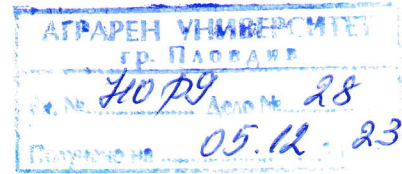


REVIEW



on a dissertation work for obtaining an educational and scientific degree doctor:

Field of higher education: 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional direction: 3.8. Economy

Scientific specialty: "Organization and management of production (agriculture and subsectors)

Author of the dissertation: Besim Hamdi Bislimi, doctoral student of independent training at the Department of "Management and Marketing" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

Dissertation topic: "Road infrastructure management to achieve sustainable agricultural development"

Reviewer: Prof. Dimitar Ivanov Kostov - 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, 3.8. Economy

Appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order PD-16-908 of 26.09.2023 of the Rector of the Plovdiv Agricultural University and at a meeting of the scientific jury.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate

The candidate graduated from the University of Pristina and holds a Master's degree in technical sciences. He is a graduate engineer. He is fluent in written and spoken Albanian, Croatian, Serbian and English languages. He is computer literate and has excellent communication skills. He has 28 years of professional experience. His experience is mainly in the management, planning and construction of transport structures. He was a manager and consultant in a number of companies of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. He also worked in international projects.

2. Relevance of the problem

Of particular importance for the economy of each region is the development and condition of the infrastructure. Infrastructure in rural areas plays a significant role in achieving sustainable development of agriculture. Inadequate infrastructure in rural areas is an obstacle to agricultural development. From the infrastructure of the agricultural areas, the road arteries are of great importance. They are associated with both increasing agricultural production and reducing poverty in these regions.

In this regard, it can definitely be said that the dissertation work is a very important scientific study with great practical application.

3. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods

The thesis of the dissertation is directly related to the management of road infrastructure and its importance for achieving sustainable development of agriculture.

The goal is very well defined. It fully corresponds to the title of the study and provides an opportunity to make an assessment regarding the state of the road infrastructure and its management to achieve sustainable agricultural development. The main purpose of this research is related to the analysis of the transport infrastructure and determination of its importance for the economic activities in the region. The main objective of the study is also achieved through the determination of secondary objectives, which are important for the identification of the agro-economic factors related to regional development, as well as the importance of the combination of the various sub-sectors of agriculture with other activities in the region.

To achieve the objectives of the research, the following main tasks are solved:

- ☐ determination of the current state of agricultural development in the region of the Western Balkans;
- ☐ Identification of possible factors that determine the economic importance of agriculture in the Western Balkans;
- ☐ Determination of the impact of certain agro-economic factors on sustainable development within the Western Balkan countries;

- ☐ Finding and defining the strengths and weaknesses in the countries of the Western Balkans in terms of sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- ☐ Proposing a development model that would significantly improve the potential of certain agro-economic factors for sustainable development in the Western Balkans.
- ☐ The need, importance and development of the national transport policy.
- ☐ EU policies for financing infrastructure projects in the region.
- ☐ International factors and EU transport policy.
- ☐ Integration of the national regional network, as a basic condition for international integration.
- ☐ Assessment of infrastructure projects in the road network in the Western Balkans region.
- ☐ Pan-European Transport Corridors and Regional Context (SEETO)
- ☐ The importance of EU investment and funding in road and transport infrastructure.

The subject and object of the research are precisely and clearly defined. They are indicated in the title of the dissertation.

Hypotheses are defined through research approaches. They are of two types: basic and social.

The main hypothesis

The main hypothesis is based on the statement that the development of the road network through investment in the road network will increase the transport of agricultural products, which will have a positive impact on the overall economic situation in the Western Balkans.

Special hypotheses

- The connection of the road network of the countries of the Western Balkans with the other road networks in the region allows a faster integration of the region into the EU, but also an economic, social and political connection.
- The lack of cooperation between the countries of the region in the implementation of joint projects in the road infrastructure negatively affects the

further economic development, but also the faster integration of the countries of the region into the EU.

