

OPINION



on the dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Philosophy" in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture)

Author of the dissertation:

Georgi Borisov Gerov,

part-time doctoral student at the Department of Economics at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

Topic of the dissertation:

Adaptation of Bulgarian Agriculture: Balance between National Interests and the Green Policies of the EU

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boryana Lyubcheva Ivanova,
Agricultural University – Plovdiv,

field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture)
appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. RD-16-969/03.10.2025 by the Rector of the Agricultural University.

1. Relevance of the problem.

The dissertation presented for consideration is focused on key issues for modern society. The issues of food security and sovereignty, environmental expediency and social development and prosperity are of particular importance. At the same time, these issues are in some contradiction with each other to the extent that their joint pursuit requires compromises with the standard economic goal - profit maximization. As a result, national and international institutions adopt a set of policies and measures to stimulate economic solutions that maintain a balance between the three issues, and business entities are expected to adapt successfully, maintaining a sustainable existence for their business and society.

The dissertation research is based on this context, and in addition offers an analytical framework through which local specificities are compared with global challenges.

2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

In the presented study, the PhD student has formulated an ambitious goal, which corresponds to the proposed title and predetermines the direction of the scientific work. The object of the study is correctly defined, and the research thesis is a natural continuation of the set goal and is specified in the formulated research question. The author derives nine research tasks and defines appropriate analytical approaches for their implementation.

3. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results.

The dissertation is presented in 245 pages, which include an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion. The individual chapters are relatively balanced, especially in view of their different character and the nature of the material covered. The material is well illustrated through 23 figures and 28 tables, which facilitates reading and contributes to a better understanding of the work.

4. Discussion of the results and literature used.

The presentation in the presented dissertation is consistent, logically connected and justified from a theoretical and methodological point of view. A large volume of data has been used, which has been analyzed in detail, and the results of the analysis have been used to formulate implications, conclusions, guidelines, recommendations and strategic scenarios. The author's position is stated with clearly expressed ambition and self-confidence.

5 publications have been made, through which the material is given publicity.

In the process of developing the dissertation, 236 literary sources were used, which are distinguished by a high degree of relevance.

5. Contributions of the dissertation work.

Based on the presented work, the author substantiates a set of scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

Scientific contributions

6 (six) scientific contributions have been formulated, which primarily concern the assembly of methodological and methodological approaches that find a place in the presented study, but can also be applied to the analysis of analogous problems or conditions, after the appropriate adaptation.

The introduction and justification of the concept of "resistance to coercion" makes a positive impression.

Scientific and applied contributions

4 (four) contributions of a scientific and applied nature are presented, which mainly concern conceptual approaches in the practical implementation of certain policies in order to increase their positive effects. Three indicators constructed by the author are also proposed, which can be used in assessing the degree of greening.

6. Critical notes and questions.

I would like to emphasize the following points:

1. I believe that some hypotheses and the resulting statistical analyses can be removed. In their current form, they are not wrong, but concern logical connections and dependencies that do not need to be proven and empirically tested;

2. Although the presentation meets the requirements for scientific research, I believe that the dissertation, as well as future scientific works for the author, would benefit if the language and style limited to some extent the suggestion of imperativeness and uncompromisingness of the author's position.

The notes made do not in any way diminish the value and adequacy of the scientific research presented, which in its current form meets all the requirements for acquiring the PhD degree, but rather represent the sharing of a personal opinion with the aim of improving the quality of future works by the author.

7. Published articles and citations.

5 (five) publications thematically related to the dissertation are presented, of which two are independent. The correctly prepared and presented by the PhD student reference clearly shows the fulfillment and exceeding of the required scientometric parameters - publications generating 76.66 points are presented with a required minimum of 30 points.

The presented abstract reflects the structure and content of the dissertation work truthfully and objectively.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the various research methods learned and applied by the PhD student, the correctly conducted experiments, the generalizations and conclusions made, I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of the Law on the State of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it **POSITIVELY**.

I would like to propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively and award **Georgi Borisov Gerov** the educational and scientific degree of **"Doctor of Philosophy"** in the scientific specialty of **Economics and Management (agriculture)**.

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във връзка с чл.4, т.1 от Регламент (ЕС) 2016/679

04.11.2025
Plovdiv

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