



## OPINION

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, the scientific specialty Organization and Management

**Author of the dissertation:** *Nikolai Ivanov Stefanov* PhD student (independent preparation) at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

**Topic of the dissertation:** Influence of the CAP on the competitiveness of small farms

**Reviewer:** **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodor Nikolaev Radev**, field of HE 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, PN 3.7 Administration and management, scientific specialty Organization and management  
appointed a member of the scientific jury by order № RD-16-133 / 24.02.2021. by the Rector of AU.

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

*Nikolai Ivanov Stefanov* is an employee of the Ministry of Education and Science. His work is related to managing the communication of the Ministry of Education and Science with all institutions. He received a master's degree in finance from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia. His research interests are in the field of management and the impact of sectoral policies in the management process.

### 2. Relevance of the problem.

The topic of the dissertation is relevant, as the agricultural sector is developing dynamically under the influence of the sectoral policy. The common agricultural policy has a positive impact and accelerates the economic development of the sector. In this regard, the effects of the policy pursued should be noted and attention should be paid to small farms, which have a special role as economic operators.

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

The purpose of the dissertation is clearly worded and refers to establishing the impact of the CAP on the level of competitiveness of small agricultural holdings. To achieve the goal, 5 tasks are defined, the solution of which gives the work a finished look.

The doctoral student has formulated two working hypotheses, which have been proven using systematic analysis, situation analysis, comparative analysis, diagnostic analysis and prognostic analysis.

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

The doctoral student has used a wide range of tools to illustrate and summarize the results in tables, graphs and charts, which allow him to correctly systematize and objectively present the results.

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

In his dissertation work, the doctoral student has studied a major part of the modern specialized scientific literature in connection with the management of agricultural holdings and the possibilities of agricultural policy to contribute to their competitiveness. Opinions of famous authors are commented and presented, and on their basis the author's understanding of the researched problem is formed.

The doctoral student defines and uses the terms correctly. Nikolay Stefanov successfully summarizes the state and problems of the applied policy in the management of the agricultural holdings. This enables him to formulate concrete conclusions for improving the applicability of agricultural policy and the benefits for farmers.

#### **6. Contributions to the dissertation.**

The dissertation "Influence of the CAP on the competitiveness of small farms" contains the following contributing ideas and solutions.

##### **Scientific contributions**

The nature of small farms in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been clarified.

The essence of the competitiveness of small agricultural holdings is clarified.

##### **Scientific and applied contributions**

The influence of the CAP on the profitability and competitiveness of small agricultural enterprises has been established;

The needs of small agricultural holdings in the context of the CAP have been identified

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

I have no critical remarks or questions.

## 8. Published articles and citations.

On the topic of the dissertation the doctoral student has published three articles, which covers the required minimum for obtaining the educational qualification degree of doctor. The publications also cover national minimum requirements.

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

## CONCLUSION:

Based on the learned and applied by the doctoral student, different research methods, correctly performed experiments, summaries and conclusions, I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of ZRASRB and the Rules of the Agricultural University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it. POSITIVE.

I allow myself to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury that it also vote in favor and award **Nikolai Ivanov Stefanov** the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Organisation and Management"

Date: 2. IV 2021 REVIEWER:   
Plovdiv city (.....)