific jury.

Author of the dissertation: PhD student Martin Nikolaev Harizanov
Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov, Faculty of Finance, Department of Finance and Credit; Scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; in a professional direction: 3.8. Economics; scientific specialty: "Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance (finance)".

Dissertation topic: "Financial provision for the development of the North-West planning region"

I. General presentation of the dissertation

The doctoral student Martin Nikolaev Harizanov's dissertation submitted for assessment on the topic "Financial provision for the development of the North-West planning region" is a logically bound and in-depth study developed in a total volume of 187 standard typewritten pages.

The main text of the dissertation includes an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of used tables, figures and a list of used literary sources. The dissertation is illustrated and contains 24 tables and 41 figures.

The research is well balanced in terms of structure. The dissertation work is properly constructed, which allows to examine with the necessary logical sequence the possibilities for financial provision of the development of the North-West planning region.

The used literature, which was studied by the doctoral student in the research process, consists of 134 titles, in Cyrillic and Latin. A successful attempt has been made to demonstrate the author's awareness of the research on the subject, both by Bulgarian and foreign authors. The sources correspond to the thematic focus, and no fraudulent use of foreign texts has been found.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

The in-depth analysis of the dissertation allows us to conclude that research on a similar topic is relevant in time. The chosen topic is dissertable and allows to make reasoned conclusions, proposals and to formulate contributing aspects.

The site is focused on the North West Planning Region. The subject of the dissertation research is the financial provision of the development of the North-West Planning Region.

The research thesis is well formulated, based on the statement that overcoming the backwardness in the economic and socio-demographic indicators for the North-West planning region is possible by way of saturated and priority provision with national and European funding of the projects and plans for regional development of district level and overall planning area.

The main objective is adequate to the subject and object of research. On the basis of the object, subject and thesis thus defined, the dissertation aims to investigate the genesis of the development lag in the North-West planning region and justify the positive effect of achieving a catch-up and convergence effect through priority provision with national and European funding of the projects and regional development plans.

The purpose and tasks of the research are precisely formulated, which is a prerequisite for in-depth conclusions and recommendations regarding the financial provision of funds in the object under consideration.

The language and style of presentation in the dissertation work are at a good level. There are no repetitions or deviations in the presentation. The work is properly structured. There is a proportionality of its individual parts. The scientific toolkit is suitable for the specific problem and allows to draw reasoned conclusions.

The literary sources used are accurately cited in accordance with the requirements. No significant deviations from the norms of scientific and professional ethics were found.

The submitted abstract, in the amount of 28 pages, fully and accurately presents the content of the dissertation work. It is written in a clear, comprehensible and scientifically sound style, reflecting the main points of the dissertation and giving a clear idea of what the PhD student has achieved.

The publications related to the dissertation were developed independently, and their total number is three (one study and two articles).

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

The dissertation contains the author's positive aspects and achievements, which can be characterized as contributions to theory and practice. The author's scientific achievements

stand out for their originality and practical applicability. The most important of the scientific and applied contributions are well formulated:

- On the basis of available statistical information, the genesis of the backwardness in economic and socio-demographic indicators of the North-West planning region compared to other planning regions has been revealed. An author's definition of the term "regional development" has been derived.

- An intra-regional analysis of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven and Lovech regions was made through comparative analysis and comparison. The effect of funding under the operational programs during the first two program periods on the process of overcoming developmental delay was assessed.

- After applying basic analytical indicators for economic and socio-demographic development, priorities for national and European financing of development plans at the level of districts and regions were identified with a view to achieving accelerated convergence. A proposal was made for sustainable rezoning and ensuring the regional development of Bulgaria.

VI. Criticisms, opinions, questions and recommendations

A bolder, clear, strong and reasoned author's presence in subsequent developments would be a prerequisite for a higher quality research output.

In conclusion, it is not possible to miss the recommendation to researchers, which has become a standard in recent years, in their future scientific activity to publish their research in specialized, refereed and indexed scientific journals.

The mentioned remarks should be perceived as recommendations in the future development of the doctoral student.

V. Summary evaluation of the dissertation work and conclusion

Based on the in-depth analysis of the developed dissertation work, it can be confidently stated that it is a scientific development with significant achievements. The contributing moments, scientific merits and content of the dissertation present the author and his results in a positive light.

The research tasks have been successfully completed, and the set main goal has been achieved. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the dissertation enrich scientific knowledge and support practice.

The materials presented to me for the preparation of this opinion meet the regulatory requirements of the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov.

Therefore, I allow myself, fully convinced and objective, to give my positive assessment and propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Finance, monetary circulation, credit and insurance (finance)" to a doctoral student Martin Nikolaev Harizanov.

19.07.2022
Stara Zagora

Signature:.....
(Associate professor Nikolay Penev)