

REVIEW

By: Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Neycheva Netseva-Porcheva, PhD

University of National and World Economy

Scientific specialty "Marketing"

Regarding: defence of a dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree **"Philosophy Doctor"** in the area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: *Kristiyan Krasimirov Ivanov*

Topic: ***Financial, economic, social and legal-ethical aspects of the gambling business***

1. Information about the competition and the presented materials

By order No. 432/19.12.2022 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance Prof. Boris Velchev, DSc, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defence of a dissertation entitled ***"Financial, economic, social and legal-ethical aspects of the gambling business"*** for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Philosophy Doctor" in the area of higher education 3.8. Economics, doctoral programme "Finance". The author of the dissertation is Kristiyan Krasimirov Ivanov.

The materials presented by Kristiyan Krasimirov Ivanov include: a dissertation; a dissertation abstract /in English and in Bulgarian/; the publications related to the dissertation topic; a certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Philosophy Doctor" in professional field 3.8. "Economics", and a CV /in English and in Bulgarian /.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

The presented biographical data prove that the doctoral student is a highly educated person (in the sectors of management and finance), with impressive work experience related to the dissertation topic (the gambling and entertainment business), with a high level of foreign language competence (a full course in English in the Department of Language Education at Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski and in British Council), an individual that constantly develops and improves as a professional (a certificate of completion of a full course for a professional live casino croupier and slot machines).

3. Characteristic features and evaluation of the dissertation

The theme of the dissertation is topical and the work contributes to the enrichment of the theory and practice of the gambling business in Bulgaria. The objective, tasks, object, subject and main hypothesis of the dissertation research are precisely and clearly formulated.

Chapter One deals with the historical and theoretical aspects of the gambling business. In it, different points of view are revealed and the author's definition of the concept of gambling is given. The history of the gambling business in Asia, America, Europe and in Bulgaria, in particular, is traced in detail. Special attention is paid to the modern aspects of the gambling business such as the economic, financial, regulatory and socio-ethical aspects. The participants in the modern gambling business and their financial and economic interests are presented professionally. Chapter One of the dissertation shows that the doctoral candidate is well acquainted with the nature and history of the gambling business, has a critical view of the subject area under consideration and expresses his personal position on it in a reasoned manner.

Chapter Two is of methodological nature. In it, the candidate develops an adapted methodology for the study of the gambling business in Bulgaria and for the attitude of the three main segments in society related to it: gambling organisers (economic agents); the players who directly participate through their own bets, and public opinion. A toolkit has been prepared combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to assess gambling activities and the public attitudes towards them. More specifically, a toolkit was developed for two questionnaire surveys and one in-depth interview. The first survey is aimed at all three segments mentioned above and related to the gambling business and includes 11 questions. The second survey is complementary to the first one and is mainly oriented towards the active players and contains 36 questions. The in-depth interview is primarily addressed to the economic agents in the gambling business and also consists of 36 questions.

Chapter three presents an analysis of the results from the conducted research. In it, the doctoral candidate makes an overview of the indicators for the study of the financial, economic, social and legal-ethical aspects of the gambling business around the world, including in the European Union, compares them (as indicators and as data) with those in Bulgaria, and on the basis of an in-depth analysis gives a justified assessment of the state of the gambling business in our country.

The part in which the author gives reasoned suggestions for the improvement of the gambling business and its regulation in Bulgaria is particularly impressive and of a contributing nature.

The dissertation developed by Kristiyan Krasimirov Ivanov is an independent scientific study which shows that the doctoral candidate (1) knows well the nature and history of the gambling business, (2) professionally developed a methodology and research toolkit for the study of the relationship of the three main segments in society related to it, and (3) thoroughly analyzed and provided

ed a reasoned evaluation of the the financial, economic, social and legal-ethical aspects of the gambling business in Bulgaria.

4. Dissertation contributions and significance in terms of theory and practice

The scientific and applied scientific contributions of the dissertation work are as follows:

- An author's methodology and research toolkit have been developed, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods for the evaluation of gambling activities and the public attitudes towards them.
- An independent study was conducted on the attitude towards the gambling business from the positions of the state-regulator, bookmakers, active players and non-gambling citizens.
- Recommendations have been developed and proposed for possible managerial strategies and policies to be used in the state management of the gambling business in Bulgaria in order to overcome some of the proven problems. In addition, specific guidelines are presented for the improvement of the management of the financial effects of this type of business for Bulgaria.

5. Assessment of dissertation publications

Kristyan Ivanov has eight scientific publications: seven papers from scientific conferences and one article published in a scientific journal. All his publications are related to the dissertation topic.

6. Assessment of the compliance with the minimum national requirements

The certificate submitted by the candidate for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements shows that all the requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Philosophy Doctor" in the professional field 3.8 Economy have been met.

7. Dissertation abstract

The dissertation abstract is 41 pages and contains all the necessary details and requirements for the dissertation development. It fully and faithfully reproduces in a summarised form the structure, content and contributions of the dissertation.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

The second chapter of the dissertation is only 11 pages, which breaks its structure. I have no other critical remarks and recommendations to the dissertation submitted for review.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation work contains scientific and applied results that are an original contribution to science and practice and meet all requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements of the Regulations for the Admission and Training of Doctoral Students at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance

The above gives me reason to confidently give a positive assessment of the dissertation work submitted for review, the achievements and contributions in it. This is why I ***propose to the respected scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Philosophy Doctor"*** in the higher education area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economy to Kristiyan Krasimirov Ivanov

10/02/2023

Reviewer:

/Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Netseva-Porcheva, PhD/