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REVIEW

on a dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (PhD), Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field: 3.8. Economics, Scientific specialty "Organization and management (agriculture and sub-sectors)"

Author of the dissertation: ZEQIR HAJRULLAH FETOSHI

PhD student in self-study at the Department of Management and Marketing
at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

Topic of the PhD thesis:

ROLE OF COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Member of the Scientific Jury:

Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Dimitrova Kyuskieva-Arabska, Ph.D.
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Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,
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Assoc. Prof. in Scientific specialty "Social Management"
PhD: 1) Organization and management in production (industry);
2) Organization and management outside the field of material production
(security and defense)

appointed a member of the scientific jury with
Order № RD-16-132 / 24.02.2021 by the Rector of the Agricultural
university

1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Zeqir Hajrullah Fetoshi holds a Master of Laws degree from the Faculty of Law of the University of Pristina (2012). Acquired legal capacity with a certificate issued by the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Kosovo. He has participated in a number of trainings and specializations in the field of conflict management in public administration, public procurement, fight against corruption, EU legislation and others.

He gained his work experience in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (2010-2012) and the Radonitsa

Regional Water Company (2012-2018) by holding expert and managerial positions. From 2011-2019 he was the head of the complaints unit in the Public Procurement Review Commission. Participating in the work on legislative acts and guidelines for work in the field of law.

He speaks Albanian and English.

2. Topicality of the problem

The dissertation examines the role of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union in landscape management, which is analyzed in the context of the rural economy as a driving force for development and improvement of quality of life. Its specific functions, combined with rural development mechanisms and instruments, have been taken into account in assessing the potential for a positive impact on the regional economy. The relationship between landscape and rural development is little studied in scientific circles, but the concepts of landscape multifunctionality (historical, cultural, recreational, industrial, aesthetic, biodiversity and environmental functions) are the basis for analyzing the potential generation of socio-economic benefits.

The object of study is the landscape in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey. The elements, functions and benefits that the landscape creates in the regional economy of these countries are studied.

The subject of research is the influence of the Common Agricultural Policy on the landscape management in Bulgaria and Turkey.

In this way, the presented study examines a current and dissertable problem, refracted through the prism of the goals of achieving sustainable rural development.

3. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods

The aim of the study is to determine the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on landscape management and how the landscape contributes to the competitiveness of the regional economy.

In connection with the achievement of the formulated goal, the following research tasks have been solved:

- clarifying the nature of the Common Agricultural Policy and its role in landscape management to achieve regional competitiveness;
- clarification of the multifunctional role of the landscape and what values it generates in the regional economy;
- development of a conceptual framework for assessing the values generated by the landscape in the regional economy;
- analysis and assessment of the impact of the CAP on the landscape in creating value in the regional economy.

It is argued that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) creates favorable conditions for effective landscape management.

Leading sub-theses in the study are: 1) The Common Agricultural Policy defines a framework that determines the potential for effective landscape management; 2) The common agricultural policy affects regional competitiveness if it makes effective use of the elements and functions of the landscape.

The methods used in the research are systematic analysis, situational analysis, comparative analysis, diagnostic analysis, case method and others. The effects of the landscape management in the Republic of Bulgaria (as a full member of the European Union and with access to European funds for landscape management in rural areas) and the Republic of Turkey (self-financing the good landscape management in its rural areas) are analyzed.

The survey period covers 13 years: 2007-2020, in which the CAP 2007-2013 and the CAP 2014-2020 operate. Restrictions on time, place, methodology and scope are indicated.

Among the sources of information used are data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Eurostat and the system for agricultural accounting information, as well as a number of normative documents of the European Commission, the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey.

4. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results

The dissertation is presented in English. It is structured in an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion and used literature, located on 187 pages. The study is illustrated with 24 figures, 12 graphs and 22 tables. 195 literature sources are cited.

5. Discussion of the results and used literature

The first chapter presents the role of the CAP in landscape management through a qualitative analysis of the specific functions of the landscape and the mechanisms by which targeted rural development instruments can generate beneficial effects on rural economies. It is based on literature and is also related to discussions on the future of the CAP after 2020.

The second chapter examines the multifunctional nature of the landscape, its structure, elements, potential for change and development, as well as the relationship between agriculture and landscape.

The third chapter presents the framework of landscape valorization, including policies, institutions and instruments; engaged persons; conditions and benefits (direct and indirect), incl. the interrelationship between landscape and rural development.

