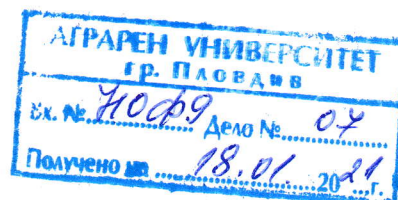


REVIEW



on a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in: field of higher education 3.0. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty: Organization and management (agriculture and sub-sectors)

Author of the dissertation: Avni Ilmi Gashi, PhD student in self-study at the Department of Management and Marketing, Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Topic of the dissertation: "Comparative analysis of agricultural policies of Bulgaria and Kosovo for agricultural development"

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Ivanka Milkova Kostova - Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Plovdiv, 3.0. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty: economics and management, appointed a member of the scientific jury by order № RD - 16-1077 from 25.11.2020. by the Rector of AU.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate

The doctoral student Avni Ilmi Gashi studied in a doctoral program at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv in the scientific specialty Organization and Management (Agriculture and Subsectors), according to the Order of the Rector of AU. The training is carried out in an independent form of preparation.

2. Relevance of the problem

The topicality and significance of the topic are well presented in the introduction to the dissertation.

In Kosovo, agriculture has traditionally been important for the development of the local economy. After the war, the government sought to develop this sector, realizing its important role. With the help of the World Bank (WB), Kosovo is developing and pursuing an investment policy for the development of the agricultural sector. In the context of negotiations for the country's accession to the EU, the Kosovo government has currently signed a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU, and the country seeks to harmonize its agricultural policy with that of other EU member states. Bulgaria is a country that

has taken this path and can be an example of knowledge transfer in the field of Kosovo's agricultural policy in the context of the current conditions in which the country finds itself. All these arguments defend the thesis that the present dissertation research has a topical character both in theoretical and applied aspect.

3. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods

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, to transfer, and to propose approaches to improve the agricultural development policy of the Republic of Kosovo.

The goal formulated in this way predetermines the research tasks:

- Conceptual explanation of the essence of the agrarian policy as a tool for development of the agrarian sector;
- Literary review of the approaches, policies 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;
- Adaptation of methodology for research, analysis and evaluation of the agricultural policy of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Collection, structuring and synthesis of empirical information on the impact of the agricultural policy of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Bulgaria on the agricultural sector of the two countries;
- Identification of the directions for adaptation of the agrarian policy of the Republic of Kosovo, through transfer of good policies by the Republic of Bulgaria.

I believe that the purpose and tasks of development are well formulated.

4. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results

The dissertation is a coherent, logical study, which consists of 124 pages of main text, successfully supported by graphical, tabular and appropriately processed empirical material. The dissertation is characterized by a balanced and classical structure, consisting of an introduction, two chapters, a conclusion, a list of references. The development is visually illustrated by 21 tables and 18 figures.

The dissertation contains theoretical, methodological, methodological and applied aspects, positioned in separate chapters of the development.

In the first chapter the theoretical questions of the essence of the agrarian policy are thoroughly clarified. It is structured in three paragraphs: Emergence of policy; Farmer policy; Structural policy.

The second chapter is analytical. The following are studied: Agrarian reform and restructuring of agricultural holdings; Policies and instruments of state support in agriculture; The competitiveness of agriculture.

5. Discussion of the results and used literature

I find the structure and content of the research logical and consistent. I believe that the exhibition thus constructed meets the basic quality requirements for its evaluation: originality of the research, high degree of penetration into the depth and essence of the problem, methodological endurance and stylistic ability of the author to achieve the research goal by applying appropriate analytical tools and means of expression. I believe that the doctoral student clearly and reasonably achieves his / her main research goal and solves the set research tasks.

The development is an attempt for an in-depth comparative analysis of the agricultural policies of Bulgaria and Kosovo. First, an analysis is made of the development of agricultural production in both countries. The policies of land reform, farm restructuring, state support, agricultural regulation, policies related to the trade regime and international trade in agricultural products are analyzed. Finally, an assessment is made of the possibilities for improving the competitiveness of agriculture in both countries.

Based on the completed goals and objectives, the doctoral student proves her research thesis. Regarding the achieved scientific and scientific-applied results, it can be summarized that there is a unique, original research approach, chosen by the doctoral student and successfully applied to achieve real results in writing the dissertation. Evidence for the existence of these results, except in the overall structure of the dissertation, is summarized and synthesized in the conclusion.

The used literature is included in a list of 109 titles in Bulgarian and English, which testifies to the doctoral student's awareness of the research of the specific discussed problem by both Bulgarian and foreign authors. The literature sources are analyzed and summarized in the way necessary for the dissertation research.

6. Contributions to the dissertation

Scientific and scientific-applied contributions

The dissertation proposed for evaluation has evidence of scientific and applied results, presented as solutions to the studied problems. The scientific and scientific-applied contributions presented in the abstract correspond to the actual contribution moments in the dissertation. The main scientific merits of the dissertation can be outlined in the following directions:

First, enriching existing knowledge about the nature of agricultural policy.

Second, it is concluded that Bulgarian and Kosovo agriculture have a similar past and are undergoing a dramatic transition to economic liberalization and institutional renewal.

Third, the comparative analysis of agricultural policies in the two countries found that they also have very common positive results.

Fourth, the comparative analysis also found that the implementation of policies in both countries was associated with a number of similar negative results.

Fifth, the analysis highlighted the main specifics of agricultural policies and the results of their implementation in both countries. In Bulgaria, agrarian reform took place as part of the fundamental transformation of the overall economic and political system. Kosovo has successfully implemented a specific model for privatization and economic liberalization within the existing political system.

Sixth, agricultural production and exports are growing at an unprecedented and steady pace. On the developing side, Kosovo is becoming a positive model for effectively modernizing agriculture and increasing the well-being of farmers and rural populations.

7. Critical remarks and questions

1. Based on the opinion that there is no perfect scientific work, I believe that the doctoral student could "strengthen" his critical view on the analysis of the presented theoretical statements on the issues studied in Chapter One of the dissertation.

2. I recommend the author to publish more articles in refereed scientific publications on the issues studied in the dissertation, in order to more widely promote among the scientific community the results of scientific work.

8. Published articles and citations

The presented list of publications - 3 independent scientific articles related to the topic of the dissertation, is proof that some important parts of the work have become public and have received scientific evaluation.

The main aspects discussed in the dissertation find a place in the presented abstract. Its content corresponds to the main work, presenting in a synthesized form the researched problem.

CONCLUSION:

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RASRB), the Rules for application of ZRASRB and the respective Rules of AU. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Economics, adopted in connection with the Rules of the University of Economics for application of the Law on Economics.

The dissertation shows that the dissertation Avni Ilmi Gashi has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty by demonstrating qualities and skills for conducting research with original and significant scientific contributions.

Due to the above, I confidently give my POSITIVE assessment of the research presented by the above peer-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I invite the esteemed scientific jury to award the degree of "Doctor" of Avni Ilmi Gashi in higher education. : 3.0.Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field: 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty: Organization and management (agriculture and sub-sectors)

Date: 26.12.2020

Prepared the review:

Prof. Ivanka Kostova, PhD