

TO:
 The chairman of the scientific jury
 for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (Ph.D.)
 under the doctoral program "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and
 Insurance (Finance)" at the Academy of Economics D. A. Tsenov"- Svishtov

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

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

Scientific opinion prepared by:

PROFESSOR SAVA HRISTOV DIMOV, Ph.D.
 Lecturer at Burgas Free University - Burgas
 Program Manager Department of Finance and Accounting

Author of the dissertation:

Ph.D. student YULIYAN SASHKOV BENOV, D020217141
 Part-time form of doctoral studies in a doctoral program
 "Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance (Finance)"

Topic of the dissertation:

CURRENT PROBLEMS OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE BANKING
 SECTOR - COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION
 AND BULGARIA

I. General presentation of the dissertation

1. subject

Contents	Assessment
The subject of the research is focused on the current problems and possible solutions related to the consolidation of the banking sector. A research thesis, three working hypotheses, a main goal and seven scientific tasks are correctly formulated. (Pages 10-11 of the dissertation)	Very high

2. volume

The dissertation has a volume of 257 standard pages, of which 215 pages are body text. The volume of the dissertation is sufficient to reveal the author's views and opinions.	Quite enough
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3. *structure*

<p><i>Logically arranged structure, which includes:</i></p> <p>Abbreviations and acronyms List of tables List of figures</p> <p>Introduction <i>Chapter one,</i> Theoretical and applied aspects of bank consolidation <i>Chapter two,</i> Study of the Practice and Problems of Bank Mergers and Acquisitions in the Countries of the European Union <i>Chapter three,</i> Problems of the consolidation of the banking sector in Bulgaria Conclusion Bibliography</p> <p>Declaration of originality and authenticity List of the author's publications Reference for compliance</p>	Very high
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4. *bibliography*

It makes an extremely good impression that the bibliography of the dissertation covers 436 sources (53 in Bulgarian, 12.16%), 237 in English, 54.36%), 146 in German, 33.48%).	Very extensive
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5. *applications*

There are 10 pages of applications - graphs, tables, results and diagrams (pages 216-226)	Very high
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Conclusion: *The above proves that Yuliyana Benov has solid knowledge, skills, broad outlook and experience for innovative awareness.*

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

1. *assessment of the relevance and development of research in the dissertation scientific problem*

As regards the state of the problem in our country and the European banking market, the considered problem is extremely topical. It is no coincidence that the author introduces us to this on page 4 of the Abstract.	Very high
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2. opinion about the language, volume and tools of the dissertation

The language used in the dissertation is stylistically correct and smooth. The materials provided to me to form an opinion are easily comprehensible.	Very high
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3. opinion on the extent to which the abstract accurately and fully reflects the work

In general, the abstract reflects in an abbreviated, concentrated version the studied problems, results and evidence from the dissertation. It is a sufficient volume of 50 pages. Accompanying documents are also attached. (Pages 46-50)	Very high
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Conclusion: *The presented assessments prove the perfect form and content of the dissertation.*

III. Scientific and scientifically applied contributions of the dissertation

1. whether the proposed text contains new scientific ideas and results with an opinion on their significance

It is doubtless that the dissertation contains new scientific ideas, hypotheses, comparisons, conclusions and results. Moreover, they are presented in an excellent manner.	Very high
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Conclusion: *The high knowledge of the dissertation in English and German, its analytical and thoroughness can claim a level of high professionalism.*

IV. Questions on the dissertation

<p>- I have no remarks or specific questions to Yuliyana Benov's dissertation;</p> <p>- I could only appeal to the author to publish his dissertation in the form of a separate monograph (printed book or e-book). As this has been successfully done in: Benov, Y. (2010). <i>Potentiale und Grenzen des Einsatzes elektronischer Verhandlungssysteme bei der Kreditvergabe an Geschäftskunden</i> (1 ed.). München: Grin Verlag;</p> <p>- In my view, this is utterly deserved owing to the quality of the dissertation. It is a pleasure to get acquainted with the development of Yuliyana Benov's dissertation, even more to try to prepare a scientific opinion on it.</p>	Recommendation
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V. Summary assessment of the dissertation and conclusion

My conclusion and summary assessment can be only one: *at the closing meeting on July 19, 2021, I will clearly and unequivocally vote “YES” for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (Ph.D.) in the doctoral program Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Finance)” by Ph.D. student **YULIYAN SASHKOV BENOVA**. After the general voting, I would like to congratulate his extremely conscientious supervisor - Associate Professor Zhelyo Vatev Vatev, Ph.D.*

June 07, 2021
Burgas Free University

Prepared the opinion:
Professor Sava Dimov, Ph.D.