

## EVALUATION 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 educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in higher education area

3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics

**Author:** Marek Wolanin

**Topic:** OPTIMIZATION OF HUMAN, MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT MUNICIPALITIES IN POLAND

### 1. General characteristics of the materials presented

In accordance with Order № 132/22.03.2023 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: „OPTIMIZATION OF HUMAN, MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT MUNICIPALITIES IN POLAND“ in higher education field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics. Author of the thesis is: Marek Wolanin – PhD student in PhD programme „Finance and Insurance“at VUZF.

The materials, submitted by Marek Wolanin include the following documents:

A copy of the PhD thesis, abstract of the thesis, a completed card for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, list of publications, list of abstracts of the publications, related to the title of the thesis, CV, a presentation.

The PhD student has: five (5) articles, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, four (4) published chapters in collective monographs.

### 2. Brief biographical reference of the candidate

For the period 2015- till moment, the PhD student Marek Wolanin has been a deputy-mayor of municipality of Zgorzelec, Poland. In the period 2010 – 2015 he has been a secretary of the same municipality. Before that period the PhD student has taken the occupation director in education and development at municipality of Zgorzelec, Poland. He has also been a director of a school and a

teacher. He has taken the occupation a member of the Management Boards of many companies and NGOs. He has been a lecturer at the College of Humanities, TWP, Szczecin for the period 2018-2020 in Poland в Полша. He has participated in various scientific events.

### **3. General characteristics and evaluation of the PhD candidate thesis**

The PhD thesis covers a total of 243 pages. It consists of table of contents, introduction, three chapters, conclusion, list of figures and tables, reference list, appendices, and list of abbreviations. It includes theoretical and empirical part. The theoretical section introduces the visions for theoretical basis of self-governance as a foundation for democracy in the country and transparency for functioning of the structural units of self-governance of communes. There have been presented syn-thetical statements for the management and financial mechanisms, as well as for their resources. In the empirical part, based on survey data, it is presented the nature of financial aspects of functioning of the periphery communes, their reported indicators for social aspects of life, their specifics in comparison to other rural municipalities and cities in their vicinity. The results of the thesis are presented with the help of 28 figures and 2 graphs, 29 tables, and the list of references consists of 214 sources.

### **4. Contributions and significance of the PhD candidate thesis for the development of science and practice**

The results of the PhD thesis are a contribution to the development of the municipality self-governance with an accent on the economic aspects of the rural self-governance.

**The main results** achieved in the PhD thesis are as follows:

1. The PhD thesis is trying to introduce an interdisciplinary approach to the nature of changes, concerning the rural areas in the vicinity of cities. It introduces some theoretical propositions for better rural areas governance.
2. The PhD thesis indicates the beneficial processes that happen in the peripheral urban communes and influences the life conditions in the local communities. Such changes could influence the formation of the social attitude towards the choice of new places for living and change the way of life, as well as to the satisfaction of citizens 'expectations.

## **5. Evaluation of the publications in relation to the topic of the PhD thesis candidate**

The PhD student has presented a total of five (5) articles, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, four (4) published chapters in collective monographs. Seven (7) of the presented publications the PhD student concerns as directly linked to the topic of the PhD thesis.

## **6. 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 educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 3.8. Economy.

## **7. 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.

## **8. Critical remarks and recommendations**

There could be made some critical remarks and recommendations to the research:

1. How could it be possible the hypothesis of the PhD work to be reformulated so as to sound like a scientific challenge, as something that is disputable amongst scientists. Is it possible these peripheral communes to exist as administrative unites if they do not contribute to sustainable development of the non-urban rural areas.
2. It is better to be made an econometric analysis or at least a statistical one in such type of research. The generation of figures because of s survey does not constitute a statistical analysis, it could only be a section of a descriptive analysis.

However, the conducted research in a great extent has achieved the goals that have been set in its introduction section.

## **CONCLUSION**

The PhD thesis **contains** *scientifically 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 thesis shows that Marek Wolanin **possesses** good theoretical knowledge and professional skills in professional field 3.8 Economics, as **she demonstrates** qualities and skills to independently conduct scientific research.

Having in mind the abovementioned, I 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 educational and scientific degree „Doctor“** to Marek Wolanin in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics.

29.4.2023

Reviewer:

**Assoc. prof. Dr. Shteryo Nozharov**