

STATEMENT

By Blaga Petrova Madzhurova, PhD

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Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences

of a dissertation thesis for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree **Doctor**

in: field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences

in professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: *Vladimir Vladimirov Milev*

Topic: *Financing The Non-Governmental Sector in Times of Crisis*

Research Supervisor: *Professor Dr. Daniela Bobeva - Filipova*

1. General description of the presented materials

By order № 522 /18.10.2023г. of the Rector of the Higher school of insurance and finance - Sofia 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 thesis on the topic Financing The Non-Governmental Sector in Times of Crisis for obtaining the educational and scientific degree Ph.D in field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics. The author of the dissertation thesis is Vladimir Milev – Ph.D. student at the Department of Finance and Insurance.

The set of materials submitted by the doctoral student Vladimir Milev include documents according to the presented inventory: autobiography, dissertation (in electronic version and 4 copies on paper), abstract (in electronic version and 4 copies on paper), declaration of originality and credibility, reference for implementation for the acquisition of the "Doctor" degree in the relevant professional field, a list of publications on the topic of the dissertation, a copy of the publications on the topic of the dissertation, summaries of the publications on the topic of the dissertation.

The doctoral student has attached 3 publications - articles, two of which are in Bulgarian and one in English.

The submitted materials for the competition comply with the requirements and provide an opportunity for the overall assessment of the dissertation work and the candidate.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Vladimir Milev obtains a bachelor's degree from SU "Kliment Ohridski" majoring in "Public Relations" and a master's degree from SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" majoring in "Production and Creative Industry". In 2022 is enrolled as a PhD student in the Department of Finance and Insurance. He has extensive practical experience in public relations, as well as in the non-governmental sector. He speaks English.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation thesis

The dissertation consists of 169 pages. It is divided into an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. There are 3 pages of appendices and 104 Bulgarian and foreign sources are used. In logical terms, the thesis is passed according to modern standards. The three heads constructed are balanced and interconnected.

The thesis and hypotheses are well formulated, clear and present the issues in the dissertation work. The researcher has set himself realistic tasks for which he has selected appropriate research tools. I believe that the restrictions can be supplemented.

The first chapter traces the nature, emergence and specificity of non-governmental organizations and their financing. An attempt has been made to structure and trace the development of these organizations through historical systematization, their essence and systematization, clearly emphasizing the difference between the third sector and the tertiary sector. Their role is also defined through theoretical concepts. A distinction is made between social entrepreneurship and organizations of the NGO sector. Despite the motivation of the PhD student, that social enterprises originate from this sector, this is a controversial finding, since many authors attribute the genesis of social entrepreneurship to entrepreneurship, which then underwent changes. It should be noted that corporate social responsibility is much broader than just its stated scope in the dissertation work.

The second chapter examines the financing mechanisms of non-governmental organizations. Multiple sources of funding are discussed and the fact that their funding is of strategic importance to the sustainability of the sector. The strong project dependence of these organizations makes them vulnerable, and their main objective is to diversify and maintain wider sources of funding. It is precisely this resilience that would position them firmly in the conditions of crises and is an indicator of their significance, function and role. This is very clearly shown by the author.

The third chapter examines the types of crises and their impact on organizations. As extensive as this sector allows, empirical research has been undertaken and the use of a flexible methodology for assessing NGO sector funding has been proposed. The researcher has rightly pointed out their immense importance in times of crisis, which makes their funding essential. Examining them in the context of overall economic development is necessary, as their financing can be countercyclical in nature and have a beneficial impact on the entire sector. Moreover, as the author has pointed

out, the NGO sector has a strategic role in providing a quick and timely response to the emergence of humanitarian crises, such as the Covid-19 epidemic, the war in Ukraine, the refugee crisis.

The conclusion shows the most important conclusions of the dissertation research, it is comprehensive and follows as a logical conclusion of the entire work.

The scientific style of the dissertation research and publications is high, but at the same time extremely understandable, which shows the knowledge of the problem in depth.

I consider that the presented material is a personal merit of the doctoral student, as well as the contributions are his. I find no plagiarism. The authors used are correctly cited.

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

The topicality of the topic is indisputable. Non-governmental organizations and their funding are a relatively unexplored new subject in the context of Bulgarian academia. They are largely underestimated, even though they operate in areas where the public and private sectors are unable to provide adequate and quick solutions. The author has scientific and scientific-applied contributions. Particularly significant is the author's main contribution, namely considering them in the context of institutional and socio-economic variables, as well as the fact that these variables can be social and financial-economic cycles, but also serious crises. A special contribution is the recommendations for increasing the financial sustainability and optimal functioning of non-governmental organizations during crises, through specific proposals for applying the methods of flexible transformation. In addition, in scientific terms, he has offered evidence through empirical analysis that crisis can also be an opportunity.

The indicated contributions bring significance to the development for science and practice and provide perspectives for future research.

5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation thesis

Three stand-alone articles are presented – 1. Milev V. (2023) Prospects for virtual currencies in the non-governmental sector, VUZF Review (p. 4-14) ISBN 2534-9228; 2. Milev V. (2023) Business as a provider of solutions in the humanitarian sphere, International Scientific Conference "The Economy of the Future", VUZF, 2023 (pp. 332-341); 3. Milev V. (2022) Financing the NGO sector in times of crisis in the context of the refugee situation from Ukraine, Refugees: Today and Tomorrow, Vol. 11(02)/2022, BCRM, UNHCR, ISSN 2683-1120 (pp. 64-69)

The number of publications as required points meets the required, according to the requirements. All of them are related to the subject of the dissertation work and enrich the problem with additional examined questions.

6. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

The materials provided meet the minimum national requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional direction 3.8. Economy.

7. Abstract

The abstract is 38 pages long and contains all the necessary details. Correctly reflects the main results, conclusions, contributions and recommendations achieved in the dissertation work.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I recommend that the dissertation be published. It would be good if the achieved scientific and scientific-applied results were made available to more scientists by publishing them in English in foreign scientific publications. Involvement in research projects.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Regulation. The presented materials and dissertation result fully comply with 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 candidate Vladimir Milev has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional direction 3.8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my 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 Vladimirov Milev in the Region of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3. 8. Economics;

17.11.2023 г.

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Blaga Madzhurova, PhD