

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC
JOURI ON THE COMPETITION PROCEDURE
FOR ACQUISITION OF THE EDUCATIONAL
AND QUALIFICATION DEGREE OF
"DOCTOR" IN DOCTORAL PROGRAMME
"FINANCE. MONEY CIRCULATION, CREDIT
AND INSURANCE (FINANCE)"

OPINION

Submitted by: Assoc. Prof. Zhelyo Vatev Vatev, PhD, Department of Finance and Credit, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, Scientific Speciality: Finance, Money Circulation, Credit, and Insurance

Grounds for submission of the opinion: appointment for a member of a scientific panel acc. to Order No. 1035 of 02 Dec. 2021 of the Rector of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov and the decision of the scientific taken on its first meeting held on 03 Dec. 2021.

Author of the dissertation thesis: Vladimir Hristov Sirkarov, part-time doctoral student, state-subsidized form, Area of Higher Education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field: 3.8. Economics, Doctoral programme: Finance, Money Circulation, Credit, and Insurance (Finance)

Structural unit providing the educational service: Department of Finance and Credit, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov

Title of the dissertation thesis: Challenges to the Modern Monetary Policy and Optimization of Monetary Aggregates Management

Dissertation Advisor: Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Petrov Ganchev, PhD, Department of Finance and Credit, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov

This opinion complies with the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for Development of the Academic Staff in D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov.

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE DISSERTATION

Vladimir Sirkarov's dissertation is a sound theoretical and applied research with a total volume of 198 pages. The volume is considered sufficient to achieve the goals and objectives set by the author. The dissertation consists of introduction (7 pages), body (three chapters - 175 pages), conclusion (5 pages), list of references. The three chapters are well balanced and logically interconnected. The first chapter consists of 4 paragraphs, and the second and third chapters - of 3 paragraphs each. The introductory and concluding parts are presented in accordance with the generally accepted requirements. The main text includes 11 tables and 31 figures.

The dissertation has clearly defined object, subject, research goals and tasks, and a well-formulated dissertation thesis. The subject of the dissertation is money supply. Its object are the available tools for measuring money supply and defining its theoretical, monetary, and quantitative characteristics. The main goal of the dissertation is to present a comprehensive study of the possibilities for optimizing the measurement of money supply by constructing a monetary

aggregate that corresponds to the theoretical concept of money as a universal means of exchange. The thesis defended in the dissertation is that the traditional monetary aggregates do not represent correctly the money supply in fiat money systems and, therefore, there are possibilities for optimization of the accuracy of their measurement by means of a monetary aggregate that takes full account of the function of money as a universal means of exchange in all possible transactions. The research methodology corresponds to the set goals and objectives.

The doctoral student has a sound knowledge on the state and degree of development of the problem in the specialized economic literature, as well as the practical achievements in the field. His dissertation is based on a scientifically sound and varied set of literary sources. The list of references includes a total of 104 titles, of which 12 are written in Cyrillic and 92 in Latin alphabets. The literary sources have been used in good faith and have been cited correctly.

The author demonstrates the necessary skills to systematize and critically interpret existing scientific views or practical problems and to use them to defend his thesis. This gives me the grounds to believe that he can successfully conduct independent research.

2. EVALUATION OF THE FORMAT AND CONTENTS OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation addresses a real, significant and topical economic problem. This requires scientific research in both a theoretical and a practical aspect. The topic under consideration has many aspects. It poses a wide range of questions related to diverse aspects of modern monetary policy. In this regard, the relevance of the dissertation is determined by several points: 1) The importance of money and money supply for the dynamics of major macroeconomic variables in the conditions of monetary systems using fiat money; 2) The existence of methodological shortcomings in the currently existing ways of measuring money supply; 3) The importance of the accurate and reliable measurement and management of money supply and monetary aggregates in the conditions of very loose monetary policies by the leading central banks in recent decades.

The dissertation is structurally sound and has the necessary logical consistency in considering the relevant issues. It is well organized, and the discourse narrows the topic from general to specific cases. First, it presents money as an economic phenomenon in terms of its origin, evolution and role in the economic processes (Chapter One). Based on these general characteristics, further attention is paid to some key evolutionary and theoretical aspects of monetary systems (Chapter Two). The final part outlines various theoretical and practical problems related to optimizing the management of monetary aggregates (Chapter Three). Clearly, in structural terms it is a combination of theoretical, applied, methodological and empirical aspects of the issue. In addition, there is a full correspondence between the topic and the content of the dissertation.

