

STATE

From: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamen Dimitrov Petrov** with a scientific specialty in National Economy (Goeconomics and Regional Development) in the professional field 3.7 Administration and management

Subject: Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Regional Development" in PN 3.7 "Administration and Management", at the Department of "Regional Development" at Sofia University "St. Cl. Ohridski "

Author of the dissertation: Elitsa Venelinova Gramadska

Dissertation topic: DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONALIZATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Grounds for presentation of the opinion: Participation in the composition of the scientific jury according to Order № RD 38-353 / 15.07.2021 of Sofia University "St. Cl. Ohridski "for opening a procedure for defense of a dissertation

1. Information about the dissertation

Dissertation Elitsa Gramadska studied a doctoral program at the Department of Regional Development at Sofia University "St. Cl. Ohridski "in the scientific specialty Regional Development in Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management. The training is carried out in free form. During her doctoral studies, Elitsa Gramadska fulfilled all her academic obligations by successfully passing the exams set in her individual work plan. From a professional point of view, the work of Ms. Gramadska in the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works can be highlighted, where she holds an expert position and is part of the team. In addition to her scientific career, the doctoral student supports the scientific activity of the Department of Regional Development, in which she demonstrates knowledge and skills..

2. General characteristics of the presented dissertation

The dissertation is 247 pages long. Structurally, the dissertation consists of an introduction, a three-chapter presentation, a conclusion, a bibliography and appendices. The introduction emphasizes the relevance of the topic, derived on the basis of many arguments and references to the achieved scientific knowledge on the studied issues. . The goal, the object, the subject, the tasks, the main thesis and the formulated limitations are briefly, precisely and clearly defined. The issue is widely discussed in the economic

and management literature. The dissertation has substantiated its indisputable relevance. The aim of the dissertation is to study the dynamics of the circumstances that led to the territorial and administrative state at the regional level (district and planning region) in the country. The goal is formulated, but it is good to correspond with the author's abstract. For its implementation 4 research tasks are formulated, the implementation of which follows the logical sequence of steps from research and synthesis of scientific knowledge to the construction of methodology and verification of the author's model in an empirical environment. The tasks allow the achievement of the main goal and the proof of the research thesis. The object of the study is the process of regionalization (decentralization at the regional level) in Bulgaria. The subject of the study is the development of the process of regionalization and its possibilities for optimizing the distribution of powers between the various levels of government in Bulgaria after 1989. The focus of the present study is the issue of regionalization in Bulgaria, which interacts with the processes of Europeanization, democratization, decentralization, which lead to institutional and territorial changes in the countries, as well as with the regional policy in the country. The analysis of the other countries of the European Union, as well as its regional policy, serve for comparison and analysis of the direction of possible influence in the formation of the state territorial policy. It is good for the dissertation student to frame the necessary restrictions for the time period of research. Considering that methodological and methodological tools with diverse character and wide scope have been used, adequately selected and aptly applied in the respective parts of the scientific development. Various methods have been used for obtaining and processing information and data, such as document research, systematization, comparison. Official statistical data from the NSI, Eurostat, official statistical sources of the surveyed countries, as well as data from strategic documents, analyzes and expert discussions are analyzed. The structure of the exhibition is logically sound, allowing consistent development of the research idea and its development in theoretical and empirical terms. The results are obtained through modern tools and are illustrated with appropriately selected figures and tables. The list of used literature sources includes 194 sources, of which: more than 120 in Bulgarian and 74 in English. The structure, the internal logic, the content, the methodological tools, the used information sources, as well as the appropriate visualization. Good visualization achieved. Good awareness on the specific topic has been demonstrated. A general to private approach is used: from the difference in implementation of reforms at European level between the Western and CEE countries in the first chapter, the focus shifts to the approach of the Hellenic Republics and the Czech Republic in the second chapter and ends with a presentation of the new EU regional approach. and the changes that have occurred in the implementation of regional policy in Bulgaria. The first chapter introduces the research topic, briefly describes the problem area, the framework of the present study and determines the main lines of analysis. The second chapter is focused on the problematic aspects of the development of the ideas for decentralization at the regional level in Bulgaria, traced against the background of the ongoing decentralization at the local level. The third chapter examines the new regional approach of the EU and the new philosophy set in the implementation of the programming period 2021-2027 in the country, through the implementation of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI). The conclusion summarizes

the conclusions of the analysis and indicates the identified main obstacles and the reasons for them before the implementation of regionalization in the country.

3. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results

The dissertation is an independent and original scientific research, with an interdisciplinary nature. The development contains sufficiently convincing evidence of the results achieved, which make the work highly complete. On the basis of a thorough literature review, the acquired knowledge in the field of regional development has been studied and systematized, although it could have been enriched with the views of M. Geneshki, L. Georgiev and other specialists in the field of regional economy. Empirical evidence has been obtained to confirm the research thesis. → Conclusions and recommendations are formulated, which are related to the general methodological and methodological frameworks of the dissertation, set in the introductory part of the study. The main challenges are also highlighted, which in many cases can be used both as opportunities and as threats for the implementation of the planned change. Focusing on the territorial capital of each territory leads to a rethinking of regional policy and the introduction of a new paradigm in it "place-based approach" for the implementation of which requires the involvement of stakeholders at all levels or multilevel governance. In this respect, the work can be defined as successful. We can conclude that by achieving the indicated scientific and scientific-applied results, dissertation student Elitsa Gramadska has managed to fulfill the set goals and objectives, to prove the thesis according to the formulated limitations, as well as to adequately present the relevant summaries and conclusions.

4. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

The scientific contributions can include enrichment of knowledge in the field of regional development and its application in the context of public administration, by proposing a methodological model for regional development, by reorganizing material, financial and information flows in the field of regional development.

5. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation

A total of 3 publications dedicated to the dissertation are presented. In terms of volume and quality, they meet the requirements for obtaining an ONS "Doctor". I accept all publications as directly related to the dissertation. They summarize and publish significant problems and research results in the dissertation

6. Evaluation of the abstract

The presented abstract of the dissertation is in the volume of 32 pages. It reflects the goals and objectives of the study, the highlights of the individual chapters of the dissertation, as well as the contributions of the author. The abstract is developed in accordance with the requirements for its preparation and reflects the main results and contributions of the dissertation.

7. Critical remarks, recommendations and questions

The presented dissertation is a comprehensive study, with indisputable contributions and qualities, but given the improvement of the quality of work I allow myself to give some recommendations. First of all, it is good to arrange the dissertation chronologically so that the feeling of chaos will be overcome. In addition, several other authors from the country and abroad who work on the researched issues should be noted. I also recommend to the doctoral student Public to further develop his research and in his future works to make a comparative analysis with the innovative forms of regional development. I recommend the doctoral student in his future studies to include in the regional models and business analyzes, because in the regional development there is the relation business-public sector-population in territorial aspect. The remarks made do not in any way detract from the results of the research and the scientific contributions. The presented dissertation is a topical and in-depth scientific study of a significant problem.

8. Conclusion

Given the merits of the dissertation, the relevance and complexity of the researched problems, the need to find effective solutions for them in practice, the good theoretical level of the researched and analyzed problems, it can be summarized that the presented dissertation meets the criteria for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" / ZRAS, art. 6, para 2 and para 3 /. The indicated results of the research, dedicated to the regional development, which give me a sufficient basis for a POSITIVE EVALUATION of the scientific potential and opportunities for research activity of the doctoral student. All this allows me to confidently vote in favor of awarding Elitsa Venelinova Public to the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in the professional field 3.7 — "Administration and Management", scientific specialty "Regional Development".

17.08.2021

City of Sofia

Prepared the opinion:



(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamen Petrov)