

REVIEW

by prof. Virginia Ivanova Zhelyazkova, DSc, Ph.D. from VUZF-Sofia

of a dissertation for the award of the scientific degree

"Doctor of Science"

in the Area of Higher Education

3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional field 3.8. Economy

Author: Dr. Eng. Mateusz Kaczmarek

**Topic: "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 description of the presented materials

By order No. 109 of 01.03.2023 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance (VUZF University – Sofia), prof. Boris Velchev, DSc, Ph.D., I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic "Conditions for socio-economic

development of regions in Poland, with a view to the sustainable development of rural areas and mountainous and sub-mountainous territories" for the acquisition of scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economy.

The author of the dissertation is Mateusz Kachmarski, Ph.D., a candidate at the Department of Finance and Insurance at VUZF.

Materials provided by Dr. Kachmarski include:

- autobiography;
- a copy of the diploma for the acquired educational and qualification degree "Ph.D.";
- dissertation work for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Science";
- abstract of the dissertation work;
- reference to the scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation work and their summaries;
- report on the contributions in the dissertation work;
- reference to the citations of the candidate's scientific works by other scientists;
- a report on the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements for awarding the "Doctor of Science" degree according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation.

In connection with the present procedure, the applicant has attached:

- two independent monographic works;

- one monographic work co-authored with other scientists;
- 7 articles in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-known databases with scientific information (Web of Science);
- 14 articles in other scientific journals;
- one chapter in a monographic work;
- information on other activities of scientific and applied nature - development of a regional development program in Poland and an applied project - they do not fall under the national minimum requirements, but complement the image of the candidate as a scientist.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Candidate Dr. Kaczmarek was born in 1984 in Sanok, Poland. He obtained a master's degree in "Agronomy" with a specialization in agrobiolology from the "Hugo Kollataj" University of Agriculture in Krakow. He holds a doctorate in the same major, which he defended at the same university.

Over the years, Dr. Kaczmarek has accumulated sound academic experience both as a lecturer and as an administrator in the field of higher education, holding various positions, the last of which - from 2022 - Rector of the State University "Jan Grodek" in Sanok.

3. Topicality of the subject and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

The dissertation work submitted for review is undeniably topical. The object of the work is regional development in Poland in the context of the sustainable

development of rural regions and mountainous and sub-mountainous territories. Sustainable development is the only possible paradigm that has the potential to ensure lasting economic growth and development. In all countries of the world, to varying degrees, the development of the regions is lagging behind that of the capital and the main, largest cities. This applies with particular force to the more remote, hard-to-reach regions, such as mountainous and sub-mountainous areas. The thesis of the study is clearly formulated: "... the socio-economic development of the regions and the sustainable development of rural and mountain and sub-mountain regions of Poland in 2007-2019 are territorially diversified and conditioned by factors and barriers to development." The goals and tasks are logically defined and follow the author's idea laid down in the thesis. This helps to structure a clear and coherent exposition of the dissertation.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation consists of a total of 275 pages. Structurally, it is divided into an introduction, seven chapters (sections), a conclusion, a list of references, lists of tables, figures, graphs and a statistical appendix.

The number of sources that the author used to write the work and which he cited is impressive - a total of 297 titles, including 286 monographs, studies and scientific articles; statistical source and 10 netography sources.

The dissertation is appropriately enriched with 72 tables, 42 figures and 6 graphs.

The first section is introductory to the presentation and is dedicated to some basic theoretical propositions in the area of regional development. At the beginning, the candidate examines the concept of regional development and selected theories for it. Further, the subject of the exposition in this section is the policies for regional

development and the factors and barriers in front of it. The candidate then examines some basic indicators of regional development, finally analyzes the sustainable development of rural and mountainous and foothill areas.

In the focus of the second section of the dissertation, the main methodological prerequisites of the author's research are elaborate on. Here, the candidate explains in detail his choice of topic and methodological approaches.

