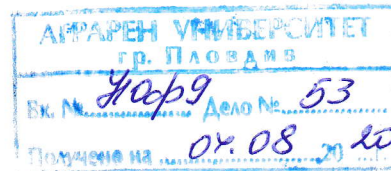


## RECENZIA (REVIEW )



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:

**Getoar Lubeniqi**, PhD student at the Department of economics, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

### Topic of the dissertation work:

**„THE ROLE OF SUBSIDIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOSOVO“**

### Reviewer:

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Minko Atanasov Georgiev**, 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-16-547/25.06.2020** of the Rector of Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

**Getoar Lubeniqi** lives and works in the Republic of Kosovo. In 2012, he graduated in Banking, Finance and Accounting from ILIRIA College, Kosovo, with a bachelor's degree. Again there, in 2015, he received a master's degree in Banking, Finance and Accounting. Since then he has been assistant professor (lecturer) at ILIRIA College. Since 2018 he has been enrolled as a doctoral student at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Economics, Department of Economics. On March 12, 2020, the candidate - Getoar Lubeniqi was approved by the Faculty council for starting the procedure for defense of his dissertation.

### 2. Relevance of the problem.

The title of dissertation is contemporary and extremely relevant. This is because of the dualistic nature of subsidies, both for agriculture and for economic systems in general. The candidate uses correctly the theoretical frameworks. On the one hand, subsidies are seen as a kind of incentive to create a model for "sustainable development of agriculture" in the case of Kosovo. On the other hand, the PhD student refers to the theory of "externalities". In this way, he expresses his concerns that subsidies could lead to: market distortions; dominant and monopolistic position of

some companies, and concentration in the allocation and use of resources. Fully in line with the need for integration of Kosovo's agriculture into the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, the results of the study are compared to those of the EU. Ultimately, the proposed solutions are institutional. Some of them also have a direct practical application.

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

The goal of this study is to evaluate the potential of agriculture in the Republic of Kosovo, through the prism of institutional support, which in turn should lead to a new and better framework for sustainable development. In this regard, there are proposals for the use of various instruments, respectively - looking for the right place for subsidies at macro and micro level.

The current research tasks are correctly defined:

Theoretically, the question of the meaning of state interventions in the agricultural sector has been clarified. Thus, not only is the focus on the nature of subsidies, their role on agriculture, but also, the latter are distinguished from state aid.

Sufficient theoretical knowledge is shown from the candidate, including the Theory of Sustainable Development, and its leading place in the research field of the dissertation. Both theories were correctly defined.

The adaptation of the methodology for research, analysis and estimation of the impact of subsidies on agricultural performance and their role for its sustainable development is based on a simplified approach, including cooperative analyses, benchmarking, policy evaluation methodology, statistical interpretation of results and others. The study was conducted systematically. The methods used are suitable for making a connection between the objectives and the results obtained. Analysis and assessment of the state of the potential of agriculture in the Republic of Kosovo is made on the one hand, in temporal form, on the other hand in comparison with the agriculture of other EU members.

The study of the distribution of financial support by regions and sectors. The regional analysis helps to clarify both the local and some specific advantages related to the environment in which business agents operate in Kosovo.

We can observe a connection between agricultural specialization and sustainability. In this case, regional specificities are taken into account, which means that there is in-depth knowledge of practical problems. As a natural consequence, options have been constructed to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the various agricultural sub-sectors, the latter most often on the basis of recommendations to both, farmers and the Kosovo administration.

In this situation, I believe that the goal and tasks are set correctly, and the use of the listed theories and methodology, imply the creation of a unified analytical relationship and determine the possibility to draw sound conclusions.



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

The dissertation has a content of 194 standard pages and includes an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, a list of references. The dissertation is also presented with the help of 47 tables and 28 figures. There are 172 citations of sources of various scientific and empirical natures. I believe that the format, the number of presented studies are fully in line with the need for a wide range and depth of analysis.

