

## RECENZIA (REVIEW)

on a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in area of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management".

### Author of the dissertation work:

**Erblina Rahim Pira**, PhD student at the Department of economics, Agricultural university – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

### Topic of the dissertation work:

**„ECONOMIC GROWTH AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CASE OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO“**

### Reviewer:

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov Atanasov**, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, area of higher education 3.0 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 № RD-16-548/25.06.2020 of the Rector of Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Erblina Rahim Pira was born on November 3, 1993 in the Republic of Kosovo. Graduated with a Bachelor's degree from AAB College in Pristina, majoring in Banking, Finance and Accounting in 2015. She also graduated with a Master's degree from AAB College in Pristina, majoring in Banking and Finance in 2017. In addition to Albanian, she is fluent in English (level C1) and Spanish (level A2). She has a good level of computer literacy.

From January 2015 to June 2015 she worked as a Financial Manager at Kapmso LLC, Ferizaj (Kosovo). Went briefly through the position of accountant in Hydro Line LLC, Pristina (Kosovo) and Mala LLC, Pristina (Kosovo) during the period from August to September 2015.

From October 2015 until now she has been working as a lecturer (assistant) at AAB College, Elez Berisha, no. 56, Pristina, 10000 (Kosovo)

From August 2011 to February 2013 she was General Sales Manager at Viva Fresh Shpk. Pristina, Kosovo.

## **2. Relevance of the research problem**

Economic growth has been always in the focus of the business and political dialogue in any society. Many economists identify it as a major factor in maintaining and improving living standards and quality of life. Sustainable development, despite a newer concept, fits into the modern understanding of societies, especially the more developed ones in socio-economic terms, as a multifaceted theory and practice with polyvalent links between economics, ecology and society. In this regard, the topic of the dissertation is relevant and significant, because it cannot be assumed that sustainable development, especially at the micro level, is possible without simultaneously looking for economic benefits. The point where the short-term interests of individuals intersect with the long-term interests of society, the point where individual development contributes to the economic growth, and this in turn affects country's development, especially in social and environmental aspects, a research of this type could be beneficial for both science and business management on local, regional and national level.

## **3. Objectives, tasks, hypotheses and research methods**

The candidate, raises the question in the dissertation of how sustainable development can be affected by economic growth (GDP) and increased foreign direct investment (FDI), unemployment, education, poverty alleviation, climate change management (greenhouse gas emissions), improving the business climate, subsidies for agriculture, reducing the trade deficit, etc.

Main objective of the dissertation research is to prove that the variables: (i) investment, employment, trade balance and agriculture (economic factors); (ii) level of education and poverty (social factors); (iii) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the environment (ecological factors); have an impact on the dynamic and constant economic growth, which creates conditions for sustainable economic development.

In order to achieve the objectives set in the study, the candidate also predefined several tasks, which skillfully and purposefully pursues:

- To establish the connection between economic growth and socio-economic development;
- To analyze the links between basic economic indicators and sustainable development;
- To measure the impacts of economic factors such as foreign direct investment, unemployment, trade balance and agricultural development on economic growth and subsequently on the sustainability of the whole economy;
- To study the impact of social factors such as the level of poverty and education on the growth and sustainable development of the economy;
- To define and quantify the impact of environmental factors on economic growth;



- To summarize the results of the research and to offer a creative opinion (strategy or tools) for the establishment of a favorable microclimate, suggesting faster and more sustainable economic growth.

#### **4. Research hypothesis**

The research hypotheses of are well formulated and subsequently their confirmation or rejection contributes to the presentation of the dissertation:

- H1a - Foreign direct investments are positively linked to economic growth.
- H1b - Unemployment has a negative impact on economic growth.
- H1c - Poverty has a negative impact on economic growth.
- H1d - The level of education is positively related to economic growth.
- H1e - The business environment is positively related to economic growth.
- H1f - There is a negative correlation between CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and economic growth.
- H1g - The trade balance is positively related to economic growth.
- H1h - Agriculture is positively linked to economic growth.

#### **5. Sources of information**

For the purposes of the study, in order to gather reliable and complete information, the candidate uses a wide range of centralized and decentralized data sources: World Bank; International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Statistical Agency of the Republic of Kosovo, Central Bank of Kosovo, Ministry of Finance and Environment, etc.

For processing the information and for the analyses of results, the statistical software SPSS was used.

#### **6. Research methods**

In addition to the statistical methods, correlation analyses and regression analysis, the doctoral candidate also relied on PEST and SWOT analyses. These two methods in combination give an idea of the external factors that affect the economic condition of the country. Comparative analysis and descriptive analysis were also used.

#### **7. Visualization and presentation of the results**

The dissertation consists of 165 pages, of which 148 are exposition. 255 literature sources were used. The analysis is illustrated with 41 tables and 22 figures. The style of the overall presentation corresponds to the level of the doctoral thesis. The descriptive analysis used successfully represents all aspects of the research, and the tables and graphs complement its perception.

