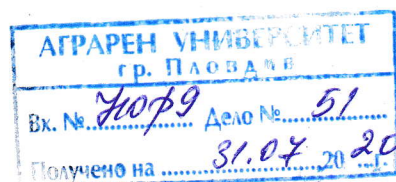


## SCIENTIFIC OPINION



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

**Author of the dissertation:** Erblina Pira, doctoral student at the Department of ECONOMICS, at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

**Dissertation topic:** ECONOMIC GROWTH AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CASE OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

**Reviewer:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristina Stefanova Harizanova-Bartos, UNWE, Department of Economics of Natural Resources, professional field: 3.8 Economics, Economics and Management

Appointed a member of the scientific jury by order № RD- 15 648 / 25.06. 2020 by the Rector of AI.

### 1. Relevance of the problem.

The economy of each country strives for economic growth, and the dissertation is dedicated to a current problem related to the lack of adequate educational environment to start the process of understanding the need for economic adequacy and financial literacy of the population in Kosovo. In addition, a number of factors are being considered to reveal the state of Kosovo in terms of FDI and its effect on economic growth. It is important to study the factors and then to clearly identify their impact on the economy, with a view to intervening through appropriate policies to improve the situation in the country under study.

### 2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

The set tasks are three and are directly related to the dissertation:

1. To study the connection between growth and economic development;
2. To study the relationship between the studied variables and economic growth;
3. To study the influence of economic factors (FDI, unemployment, trade balance, agriculture) on economic growth.

The main objective of the study is to demonstrate that the variables taken into account: (i) investment, employment, trade balance and agriculture (economic factors); (ii) level

of education and poverty (social factors); (iii) CO<sub>2</sub> and the business environment (environmental factors); have an impact on the dynamic and constant economic growth, which creates conditions for sustainable economic development.

Based on the literature review and the review of other authors' studies concerning the same field some generalizations are made. As well are chosen variables taken under study which have an impact on dynamic and constant economic growth that creates conditions for a sustainable economic development. The research methods are connected with economic tools suitable for the setup tasks. In addition, PEST and SWOT analyzes have been developed, which summarize the results at the macro level and make future recommendations for development.

### **3. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results.**

The dissertation has a volume of 148 pages, divided into 4 chapters, which are balanced and consistently expand the objectives of the dissertation. The literary sources are completely sufficient and focused on the topic. Their number is over 200.

### **4. Discussion of results and response to the literature.**

The first chapter is devoted to the literature in the field of the dissertation, such as economic growth, sustainable development at the macro level, and mainly at the economic level development. A special place is given to the knowledge of the economic sustainability and the history of the economic development of Kosovo, as well as to the characteristics of the macroeconomic parameters of the country.

The second chapter describes the sequence of the research framework methodology, which describes each step required to obtain the proposed tasks.

The third chapter offers results of the applied methods. Used methodology helps to determine the impact of certain factors such as FDI, unemployment, poverty, education, business factors, carbon dioxide, trade balance and agriculture on the Kosovo economic growth. Presented is a correlative analysis of some of the variables and the impact on the economy growth. Based on the data on the results, two qualitative models are presented, which are summarized by other economic analyzes. Chapter four includes conclusions and summarization from the achievements of the previous three chapters.

### **5. Contributions to the dissertation.**

The abstract does not include written contributions of doctoral student Pira, but such can be formulated as follows:

#### **Scientific contributions**



1. Targeted and generalized scientific literature in the field of sustainable development;
2. Synthesis and generalization of scientific literature

### **Scientific and applied contributions**

1. Adapted and applied methodology for calculating economic growth in Kosovo. Results are presented on the main studied factors and a similar study and calculation can be done for other countries in the presence of data.
2. The current state of Kosovo is presented and practical solutions for improving the processes of economic development in the country are proposed.
3. Guidelines for improving the situation in the country have been formulated, and the results are aimed at stakeholders and institutions.

### **6. Critical remarks and questions.**

1. The dissertation would benefit if the first part (introductory part) explains more accurate the main story line of the dissertation. At this stage the reader can be easily confused what is the main idea of the study, the goals and objectives of the dissertation.
2. There is a lack of list of figures and tables.

### **Published articles and citations.**

The presented publications are three and are independent, presented in prestigious journals abroad.

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

### **CONCLUSION:**

Based on the learned and applied by Ms. Pira different research methods, correctly performed experiments, summaries and conclusions, I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of the Law and the Rules of the Agricultural University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it POSITIVE.

I dare to propose to the respected scientific jury also to vote positively and to award Ms. Pira the educational and scientific degree "doctor" on scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture).

Date: 29.07.2020, Sofia

Prepared by:



assoc. prof. dr. Hristina Harizanova-Bartos