



## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

on a dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in: field of higher education **3. Social, economic and legal sciences** , professional direction **3.8 economics** , the scientific specialty **Organization and management of production (agriculture and sub-sectors)** .

**Author of the dissertation:** Besim Hamdi Beslimi , doctoral student of self-study at the Department of "Management and Marketing" at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

**Dissertation topic:** "Management of road infrastructure to achieve sustainable development of agriculture ".

**Reviewer:** Associate Professor Doctor Georgi Petrov Georgiev , Higher School of Agribusiness and Regional Development; 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8 Economics, the scientific specialty "Finance and Banks", designated as a member of the scientific jury by order No. RD-16-908/26.09. 2023 by the AU Rector.

### 1. Relevance of the problem.

The chosen topic of the dissertation work is undeniably current and actual. The experience of countries with a prosperous and competitive agricultural sector inevitably implies a suitable developed road infrastructure. In almost all the countries of the Western Balkans, insufficiently well-developed and maintained road infrastructure is observed in the rural regions, which limits the mobility of goods, services, human flows and, as the doctoral candidate rightly notes in the introduction of the dissertation, leads to the limitation of economic growth, productivity, regional investments and results in higher prices of agricultural products. Research by a number of authors in recent years has come to the conclusion that the presence of a quality transport network and logistics has a direct impact on the sustainable development of regions.

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

In the dissertation, the main goal, which directly corresponds to the topic, and a secondary one related to identifying the importance of certain agro-economic factors for the construction of an adequate policy for regional development are formulated. In the introduction of the research work, the ambitious number of 12 tasks are set, which for the most part are fulfilled later in the exhibition. The object in the presented dissertation is not precisely defined, and the subject and limitations of the research are missing. The main hypothesis put forward and three special hypotheses by the author of are not precisely defined, and sound more like findings.

The research methodology used in the dissertation work does not differ in diversity, including the following traditional methods: data collection methods, analytical and comparative research method, inductive and deductive inference

method, classification method, abstraction method, concretization and generalization method of description, systems modeling methodology and systems approach.

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

Structurally, the presented scientific work consists of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. In this regard, a relatively well-balanced exhibition with minimal structural disproportions is observed. The content of the development corresponds to the established topic of the dissertation and is logically supported.

The dissertation is developed in a volume of 205 pages, of which 188 are the main text. The study is illustrated with 10 tables and 7 figures.

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

The main results can be identified in three main directions. The first main result is related to clarifying the characteristics and specifics of the transport infrastructure. The second is regarding the possibilities for sustainable development of modern agriculture. The third result derives from the analysis of the importance of transport infrastructure for the development of trade and the agricultural sector in the Western Balkans.

The dissertation is a completed monographic study on the possibilities of implementing successful agricultural policies in the Republic of Kosovo. For this purpose, the doctoral student has carried out a considerable bibliographic review of theoretical and research publications. The bibliographic sources used are 231, of which 224 are in English, 4 in Macedonian and 3 in Serbian.

The presented abstract for the dissertation is 37 pages long and represents a synthesized presentation of the dissertation work. It correctly and logically reflects the main points of the structure of the dissertation presentation.

### **5. Contributions of the dissertation work.**

At the end of the abstract, doctoral student Besim Beslimi has attached a reference in which he synthesizes the results of his dissertation development to a certain number of findings of a nature of scientific and scientific - applied contributions. Based on the materials provided, the following findings can be outlined with the nature of scientific and scientific-applied contributions:

- The essence of road infrastructure and agriculture for the sustainable development of agriculture as a national industry has been clarified;
- The role of road infrastructure for the sustainable development of agriculture in the Western Balkans is analyzed

I accept the contributions referred to above as credible, real and proven in the dissertation work.

### **6. Critical Notes and Questions.**

In the presented dissertation work, the descriptive style in the exposition and strict adherence to the primary sources prevails. The main drawback of the



development is the lack of empirical research that would prove or disprove the hypotheses formulated in the introduction and achieve the set dissertation goal and tasks. The majority of the data cited in the exhibition are from 10-15 years ago. The same applies to the literary sources used.

Questions for the PhD student:

- ❖ What precise quantitative methods would you use to determine the impact of transportation infrastructure on the agricultural sector?
- ❖ What indicators would you use to assess the degree of sustainable development of the agricultural sector?

## **7. Published articles and citations.**

Deposited under the defence procedure are 3 scientific publications in English, which have been verified in NACID. They are related to the topic of the presented dissertation and are an integral part of the doctoral student's research work in the context of the doctoral work. They ensure the necessary publicity of the research results before the academic collegium and interested parties in practice. Publications meet the requirements for independent and bona fide author scientific research.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Based on the learned and applied by the doctoral student, various research methods, the correctly performed experiments, the generalizations and conclusions made, I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of the ŽRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application, which gives me the reason to evaluate it **POSITIVELY**.

I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable scientific jury to vote positively and sentence Besim Hamdi Beslimi the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**" in the scientific specialty "Organization and management" (agriculture and subsectors).

**Date:** 11/27/2023  
City of Plovdiv

PREPARED THE OPINION:   
(Assoc. Prof. G. Georgiev Ph.D)