

REVIEW

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shteryo Stefanov Nozharov,**

scientific secretary of Department of „Economics “-UNWE, assoc. prof. in professional field 3.8. „Economics“, scientific specialty „Political economy (*microeconomics, macroeconomics, economic policy and sustainable development*) at UNWE, Doctor in professional field 3.8. „Economics“, scientific specialty „Political economy“- UNWE

of PhD thesis for awarding the scientific degree “Doctor of science” in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, doctoral programme “Finance and insurance” at VUZF

Author: Mateusz Kaczmarek

Title: „CONDITIONS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS IN POLAND, WITH REGARD TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS AND MOUNTAIN AND SUB-MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES”

1. General characteristics of the materials presented.

In accordance with Order № 109/1.03.2023 of the Rector of VUZF – prof. Boris Velchev, DSc. I have been selected as a member of the Scientific Jury in a procedure for awarding scientific degree “Doctor of science” to a thesis, titled: „CONDITIONS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS IN POLAND, WITH REGARD TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS AND MOUNTAIN AND SUB-MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES” in higher education field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics. Author of the thesis is: **Mateusz Kaczmarek**

The materials, submitted by **Mateusz Kaczmarek** include the following documents:

A copy of the thesis, abstract of the thesis, a completed card for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for scientific degree “Doctor of Science”, list of contributions of the thesis, list of publications, list of abstracts of the publications, related to the title of the thesis, CV, a copy of a diploma for awarded education and scientific degree “Doctor”.

The PhD candidate has attached: a monograph, which is not presented as a main dissertation work is missing, one (1) published book, based on defended PhD thesis, eight (8) articles and pa-

pers, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, zero (0) articles and papers, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, seven (7) studies, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, three (3) studies, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, one (1) published chapter of collective monographs and list of citations.

3. Brief biographical reference of the candidate

- Academic teacher (assistant 2010-2015, senior lecturer 2015-2019, lecturer 2019- still) at the State Higher Vocational School Jan Grodek in Sanok (since 2019 the name of the university has been changed to the Jan Grodek State University in Sanok), Poland
- 09.2020 – present Rector of the State University Jan Grodek in Sanok
- 09.2016 - 08.2020 - Director of the Institute of Agricultural and Forest Ecosystems Management,
- 09.2014 - 08.2016 - head of the Department of Agriculture at the Institute of Agricultural and Ecosystems Management,
- 2010 – present - Institute ECTS coordinator,
- 2010 – present - the Institute coordinator of the Erasmus + program,

Education:

- 10.2021 – 09.2022 - Postgraduate studies - Health management with elements of medical law
- Jan Grodek State University in Sanok, Poland
- 10.2020 – 12.2021 - MBA in Public Management Cracow University of Economics, Poland
- 10.2009 – 03.2015 - PhD of agricultural sciences in the discipline of agronomy Agricultural University Hugo Kołłątaj in Kraków, Poland - Doctoral dissertation: Environmental assessment of bottom sediments from the Rzeszów Reservoir
- 10.2003 - 06.2009 - MSc - Master of Science in Agriculture with a specialization in agrobiolology Agricultural University Hugo Kołłątaj in Kraków, Poland -- Master's thesis: Assessment of the chemical composition of bottom sediments in selected retention reservoirs

Awards:

- 2011 - 2019 award of the Rector of the State Higher Vocational School Jan Grodek in Sanok
- 2022 – award of the Minister of Education and Science, Poland

3. Relevance of the topic of PhD candidate thesis and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

The relevance of the problem developed in the dissertation work in scientific and scientific-applied aspect is high. The balanced regional development is extremely important in the EU in the context of an aging population, high migration flows and increasing global competition. The study analyzes one of the key countries in the EU - Poland, which on the one hand joined the union not long ago, but on the other hand is developing at an extremely fast pace, it is located in the central part of the continent and has a large territory and population.

4. How familiar the PhD candidate is with the nature of the research problem.

The PhD candidate knows very well the status quo of the studied problem and can creatively evaluate the literature. He has abiding interest on the topic, and he is an author of many scientific publications, related to the topic of the thesis.

5. Research methods

The chosen research methodology by the PhD candidate allows to be achieved the purpose of the study and an adequate answer to the set tasks in the thesis to be achieved. The research methods include descriptive and statistical analysis through summarizing large amount of data. For the purposes of the research surveys are made.

6. General characteristics and evaluation of the PhD candidate thesis

The PhD candidate thesis cover a total of 275 pages and includes cover page, table of contents, introduction, seven chapters, conclusion, reference list, list of figures and tables and statistical appendices.

The five sections are divided into subsections that are thematically related to each other. The first section includes five subsections, the second includes no subsections, the third includes five subsections, the fourth includes four subsections, the fifth includes two subsections, the sixth includes two subsections, and the seventh includes no subsections.

