

REVIEW

by Prof. D.Sc. Krasimir Todorov, VUZF

of a dissertation work for the award of a scientific degree "Doctor of Science"

in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional direction 3.8. Economy

Author: Robert Yurchak

Topic: MECHANISM FOR INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE
AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SECTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 136 of 27.03.2024 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, 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 work on the topic MECHANISM FOR INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SECTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION for the acquisition of a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the Higher Education Department 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is Robert Yurchak - a candidate for the Department of Finance and Insurance.

The materials submitted by the candidate, Dr. Robert Yurchak, include documents according to the presented inventory: dissertation work, abstract in Bulgarian and English, autobiography, a copy of the certificate for the acquired educational and qualification degree "doctor" and others.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

From the provided autobiographical reference, it is clear that Robert Jurczak holds graduate degrees from the Universities of Warsaw and Szczecin, the University of National Defense and the West Pomeranian University of Technology, respectively. The combination with extensive practical experience in the field of public administration and the Academy of Applied Sciences in Konin, from 2015 to now, is a serious request for the successful realization of the ambitious research topic.

3. Actuality of the topic and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

The relevance of the problem developed in the dissertation is materialized by the need to improve the existing ones and seek new approaches to solving the research problem, which is related to the essence of the economic mechanism for innovative development of the agricultural and food sector in Poland. The dissertation work itself contains up-to-date data and examines the impact of current problems and due to the fact that this type of scientific research requires implementation for so many years, and in it we see that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is also reflected. (pp. 115 ff.).

4. Knowing the problem

Dr. Robert Jurczak demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the state of the research problem, citing a number of diverse scientific sources used in the development of the dissertation.

5. Research methodology

In the course of the research, a variety of research methods were applied, namely:

–systems theory, operations research, economic-mathematical and statistical methods (comparison, analysis, synthesis, grouping, etc.) when performing an economic analysis of the functioning of the agricultural and food sector;

- questionnaire survey - when studying the elements of the information system and the types of risks in the process of making management decisions in the agricultural sector;

- point system – when evaluating the information sources that are proposed to be used in the process of monitoring the food security of the countries of the European Union;
- economic and mathematical modeling – when forecasting the innovative development of the agricultural and food sector in the context of regional economic integration;
- graphical methods using information technologies in determining the dynamics of economic indicators and their dependence on various factors and conditions.

6. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation consists of 325 pages and includes an introduction, four chapters, conclusions, a list of references - a total of 178 sources and 20 appendices. 55 tables and 65 figures are presented. The research results have been published in 35 scientific sources (including 1 collective and 1 independent monograph).

The aim of the dissertation research is to develop a conceptual model for the formation of an economic mechanism for the innovative development of the agricultural and food sector in various countries of the European Union, aimed at ensuring food security and further integration of the economy into the modern world system. In accordance with this goal, 12 tasks were set and solved.

The subject of the study is the economic mechanism for innovative development of the agricultural and food sector of the European Union countries, as a set of tools, methods, techniques, models and algorithms that provide an impact on innovation to increase efficiency and competitiveness, as well as to achieve strategic goals. The object of the research is the system of organizational and economic relations that arise during the formation and improvement of the economic mechanism for innovative development of the agricultural and food sector.

The first chapter examines the evolution and development trends of the common agricultural policy of the European Union, revealing the essence, classification and types of innovations in the agricultural and food sector, and summarizes the methodological approaches for the formation of inter-network innovation cluster structures. In the second chapter, the world experience and guidelines for innovative economic development are summarized, the modern models for the development of agriculture in the countries of the European Union and the main trends in the sustainable development of agriculture in Poland are studied. In the third chapter, an assessment of the state, provision and monitoring of food security in the countries of the European Union is presented, the peculiarities of the formation of the market of biological products and the consumer choice of innovative food products are defined, the guidelines for the development of the common

market of logistics services are justified. . In the fourth chapter, a program for managing commercial risks in the agricultural and food sector is developed, the formation of an institutional mechanism for the development of the regional public-private partnership in the digital economy is justified, a conceptual model for sustainable innovative development of the agricultural and food sector of the countries is developed from the European Union.