## 8. Discussions on results, analyses and used literature

In the first chapter of the dissertation, the candidate demonstrates serious knowledge in the theoretical and methodological bases of economic growth, sustainable development and the main macroeconomic instruments and measures. She successfully synthesizes previous experience and the opinions of dozens of scientists and researchers on the subject. The literature review is comprehensive and in-depth. The good orientation in the matter has allowed to derive specific theoretical and methodological generalizations. This part of the study focuses on several parameters of the macroeconomic environment in the Republic of Kosovo - Gross Domestic Product, Public Debt, Trade, Money transfers, Foreign Direct Investment etc.

In the second chapter, the candidate has concentrated on the methodology of the dissertation. It must be noted that the methodological approach and instruments are appropriate for the case and allow achievement of research objectives and tasks.

Chapter three of the dissertation is classically constructed with presentation of the results and their analysis. The hypotheses are investigated and the influence of the individual variables on economic growth and sustainable development is traced. The candidate has chosen to analyze the impact of: Gross Domestic Product; Foreign direct investment; Unemployment; Poverty; Education; Business environment; Carbon dioxide emissions; Trade balance and Agriculture's state and development on the economic growth of the country and its sustainable development. At the end of the 3-th chapter, in-depth PEST and SWAT analyses have been done, which wrapped the whole investigation and allowed some generalizations and conclusions.

After the analytical part of the dissertation, the candidate has included her conclusions and recommendations. These are separated in the fourth chapter. These conclusions and recommendations could be outlined as the main contributions of the dissertation research. The following recommendations addressed at production and institutional level deserve attention:

- To open the market and allow FDI inflows;
- Creating an Investment Promotion Agency (IPA);
- Encourage foreign investors;
- Ensure better access to credit;
- To provide employment subsidies and / or reduction of employment taxes;
- Introduce tools to stimulate aggregate demand;
- To improve the management of natural resources;
- To create a new, modern and innovative educational model.



## 9. Contributions of the dissertation

### Scientific contributions:

1. The essence of the economic growth, its factor dependency and its impact on the sustainable development of the Republic of Kosovo is clarified;
2. A methodological framework has been adapted for the analysis and assessment of the impact of macroeconomic indicators on economic growth and sustainable development

### Scientific and applied contributions:

3. The correlations between important variables of the business environment on economic growth and sustainable development are analyzed and evaluated;
4. A comparative analysis of the indicators for sustainable economic development of the Republic of Kosovo and other countries in the region has been made, which could be further developed into analysis of policy instruments in use.
5. Recommendations have been formulated for improving the business environment and for creating preconditions for sustainable economic, social and environmental development of the Republic of Kosovo.

## 10. Critical remarks and questions

The dissertation has indisputable scientific qualities, but nevertheless some critical remarks can be made. As the text is presented in English, its style and grammar could be refined. In addition, in places there are repetitive or similar texts, which can be avoided with a more precise retelling. My own recommendation to Erblina Pira, as an young and promising researcher in her future work, especially in the theoretical investigations to be bolder in summarizing thesis of various authors, to refract them through the prism of her own vision and to express them confidently.

**Question:** How and in what direction this research has changed your professional vision and was it useful for you as a teacher (lecturer)?

## 11. Scientific papers of Erblina Pira

No	Year	Place	Author	Title	Journal	Volume	Issue	Pages	ISSN
1	2018	Graz, Austria	Erblina Pira	Identifying factors that affect productivity at work	Balkan Journal of Interdisciplinary Research	4	2	93-98	2411-9725

2	2019	Skopje, North Macedonia	Erblina Pira	Professional marketing services for businesses that offer the service	Knowledge International Journal	31	6	204 1- 204 5	2545- 4439
3	2019	Amman, Jordan	Erblina Pira	The role of banks in the Kosovo economy	International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research	48	6	200- 205	2307- 4531

The autoreferat, presented in Bulgarian and English language, objectively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation.

### CONCLUSION:

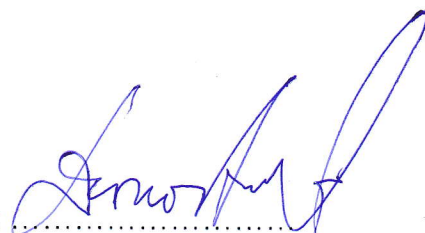
Based on the researched, presented and applied by the candidate, various methodological instruments, research methods and approaches, the correctly conducted scientific investigation, obtained results, analyzes, conclusions and recommendations, I believe that the dissertation meets the requirements of the Law for the development of academic staff in Bulgaria, as well as the Regulations of the Agricultural university – Plovdiv for its application, which gives the reason to evaluate it **POSITIVELY**.

I would like to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury, to also vote in favor of awarding Erblin Rahim Pira with the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agriculture)".

Date: 31.07.2020

Plovdiv

REVIEWER:



(доц. д-р Д. Атанасов)