

SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT

from prof. PhD Stanislav Dimitrov Petkov,
professor in Higher School of Insurance and Finance –
Sofia

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**"
in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences
Professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: Vladimir Vladimirov Milev

Topic: Financing the non-governmental sector in times of crisis

Scientific Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Daniela Bobeva

1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 522 of 18.10.2023 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance – Sofia (VUZF), Prof. Doctor of Law. Boris Velchev, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic "Financing the non-governmental sector in times of crisis" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics, PhD program "Finance, Insurance and Social Insurance". The author of the dissertation is Vladimir Milev.

By decision of the scientific jury dated 24/10/2023, I have been appointed to prepare an opinion (scientific standpoint) on the candidate's works within the framework of the present procedure.

The materials submitted by candidate Vladimir Milev include the following:

1. dissertation;
2. abstract of the dissertation - in Bulgarian and English;
3. declaration of originality and authenticity;
4. reference on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 3.8. "Economics";
5. list of publications on the dissertation topic;
6. copies of publications on the dissertation topic;
7. summaries of publications;
8. brief biographical data.

The PhD student has not submitted separate reference for the dissertation's scientific contributions.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Doctoral student Vladimir Milev holds a master's degree in Production and Creative Industry from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and a bachelor's degree in Public Relations from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

From the data presented, it can be concluded that the PhD student has more than 6 years of experience in the development and coordination of projects in the humanitarian sector.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation has a volume of 169 pages. The work is structured in Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, Abbreviations Used, Introduction, Main text in Three Chapters, Conclusion, References and Appendices.

The doctoral student has complied with the technical requirements for the preparation of a dissertation.

The introduction presents the author's idea and is an introduction to the problem.

At the beginning of the dissertation, the author justified the topicality and importance of the topic.

The first chapter is entitled «Essence, emergence and specificity of non-governmental organizations and their financing». The volume of the First Chapter is 48 pages. This part of the study is structured in four points. The emergence and development of non-governmental organizations and the non-profit sector are examined. The essence, types and roles of non-governmental organizations and the third sector are analyzed. The nature and functions of financing in non-governmental organizations have been studied. The essence of crises and their impact on non-governmental organizations are examined.

The second chapter is entitled "Mechanisms for financing non-governmental organizations". The volume of the Second Chapter is 60 pages. This part of the study is structured in four points. The sources and mechanisms for financing non-governmental organizations are examined. Funding planning in non-governmental organizations is analyzed. The management of non-governmental organizations and their financing is studied. A section is included that analyzes the innovative funding of non-governmental organizations.

The third chapter is entitled "Financing the non-governmental sector during crises - challenges and opportunities". The volume of the Third Chapter is 36 pages. This part of the study is structured in three points. An analysis of the impact of crises on the financing of non-governmental organizations has been carried out. The flexible transformation of non-governmental organizations is considered as an opportunity for sustainability in crisis conditions. The results are presented and an empirical study of the adaptability of NGOs during crisis is analyzed.

The study ends with a Conclusion. The conclusion corresponds to the conclusions and the research carried out by the doctoral student on the issue under consideration.

At the end of the dissertation, in an appendix, is the survey card used by the author to conduct the empirical study.

The dissertation thus presented gives me reasons to assume that the dissertation of the doctoral student Vladimir Milev contains scientific and scientific-applied results that represent an original contribution to science.

I can accept that the dissertation work shows the possession of in-depth theoretical knowledge in the relevant scientific field and abilities for independent scientific research of the doctoral student Vladimir Milev.

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

Doctoral student Vladimir Milev has not submitted a separate report on the contributions to science and practice of the dissertation work.

The author has indicated the contributions in the dissertation on pages 160-161 and in the abstract on page 37. 5 scientific and applied contributions are indicated.

I can accept as contributions the stated from the doctoral student contributions of the dissertation.

5. Assessment of dissertation publications

Doctoral student Vladimir Milev has submitted a reference for 3 scientific publications. The publications are entirely in the area of the issues considered in the dissertation work.

The publications fulfill the requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", enshrined in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation.

At the time of preparation of this opinion, there is no information that would give grounds for doubting the authenticity of the candidate's dissertation work and scientific publications.

6. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

According to the presented materials, I can conclude that the doctoral candidate Vladimir Milev fulfills the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional field 3.8. Economics.

7. Abstract

The abstract is 38 pages long. The abstract contains a description of the main characteristics of the dissertation work, structure and content of the work, summary presentation of the dissertation, contributions, publications on the topic of the dissertation.

The abstract of the dissertation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements adopted for similar scientific works.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant remarks and recommendations.

Below I mention some observations and recommendations that the author can consider in future research.

The main hypothesis could be formulated more clearly.

It is positive that the auxiliary hypotheses should be smaller in number and with a clearer emphasis.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains *known scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meets all the requirements* of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Regulations for admission and training of doctoral students in the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation work shows that the doctoral student Vladimir Milev **possesses** in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional field 3. 8. Economics, **demonstrating** qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I confidently give a *positive assessment* of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and *I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor"* to Vladimir Milev in the Higher Education Area 3 Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3. 8. Economics.

07.11.2023

Reviewer: (s).....
(prof. PhD Stanislav Dimitrov)