

## REVIEW



on a dissertation for obtaining the "**DOCTORATE DEGREE**" in Higher Education 3.0. Social, business and legal sciences, Professional Field 3.8. Economics Scientific Specialty - "Organization and management (agriculture and sub-sectors)"

**Author of the dissertation:** AVNI ILMI GASHI

Part time PhD student at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

**Thesis topic:** Comparative analysis of agricultural politics in Bulgaria and Kosovo

**Reviewer:** Assoc.Prof. Dr Keranka Nedeva.

Agricultural University, Plovdiv, 3.0. Social, business and legal sciences, Professional Field 3.8. Economics Scientific Specialty - "Organization and management, appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order No RD 16-1077/25.11.2020 from Rector of the AU-Plovdiv

### **1. The relevance of the topic under the consideration**

The agricultural sector is a complex system of interaction between external and internal factors - change in land ownership, pricing based on market forces, changing consumer tastes, climate change, growing population, growing demand for food, limited natural resources, globalization, environmental protection, etc. The "Bulgarian" and "Kosovo" models of agricultural transformation have a number of specifics related to the scope of reforms, the way they are implemented, the socio-economic results of policy implementation, the problems and challenges facing both countries at the present stage.

The doctoral student analyzes the development of agricultural production in both countries. The policies of land reform, agricultural restructuring, state support, agricultural regulation, policies related to the trade regime and international trade in agricultural products are analyzed, as well as assessing the opportunities for improving the competitiveness of agriculture in both countries.

Avni Gashi successfully defends his positions regarding the topicality and significance of the topic in theoretical and applied aspects, emphasizing the similarities in the development of Bulgarian and Kosovo agriculture from the period of transition to a market economy.

The research is based on knowledge of the scientific achievements and problems of the sector and substantiates its own theses and solutions.

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

The aim of the study is to analyze in a comparative plan the agricultural policies of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Bulgaria and to propose approaches to improve the agricultural development policy of the Republic of Kosovo.

The working hypothesis, which the author puts forward, is that in the conditions of the realized transition in the agriculture of Bulgaria and the world economic crisis, the strength of action of the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the opportunities and threats are almost equal.

The goal, the working hypothesis and the tasks are correctly and scientifically substantiated.

The subject and the object of research are correctly defined and give an opportunity in the later stage of the dissertation research to perform an objective analysis of the problem and to formulate correct conclusions and recommendations.

The used methodological approaches and tools are consistent and correspond to the peculiarities of the agricultural sector, correspond to the research thesis and the formulated goals and objectives. The main scientific research methods are methods of economic analysis

(dynamics, financial ratios), graphical method, comparative method, descriptive method, scale, sociological method (survey, in-depth interviews). In the course of the development, statistical data have been systematized, individual indicators have been calculated and their dynamics have been monitored, all of which are graphically and tabularly presented and economically interpreted.

The author demonstrates skillful and correct use of methodological tools of economic analysis and on this basis formulates conclusions and summaries that have practical significance.

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

The dissertation is located on 123 pages with 29 figures.

It is structured in an introduction, a two chapter exposition, a conclusion, a bibliography and appendices.

The results show that the PhD student has in-depth theoretical background, knowledge and ability for independent scientific research.

### **4. Discussion of the results and the references.**

In the dissertation the in-depth comparative analysis of the agrarian policies of Bulgaria and Kosovo is performed.

In the introductory part, the doctoral student emphasizes the importance and relevance of the study, briefly presents the concept of research, purpose, object, subject, methodology, working hypothesis.

In the first part of the dissertation, the author, adhering to the opinions and opinions of key researchers of the nature, goals and instruments of agricultural policy, makes logical summaries and conclusions about the structure of agricultural holdings and their specifics, the hierarchy of agricultural systems in the context of sustainable development, sector. The approaches, policies, priorities and measures for promotion of the agricultural sector as an important sector for the national economy of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Bulgaria are thoroughly assessed and analyzed. The author has given basic guidelines in structural policy at the international and national level, so as to achieve balance and sustainability of systems. The methodology for research, analysis and evaluation of the agricultural policy of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Bulgaria has been adapted.

Based on data from Eurostat and agricultural statistical sources in Kosovo and Bulgaria and own surveys, the state and trends in the development of agriculture in both countries have been successfully assessed.

In the second part a comparative analysis of the agrarian reforms in the two countries is performed. The influence of the agrarian policy of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Bulgaria on the agrarian sector of both countries has been determined and the directions for adaptation of the agrarian policy of the Republic of Kosovo through transfer of good policies by the Republic of Bulgaria have been outlined.

To assess the competitiveness of Kosovo agriculture, a SWOT analysis was conducted based on interviews with members of the Department of Resource and Environmental Economics at the Agricultural University in Pristina. The conclusions made by the SWOT analysis in the practical part are formulated specific guidelines and solutions for the development of a competitive agricultural sector.

The literature review is sufficient in volume and scope and is in line with the topic of the dissertation.

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

The main merits of the dissertation can be pointed out: the great importance and relevance of the topic from the point of view of both science and practice, given the role of agriculture for

food security and nutrition of the population; the author's ability through the applied structure of the text and the used scientific methods and tools to prove the set thesis and to realize the research tasks; good knowledge of the basic literature and good practice in the field of agriculture, the ability to analyze, systematize and make sense of various scientific theories and ideas and to conduct scientific research;

Reading the text of the dissertation gives grounds to highlight the following contributions of the doctoral student:

- Based on the comparative method, a detailed analysis of the economic indicators of agriculture in Bulgaria and Kosovo, which have a similar geographical and climatic profile;
- The main trends in the development of the agricultural sector of Kosovo and Bulgaria as a result of industrialization and globalization and increasing their competitiveness are summarized.
- The peculiarities and main directions in the structural policies at macro, meso and micro level in Kosovo and Bulgaria are given.

#### 6. Critical remarks and questions.

Recommendation - the text should be more clearly organized in three main parts - theoretical, methodological and practical, and the conclusions should be made at the end of each of these parts.

#### 7. Published articles and citations.

Avni Ilmi Gashi has 3 independent publication, which covers the required minimum for publishing activities for ONS doctor.

The presented materials correspond to the topic of the dissertation research. The presented abstract objectively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation.

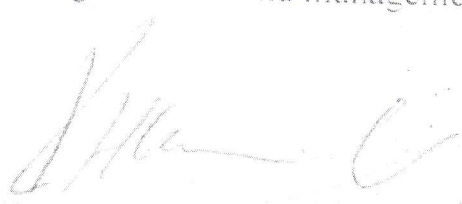
#### CONCLUSION:

Author of the dissertation is well acquainted with the basic literature in the relevant fields, can formulate research theses and problems, to construct a research apparatus, to make reasoned conclusions and recommendations for the improvement of management practice.

Based on the scientific and applied by the doctoral student various methods of research, correctly performed experiments the summaries made and conclusion drawn, I believed that the submitted dissertation work meets the requirements of the Application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulation of the agricultural University for its application which gives me a reason to evaluated **POSITIVE**.

I allow myself to propose to the venerable Scientific Jure also vote positively and to award to **AVNI GASHI** the education in scientific degree Doctor in organization and management

Date: 09.01.2021  
Plovdiv

Reviewer:   
Assoc. Prof. Dr Keranka Nedeva