The doctoral student's aspiration to discuss (where possible or necessary) some debatable aspects is commendable. The opinions and views on certain issues of individual authors from different schools are presented. At the same time, this is done systematically and purposefully and on many of these issues the author justifies his own position. Thus, the author conveys a more pronounced research character of his work.

The dissertation includes relevant figures, graphs and tables which provide efficient visual presentation of the analysed information and point to objective and reliable conclusions.

The author's summary consists of 47 pages. It reflects in a synthesized form the content, the main results, and the conclusions made within the research process. It contains all the necessary elements for compiling an abstract of the dissertation, including substantiation of its topicality,

definitions of the object, subject, purpose, tasks, research thesis and research methodology, presentation of the structure and content of the dissertation as well as guidelines for future research on the dissertation topic, list of references, a statement for compliance with the national requirements, list of the doctoral student's publications, and a statement of originality.

All publications of the author cited in the summary (4 in total) are on the topic of the dissertation. The doctoral student has published one study, two articles and one scientific report, which covers the national requirements for a minimum number of points according to the Regulations for the implementation of the law on the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. These publications are parts of the dissertation and reflect some of the positive aspects of its contributions. Thus, the author has become known to the specialists in the field of financial theory and practice who are interested in the relevant issues. The author's participation in two scientific forums on issues related to the topic of the dissertation also contributes to such popularization.

The scientific supervision of the Dissertation Advisor, Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Ganchev, PhD can be qualified as instrumental in turning the dissertation into a comprehensive scientific work.

3. POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation is a comprehensive study on a specific topic. The author demonstrates the ability to research, systematize, and identify problems and seek guidance for their solution.

The dissertation highlights a number of positive points that the doctoral student has successfully formulated in his list of scientific contributions. I believe that the most significant of them, presented in brief, are the following:

- A systematic analysis of money as a universal medium of exchange on which the author proposes a classification of three groups of money - commodity money, non-market money and fiat money.
- A detailed comparative analysis of the concepts and problems related to the management of money supply and the optimization of monetary policy during the various stages of development of the global monetary system.
- A critical analysis of the components of the monetary aggregates M1 and M2. The results of this analysis lead to the conclusion that the latter does not measure accurately the money supply because, on the one hand, it includes elements that do not take into account the actual money supply, and on the other - there are instruments that have the relevant monetary characteristics but are not included in the scope of the existing monetary aggregates.
- The dissertation presents a substantiated opinion about the components of standard money and cash substitutes that should be taken into account when measuring money supply. On this basis, the author justifies the need to use a new monetary aggregate designated as "Actual Money Supply" (AMS).
- The doctoral student's desire to construct his work on an analysis of a large database of actual empirical data is noteworthy. By processing large volumes of empirical information, he examines the quantitative characteristics of monetary aggregates and their impact on key macroeconomic variables such as gross domestic product, consumer price index, employment, real estate prices, stock market indices and current balance accounts.

4. CRITICAL NOTES AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DISSERTATION

I have no significant critical notes to the dissertation. Regarding the defence of the dissertation, I would like to ask the PhD student the following specific question: To what extent do the monetary aggregates used in Bulgaria's banking practice accurately measure the money supply and is there a need or possibility to use the new "Actual money supply" (AMS) aggregate?

5. CONCLUSION

The dissertation is a comprehensive scientific work and can be assessed as a success. It meets the requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff and the Regulations for its implementation. I believe that the doctoral student has the necessary qualities to obtain this educational and scientific degree.

This provides me with the grounds to give a **positive opinion** regarding the dissertation „Challenges to the Modern Monetary Policy and Optimization of Monetary Aggregate Management” and **propose to the Scientific Panel to confer to Vladimir Hristov Sirkarov the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in scientific speciality “Finance, Money Circulation, Credit, and Insurance (Finance)”**.

14 Dec. 2021

Reviewer:.._____
(Assoc. Prof. Zhelyo Vatev, PhD)