



STATEMENT OF OPINION

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

Author of the dissertation: Erblina Rahim Pira

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

Opinion by: Prof. Dr. Roumen Ivanov Otouzburov, Department of Management, Faculty of Economics, Thrakia University, Stara Zagora, area of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field: 3.7. Administration and management, scientific specialty: "Production organization and management (quality management), appointed a member of the Scientific Committee by order № RD 16-548 of 25.06.2020 by the Rector of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv.

1. Relevance of the problem.

The PhD dissertation examines a relevant and important issue for the Republic of Kosovo, related to the impact of economic growth on the sustainable economic development of the country. The importance of this problem is justified by the author, both in the introduction and in the overall text of the dissertation.

2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

The objectives and relevant tasks are precisely, clearly and logically set. The objects of research are correctly indicated - economic, social and environmental factors, which are differentiated with the respective variables. The research problem and the presented hypotheses are precisely and critically related to the objectives of the study, which is a prerequisite for finding the right answers regarding the current and future economic development of the Republic of Kosovo.

The methodology applied is chosen in accordance with the goals and objects of the research and incorporates a systematic approach with historical, inductive and deductive methods and an emphasis on correlation analysis, PEST and SWOT analyses. Despite some limitations, there is evidence for a rich information base along with some personal research conducted by the doctoral student.

3. Visualization and presentation of the results.

The content of the dissertation is balanced and well structured. The different parts of the study are consistent with an underlying focus on the state and potential of the factors contributing to Kosovo's economic growth.

The dissertation consists of 165 pages. The results are presented in 40 tables, 22 figures, as well as a lot of detailed information in the text itself. A significant number of literature sources have been used - 259, of which 232 are separate monographs, articles, reviews and analyses, and 27 are sources of information from banking, state and public institutions.

4. Discussion of the results and cited literature.

The dissertation is logically divided into an introductory part and four chapters. The introduction briefly discusses the issues, goals, objectives, approaches and expected results. In the first chapter, the author presents in theoretical terms the concept of sustainable economic development, the factors and relevant variables of economic growth, the differences and links between growth and economic development and a brief description of the macroeconomic parameters of Kosovo.

The second chapter outlines the methodological tools. A valuable part of this chapter is the use of correlation analysis, which allows the exact establishment of relationships between the individual variables studied. PEST and SWOT analyses have been used in accordance with the topics studied and the specifics of the stage of development of Kosovo.

The results of the performed quantitative and qualitative analyses are presented and discussed in chapter three. An appropriate empirical model for defining quantitative variables has been developed. On this basis, the coefficients of interdependence (Pearson-correlation) have been expressed and their relevance to economic development has been reflected. A conclusion is reached that not all predicted dependencies have been confirmed.

A contribution to the quality of the dissertation is the study of four groups of factors of PEST analysis - political, economic, social and technological. They show the current situation and outline their impact on Kosovo's economic growth and subsequent development. A fair amount of space is given to political factors - a stable political system, legislation, protection of business and public interests. Economic and social factors of importance to the state are correctly presented and analyzed.

A good continuation of the qualitative assessment in the work are the discussed characteristics of the SWOT analysis. Weaknesses are presented in detail - unemployment, poverty, education, trade balance. Emphasis is placed on the opportunities offered by foreign direct investment, as well as the importance of agricultural development. The threat of emissions is very seriously and urgently emphasized as a factor influencing sustainable environmental and economic development.

A serious achievement of the doctoral student is the use of a large number of literary sources. This has allowed the study of the experience of many authors, the successful application of specific approaches of evaluation and analysis of the issues under discussion.

Based on the overall research, extensive and for the most part valuable recommendations have been made in the final part of the dissertation. They can find their proper place in the current and future work of the author and undoubtedly in the creation of a new strategy for sustainable economic development of the Republic of Kosovo.

5. Contributions of the dissertation.

No contributions are indicated in the dissertation and in the abstract.

6. Critical remarks and questions.

The dissertation allows the formulation of both scientifically theoretical and practical contributions. This would have emphasized the importance and merits of the dissertation.

7. Published articles and citations.

Three articles have been published on the topic of the dissertation, which confirm both the interests and the abilities of the author.

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

CONCLUSION:

Based on the different research methods learned and applied by the doctoral student, the correctly performed experiments, the summaries and conclusions made, I believe that the dissertation meets the requirements of the Act for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it POSITIVELY.

I will permit myself to propose to the esteemed Scientific Committee also to vote positively and to award Erblina Rahim Pira the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture).

Date: 30.07.2020
Stara Zagora

Reviewer:



(Prof. Dr. R. Otouzburov)