In general, it should be pointed out that the reader is left with a pleasant impression of the interesting combination of the various theoretical positions for the needs of proving the author's thesis. This approach strongly supports my established sense of a development with strong scientific potential. Examples with different countries are given, which speaks of the depth of the study of the problem.

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

I define the theoretical-applied contributions of this dissertation in the following three directions:

The concept of innovative development of the agricultural and food sector in modern conditions is substantiated, which is a complex use of knowledge-intensive production factors and conditions (effective use of scientific and technical potential; integration of science, education and production; technological modernization based on modern innovation technologies; management system), justification of the forms, types and directions for development and implementation of innovations, institutional frameworks that ensure the food security of the countries and contribute to sustainable economic growth of the national economy;

A strategy for innovation development has been developed on the cluster principle as the main factor in the mechanism of formation, functioning and innovation development, which combines in an optimal way a sustainable system for the dissemination of new technologies, knowledge and products (the so-called "technological network"), which is based on a joint scientific base, and cluster organizations have competitive advantages thanks to their ability to conduct smart specialization and minimize the costs of implementing innovations, which ensures that the agricultural and food sector reaches qualitative new level;

Measures and recommendations are proposed for the formation of an institutional mechanism for the development of public-private partnerships within the framework of the digital economy, which includes, along with an electronic platform, also a competence center for forming network connections, and an intelligent electronic platform ensuring openness, transparency, accessibility,

stimulation and optimization of interaction between state institutions and the private sector in the implementation of innovative network projects at the regional level.

8. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

The results of the dissertation have been reflected in 35 publications, of which 1 collective and one independent monograph. The remaining 33 publications are divided as follows:

- 15 articles and reports published in news publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (2 independent and 13 co-authored, 11 in English and 4 in Polish).

- 18 articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (3 independent and 15 co-authored, 2 in English, 8 in Polish and 8 in Russian).

There are 17 citations to Dr. Robert Yurchak's scientific publications.

9. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

It can be seen from the submitted Report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements that the applicant exceeds the minimum national requirements - in general and by indicators - publications and citations for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

10. Personal participation of the candidate

Based on the materials presented and the qualitative scientific research, there is enough reason to suggest that the obtained results are the personal merit of the doctoral student. Additional confirmation of this is the categorical conclusions of the doctoral student, which is based on his active author position.

11. Abstract

The attached abstract has a volume of 49 pages, contains all the main elements and is prepared in accordance with the requirements adopted for similar type of scientific work. It includes a description of the main features of the dissertation, its structure and content, a summary presentation of the dissertation, publications on the subject of the dissertation, selected literary sources and a declaration of non-plagiarism.

12. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks or recommendations to the scientific work. The current dissertation represents a comprehensive and conscientious study supported by a solid theoretical foundation and a marked practicality of practical application. I would only allow myself to point out some minor gaps in the layout of the scientific study, namely figure 2.1. from page 78 is blank, as well as those from page 82 to page 97. In general, better visualization of the information in the tables could have been considered.

13. Personal impressions

Unfortunately, I do not know Dr. Robert Yurchak personally. My only impressions are based on the dissertation, the abstract, and the dissertation publications. On this basis, I could conclude that they give me sufficient grounds to conclude that this is a mature and competent researcher in the relevant field.

14. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

I recommend to others. Yurchak to publish his doctoral dissertation as a monograph, having previously revised it, transforming it into a more accessible understanding for a non-specialist audience.

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 (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements of the Rules for the terms and conditions for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation work shows that the candidate Robert Yurchak possesses 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 scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" to Robert Yurchak in the Department of Higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3. 8. Economics;

17.04. 2024

Reviewer:

Prof. D.Sc. Krasimir Todorov