The bibliography of the dissertation contains a total of 297 titles, including 286 monographs, studies, and scientific articles: statistical data and 10 netography sources.

The dissertation contains 72 tables, 42 figures and 6 graphs.

7. Contributions and significance of the PhD candidate thesis for the development of science and practice

The main achievements of the dissertation work can be characterized as scientific-applied contributions. Known theoretical problems have been investigated and the relevance of existing theoretical solutions has been confirmed with in-depth analysis.

The work assesses the impact of the development of rural areas, as well as the scientific research and innovation activity on the socio-economic development of the regions. The conducted research considers the impact of the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (OSP) and the Rural Development Programs (PRS) in 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 years on the sustainable development of rural areas in Poland.

The main tasks and results of the dissertation work are as follows:

- (1) determination of the potential and priorities for the development of the regional policy and the General Agricultural Policy for the period 2023-2027, as well as the risks before that period
- (2) assessment of the impact of research and innovation activity on the development and socio-economic progress of regions in Poland;
- (3) determination of the potential for development of the technical and social infrastructure in the regional development policy;
- (4) assessment of investments, oriented to environmental protection and water resources management to improve the quality of the environment, as well as the conditions for life and health of the inhabitants of the region;
- (5) determining the profitability of farms and investment opportunities in the field of modern and ecologically safe technologies of agricultural production;

The results of the research are scientifically applied and are useful for the formation of policies for socio-economic development of the regions and sustainable development of rural areas. Endogenous conditions and development barriers are also considered by the author, as well as the territorial orientation.

8. Evaluation of the publications in relation to the topic of the PhD thesis candidate

The PhD candidate has presented: two (2) monographs, 14 (fourteen) articles and studies, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information and two (2) conference papers, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes. Some of the publications could not be characterized as economic ones. However they are related to the topic of the dissertation work and interdisciplinary of the thesis is allowed.

9. Evaluation of the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements

I concern that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements according to the documents submitted and in accordance with the regulations of VUZF.

It is made an inquiry about the candidate's fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 3.8. Economy

10. Personal contribution of the PhD candidate

The author has attached to the abstract of the thesis a declaration of originality of the dissertation work. There are no plagiarism reports submitted during the procedure or before it related to the author and his work. The author's publications on the subject of the dissertation, which are published in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information, indicate that he observes scientific ethics.

11. Abstract of the PhD candidate thesis

The content and quality of the abstract is good. It is written in accordance with the relevant regulations and presents the main results, achieved in the thesis.

12. Critical remarks and recommendations

1. The research thesis sounds a bit general. The expectation it creates is that some surprising new factor or barrier has been discovered. If so, it is good that they should be mentioned in the thesis. If not, the thesis should specify what scientific controversy or unexplored research problem it is oriented to;

2. As a fourth hypothesis, it is stated that: "4. Innovation and research activities stimulate the socio-economic development of the regions." And since the hypothesis must contain statements that are subject to proof, the following question arises - does anyone argue in the economic science that this is so. Is there any scientific dispute that innovations have a positive relationship with economic growth at the global, national or local level?

3. The author points out that: "A completely separate group are the concepts that reflect the degree of complexity of modern processes of regional development, i.e. the concepts of "new economic geography" and "evolutionary economics". What new factors or barriers in the context of new theories (evolutionary, institutional, new economic geography) would he use for his research?"

13. Personal impressions of the reviewer

The work has the potential for reaching a theoretical contribution, not just an applied one. It is an in-depth study, using rich statistical information. But it needs to be upgraded with additional analyzes in the field of new theories in this context.

14. Recommendations for future implementation of dissertation contributions and results

The results of the research, presented in the dissertation work, are of an applied nature and are useful for the formation of policies for socio-economic development of the regions and sustainable development of rural areas. Endogenous conditions and development barriers are also considered, as well as the territorial orientation.

CONCLUSION

The PhD candidate's thesis **contains scientific, scientifically-applied and applied results, which are original scientific contribution** and **they cover** the requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff of Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its implementation. The presented materials and conclusions in the thesis **correspond** to the specific requirements of the Regulation for admission and training of PhD students at VUZF.

The PhD candidate's thesis shows that **Mateusz Kaczmarek possesses** in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in professional field 3.8 Economics, as **he demonstrates** qualities and skills to independently conduct scientific research.

Having in mind the abovementioned, I convincingly give a **positive assessment** of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed thesis, abstract, list of contributions and I **suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award scientific degree „Doctor of Science“** to **Mateusz Kaczmarek** in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, in doctoral programme “Finance and insurance” at VUZF.

16.4.2023

Reviewer:



Assoc. prof. Dr. Shteryo Nozharov