Chapter 4 analyzes the economic value of the landscape in the context of regional competitiveness, proposing to examine the latter in

relation to the functions and services generated by the landscape, paying special attention to ecosystem services.

Chapter 5 deals with the interaction between the CAP and the rural landscape, following the example of the Republic of Bulgaria (Pazardzhik District) and the Republic of Turkey.

Based on the multifunctional nature of the landscape, the emphasis is on the economic value and theoretical framework of the landscape and regional development in order to identify the main potential socio-economic benefits for the rural economy related to their provision.

Three cases of applied methods for estimating the socio-economic value of landscapes are presented, as well as the effects of agricultural practices and agricultural systems on the value of the landscape. The analysis is completed with preliminary restrictions on the possible direct and indirect effects of rural development measures on the provision of landscape services.

The first case analyzes the interaction of CAP instruments and landscape management in Bulgaria, based on the conclusion that public intervention can target landscapes as important drivers for rural economic development. As a first necessary condition for turning such potential benefits into real opportunities for actors in rural areas, it is accepted that the characteristics and condition of the landscapes in a given area must correspond to what is desired by society. The second condition for generating such potential spillover effects is defined so that rural actors can take advantage of the potential market opportunities offered by landscapes and their functions, and only then are the potential benefits likely to be translated into new income opportunities, and jobs. The reference to these two conditions is stated to be important in order to understand what kind of public intervention is needed, under what circumstances, to create such landscape-related opportunities.

An analysis is provided of the extent to which the Rural Development Policy 2007-2013 and its set of measures can support those types of actions as previously identified. A set of 20 measures (among 44 measures) identified to varying degrees and in different ways with landscapes has been determined. This set of measures is further divided into two major groups according to two conditions: 1) the first group of measures is related to landscaping; 2) the second group refers to the provision of landscape services and activities, i.e. actions to help rural stakeholders carry out activities that are potentially related to the existence and attractiveness of rural landscapes.

Applying the case method, a qualitative analysis is made of the specific functions of the landscape and of the mechanisms through which the targeted instruments for rural development can generate beneficial effects of the lever on the rural economies. The study also uses a descriptive method and an expert assessment method. Political

intervention is measured by the following indicators: number of projects and costs of CAP measures. The measures are grouped into three groups and the distribution of funding between the three groups is analyzed.

The second case is related to the analysis of the secondary effects of landscape management on the rural economies in Bulgaria and Turkey, based on the conclusion that the provision of public goods in the rural economy, as a result of the interaction between ecosystems and human governance landscape, is recognized as one of the key themes for the future of agriculture and rural policy in the EU. The focus is on building a specific framework and measuring the contribution of the landscape to the development of the rural economy, and the main research question is to determine the impact of landscape services on the competitiveness of the rural economy, applying the ecos approach.

6. Contributions of the PhD thesis

I accept the contributions formulated in the abstract to the dissertation as reliable and personal work of the author, allowing myself to reformulate, supplement and divide them as follows:

Scientific contributions

- The role of the CAP in landscape management is defined, incl. in the context of the post-2020 programming period and the future of rural development policy through the prism of competitiveness theory;
- Analyzes of the multifunctional role and values of the landscape are presented and the connection between the agricultural systems and the landscape is derived;
- The theory of regional competitiveness is enriched by defining the essence of the landscape as an element of the competitive development of the rural economy;

Scientific and applied contributions

- A conceptual framework for landscape valorisation and assessment of the impact of the CAP on landscape management and value creation in the regional economy has been developed;
- Landscape management in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey is analyzed and evaluated;
- A model for valorization of the values of landscape elements and services in the development of competitive wine tourism in the Republic of Bulgaria is proposed.

7. Critical remarks and questions

I have no critical remarks and recommendations for the dissertation submitted for review. I accept the presented research as original and complete.

8. Published articles and citations

Three publications are presented in scientific journals, covering the scientometric indicators for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

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

CONCLUSION:

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

I take the liberty of proposing to the esteemed Scientific Jury that it also vote in favor and award **ZEQIR HAJRULLAH FETOSHI** the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**" in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management (Agriculture and Sub-sectors)".

Date: 01.01.2021
Plovdiv

Reviewer: E. Arabaska
(Assoc. Prof. E. Arabaska, PhD)