#### **5. Discussion of the results and used literature.**

The first chapter discusses theoretically the essence of sustainable development and models for applying subsidies. A connection has been made between the two doctrines. A distinction is made between subsidies and state aid. Literature from many sources has been used to build the theoretical framework. The authors are analyzed in accordance with the scientific style. There is a scientific discussion on relevant issues. The definitions of the concepts used in the dissertation are in sync with its subject. It can be concluded that the chosen methodology is a consequence of the theoretical analysis.

I believe that the first chapter shows sufficient knowledge in the scientific field chosen by the PhD student.

The second chapter of the dissertation is analytical. It is developed in two main directions - the policy of state structures for support in Kosovo's agriculture and the results of the use of subsidies of different types and nature. A study was conducted in different areas of Kosovo. The total number of farms is 30. The questionnaire can be used for extracting of empirical information. The used comparison of information about Kosovo and that from the EU shows the actual situation, presents the problems of agriculture in the Country.

I believe that the techniques for analysis and presentation of scientific information used by Getoar Lubeniqi are sufficient for the degree obtained.

The third chapter is constructive. Here are the institutional possibilities for implementing policies that should lead to the improvement of Kosovo's agricultural sector. The proposed measures are specific. They are logically presented. There is a clear trajectory between the problems, the results obtained and the necessary solutions. Based on them, changes in the legal framework can be defined. They have a practical focus.

The citations used are in accordance with the defended thesis.

The candidate showed knowledge in processing of volumes of data and it was presented in an appropriate form. The conclusions in the dissertation work follow from the obtained results. It can be argued that some of them have scientific value. They are presented in a form from which a generalized assessment of the dissertation can be made.

#### **6. Contributions of the dissertation.**

The contributions of the dissertation are formulated in accordance with the scientific ethics.

### Scientific contributions

First – Based on the analysis of various literature sources, a theoretical framework is proposed to clarify the nature, content and characteristics of institutional support in agriculture.

I agree that the literature reference and the theoretical construction is selected in accordance with the need for theoretical evidence - for the evaluated research.

Second – Based on an in-depth study, a theoretical model has been established and presented, clarifying the relationship between sustainable development and subsidies in the agricultural sector.

I agree that the link between the theory of sustainable development and the doctrine of subsidies is illustrated in the case of the Republic of Kosovo.

Third – Integrated methodology for research and assessment of the impact of public support on sustainable development has been selected.

I agree that there is a methodology for assessing the impact of public support. I express reservations regarding its universality, but at the same time I declare that it is completely sufficient to meet the needs of the defended doctoral thesis.

### Scientific and applied contributions

First – The methodology adapted for policy analysis allows the evaluation of the impact of institutional environment on sustainable development of agriculture in Kosovo.

I believe that the methodology is author's own achievement, and the candidate can pretend that, thanks to that methodology reasonable conclusions can be drawn for the entire agricultural sector of the Republic of Kosovo.

Second – Opportunities for improving the sustainable development of agribusiness through institutional adaptation are outlined.

I agree that there is a contribution in terms of institutional opportunities to improve the environment and, in this regard, the adaptability of business agents.



Third – The analysis done in this dissertation can be used for the improvement of Kosovo's agricultural policy. The PhD student presents options for increasing the sustainability of the agriculture based on the change of sectoral and structural characteristics.

I agree that, on the basis of this study, relevant, sound and efficient policies can be adapted and implemented in the practice.

## **7. Critical remarks and questions.**

The PhD student has made an analysis of the "externalities" in the dissertation. However, their "negative" side is not enough analyzed. A description of the subsidies as a type of "rent seeking" and specification of some effects related to the concentrations following from them would make the analysis more realistic and critical.

The tables and figures are well presented. However, there is not always a detailed or at least sufficient explanation by the author - what exactly is the thesis that the latter should prove. Some conclusions require effort to understand.

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

Getoar Lubeniqi has indicated 6 publications (2 independent and 4 co-authored). Each of them is in a scientific journal and meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria. The candidate has not indicated any of his citations.

The autoreferate reflects correctly the structure and content of the dissertation.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Based on the various research methods learned and applied by the PhD student, the correctly performed experiments, the summaries and conclusions made, I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of the Law for the development of academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it **POSITIVELY**.

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

Date: 30.07.2020

Plovdiv

REVIEWER: 

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Minko Georgiev)