

# **OPINION**

**by Prof. D. Sc. Evgeni Georgiev Evgeniev – Higher School of Insurance and Finance**  
**of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"**  
**in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences**  
**Professional direction 3.8. Economy**

Author: **Marek Volanin**

Topic: **"OPTIMIZATION OF THE HUMAN, PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE PERIPHERAL COMMUNITY"**

## **1. General description of the presented materials**

By Order No. 132 dated 22.03.2023, issued by Prof. Doctor of Law Boris Velchev, the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to oversee the defense procedure of a dissertation entitled "Optimization of Human, Property, and Financial Resources of Peripheral Communities" for the purpose of obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the Higher Education District 3, specifically in the field of Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, with a professional focus on Economy. The author of the dissertation is Marek Volanin, a doctoral student at the Department of Finance at VUZF.

## **2. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work**

The dissertation consists of 255 pages and is well-structured, comprising an Introduction, Three Chapters, Conclusion, Bibliography, Appendices, Contributions, and Publications related to the dissertation's topic. The paper includes graphs, tables, and figures.

A substantial number of sources (333 titles) are listed in the bibliography, with underlined citations corresponding to the main texts.

In the dissertation, author Marek Volanin formulates the goals, subject, object, tasks, hypothesis, literature used, methodology, and restrictive framework. The author has chosen a relevant and timely topic for their research, specifically focused on "substantiating the factors that determine the functioning of peripheral communities as a special type of rural municipalities in Poland." To achieve this main goal, Marek Volanin identifies three sub-goals:

1. Identification of development resources and income of peripheral municipalities in Poland.
2. Clarification of how to meet development expectations and goals.
3. Determination of strategic guidelines and tools for ensuring the sustainable development of peripheral municipalities.

This topic holds relevance not only for Poland but also for other EU member states.

Throughout the dissertation, the author demonstrates a strong and in-depth understanding of the research issues. The methodology employed includes the presentation of data from various statistical and sociological sources, as well as an analysis of the presented data. The author also reviews the theses of various authors related to the subject under consideration. The contributions made by the dissertation are outlined.

The overall structure of the dissertation effectively presents the research tasks set forth. The first chapter, titled "Aspects of the Functioning of Local Self-Government in Poland and Europe," delves into theoretical aspects of self-government as the foundation of democracy in Poland and emphasizes the transparency of structural units within communal self-government.

The second chapter focuses on research assumptions, including theoretical considerations of research methods and the applied research tools. This chapter specifies the nature of the research instruments and outlines the research process.

The third chapter presents the results of empirical research concerning the financial aspects of peripheral communities' functioning, achieved development indicators, social aspects of life, the position of these communities in comparison to other rural municipalities, and their relationship with the surrounding cities. This chapter not only summarizes the discussions presented in the previous chapters but also provides an authentic depiction of how peripheral communities function. It concludes by presenting the author's own vision of the peripheral community model, based on the researched processes.

### **3. Contributions and significance of the development for science and practice**

The theoretical significance of the dissertation work is evident in the proposed synthesis of issues concerning the functioning of peripheral municipalities in Poland. The author not only formulates postulates and forecasts for their future sustainable development but also determines their role in this context.

The practical significance of Mr. Volanin's research lies in the identification of problems associated with municipal self-government. In this regard, the dissertation work serves as a foundation for the development of measures and legislative decisions aimed at preserving the successful practices observed in peripheral communities.

### **4. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work**

The presented publications accurately and comprehensively describe the dissertation work, reflecting its essential characteristics.

#### **5. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements**

Based on the references provided, it is evident that Mr. Marek Volanin fulfills the minimum national requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the professional direction 3.8. Economy.

#### **6. Abstract**

The abstract presents an accurate and comprehensive overview of the candidate's dissertation work.

#### **7. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no notes or recommendations for the candidate.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the dissertation encompasses the necessary scientific and practical results, making an original contribution while meeting all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB. The materials and results presented in the dissertation align with the requirements for admission and training of doctoral students at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

Therefore, I provide a positive assessment of the dissertation work, abstract, achieved results, and contributions, and I recommend to the esteemed scientific jury the granting of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" to Mr. Marek Volanin in the Higher Education Region 3, specifically in the field of Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, with a professional direction of 3.8. Economics.

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Opinion prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Prof. D. Sc. Evgeny Evgeniev