Within the framework of the third section, the evaluation of the diversification of the level of socio-economic development in relation to the bodies of regional self-government is considered. Here the candidate successively analyzes the choice and main characteristics of the variables used in the linear ordering method; makes his own analytical assessment of the socio-economic development of the voivodeships in Poland in 2007, 2015 and 2019 according to Helwig's synthetic development indicator. Further, he critically presents the classification of voivodeships according to the degree of socio-economic development and makes its own assessment of the sustainable development of rural areas in Poland in 2007, 2015 and 2019 according to Hellwig's synthetic development indicator. The section ends with a presentation of a classification of voivodships according to the sustainable development of rural areas in Poland.

The subject of the fourth section is the assessment of the impact of sustainable development of rural areas by region. Here, the author examines sequentially the assessment of the dependence of demography and the labor market in rural areas on the professional activity of rural residents in 2007-2019; the assessment of the dependence of entrepreneurship in rural areas and the number of newly registered business entities in the private sector in 2007-2019; the assessment of the relationship between the structure of the economy of the region and the average area of the individual farm in 2007-2019 and finally the assessment of the relationship between

livestock production and the average monthly disposable income of 1 person from an individual farm in agriculture in 2007-2019.

In the fifth section, the candidate analyzes the assessment of the impact of innovation and research activities in the voivodships of Poland, paying special attention to two types of assessment - that of the impact of research activity on the balance of migration in the voivodships in 2007-2019 and that of the impact of the research activity on own tax revenue per capita in 2007-2019.

The next, sixth section of the dissertation is devoted to the assessment of the sustainable development of mountainous and sub-mountain regions in Poland according to the opinion of their inhabitants. In this part of his work, the candidate presents an opinion on the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy for 2014-2020 and the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 on the sustainable development of mountain and sub-mountain regions. The results of his detailed correlation analysis on this issue have been analyzed separately.

The dissertation ends with the last, seventh section, within which the candidate presents in a synthesized and analytical form the conditions for the socio-economic development of the voivodships and the sustainable development of the rural and mountainous and foothill regions of Poland.

The dissertation is an in-depth study on a current topic with indisputable scientific contributions.

In the conclusion, the main inferences of the work are presented correctly, clearly and consistently.

5. Contributions and significance of the development for science and practice

The applicant has defined and provided a reference for a total of ten contributions, which are not classified by type, but which I classify in the category of scientific and applied contributions. I accept them the way they are worded. I believe that these formulations objectively reflect what was achieved in the work.

From a scientific point of view, the dissertation sheds light on an important issue for a large and important country for the EU economy, such as Poland. From a practical and applied point of view, the candidate offers a number of important conclusions regarding the sustainable development of the regions in the country and its relationship with its regional development. This topic is essential and has great importance for both the institutions in Poland and for the educational process in the country's higher education.

6. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation work and fulfillment of the minimum national requirements

The publications submitted for review on the topic of the dissertation work, as well as their citations, are more than sufficient in number and type to meet the national minimum requirements for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" laid down in the Law on the Development of Academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. They form the image of the candidate as a serious young scientist with great prospects for development.

8. Personal participation of the candidate

At the time of writing the review, there is no information about plagiarism in the works of Dr. Kaczmarzki.

9. Abstract

The abstract consistently and concisely reflects what has been achieved in the dissertation and is prepared in accordance with the accepted academic norms for this kind of scientific work.

10. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant criticisms of the dissertation. I recommend that the candidate publish it in English. In this way, it will gain wider recognition.

11. Personal impressions

I do not know the candidate personally, but from the competition documentation I can confidently confirm that he is an ambitious and promising young scientist.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation work of candidate Dr. Eng. Mateusz Kaczmarek on the topic: "Conditions for socio-economic development of regions in Poland, with a view to the sustainable development of rural areas and mountainous and sub-mountainous territories" contains indisputable scientific and scientific-applied contributions. The candidate's scientific output is outstanding. I give my positive assessment for them and vote "FOR" the awarding of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in 3.8 Economics to Mateusz Kaczmarek, Ph.D.

04/11/2023

Reviewer:

Sofia city

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(prof. V. Zhelyazkova, DSc, Ph.D.)