- Investing in the development of a modern road network allows greater efficiency and effectiveness of transport, reduction of transport costs and a positive impact on the environment.

The methods used in the research are traditional and modern. They are grouped into two groups: scientific and applied.

Scientific methods:

- data collection methods,
- analytical and comparative research method,
- inductive and deductive locking method,
- classification method,
- method of abstraction, concretization and generalization,
- method of description,
- methodology for modeling systems,
- system approach.

Applied methods are directly related to research analysis.

4. Transparency and presentation of the obtained results

The dissertation is presented in six sections with a total volume of 205 pages, including the following sections:

First part - Characteristics of the transport infrastructure

Second part - Theoretical assumptions for sustainable development

Third part - Theoretical and methodological approach to agriculture

Fourth part - Strategy for sustainable development of agriculture

Part Five - The Importance of Roads for Development and Trade in Agriculture

Sixth part - Agriculture and transport infrastructure in the countries of the Western Balkans

5. Discussion of results and used literature

The detailed analysis and commentary of the literature used makes a good impression. Particular attention is paid to the characteristics of the transport infrastructure. The author analyzes the characteristics of the transport process and the role it plays in the overall economic development of each region.

The doctoral student's contribution is the determination of the goals and the role of transport related to the development of the regions in social and economic aspect. The doctoral student has also devoted sufficient attention to the study of the impact of transport on the micro and macroeconomic development of the region. It makes a competent macroeconomic assessment and the relationship with production, employment and income in a given region.

The author makes competent assessments regarding the impact of transport and its structure, both domestically and internationally.

The second section is related to the theoretical statements of the sustainable development of a given region and their relationship with the influence of natural resources. In this part of the research, it can be said that the author has contributed to determining the main indicators related to the sustainable development of a given region.

The specific analysis of the dissertation work and the determination of its place for solving the tasks in the research is the third section, which is related to the approaches in agriculture, defining the industry as vital for the development of any regional area. Here we can point out that the author very correctly determines that agriculture is a fundamentally different production activity and is very dependent on the impact of nature on it.

The main points of contribution of the dissertation work are indicated in the fourth section, which is related to the strategies for the sustainable development of agriculture based on the infrastructure of each individual region.

The next section includes empirical studies of the importance of roads for the development of trade and the place and role of agriculture in it.

In the last section of the dissertation, the infrastructure in the countries of the Western Balkans is examined. This part of the development provides an opportunity to answer the methodological questions posed at the beginning of the dissertation.

6. Contributions of the dissertation work

I accept the reference for the contributions indicated in the dissertation, which are:

1. The essence of the road infrastructure for the sustainable development of agriculture as a national branch of a country is clarified;
2. The essence of the sustainable development of agriculture has been clarified, and the role of infrastructure in this process has been studied;
3. The essence of agriculture in the context of the sustainable development of economic branches is clarified;
4. A strategy for the sustainable development of agriculture in the Western Balkans has been drawn up and argued, based on the road infrastructure as the main element of sustainability;
5. The role of road infrastructure for the sustainable development of agriculture in the Western Balkans is analyzed.

7. Critical Notes and Questions

Recommendation: In future publications, the author of the dissertation should consider the consideration of global political and economic processes as an important factor for road infrastructure management in the context of sustainable agricultural development.

8. Published articles and citations

The doctoral student has published three scientific publications that are directly related to the dissertation work. They are sufficient to present the development as a completed dissertation work.

The abstract corresponds fully to the materials included in the dissertation work.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation presented by Besim Hamdi Bislimi is a fully completed scientific research with practical value.

Based on the different research methods learned and applied by the doctoral student, the correctly conducted research, the summaries and conclusions made,

I consider that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of the ŽRASRB and the Regulations of the AU for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it POSITIVELY.

I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively and award Besim Hamdi Bislimi ONS PhD in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production" (agriculture and sub-sectors).

Date: 10.11.2023

Reviewer:


Prof. Dr. Dimitar Kostov