

EVALUATION REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shteryo Stefanov Nozharov,

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 DSc thesis for awarding the scientific degree “Doctor of science” in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics

Автор: Robert Jurczak, PhD

Тема: “MECHANISM OF INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL FOOD SECTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION”

1. General characteristics of the materials presented

In accordance with Order №136/27.03.2024 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: “Mechanism of innovative development in the agricultural food sector in the context of regional economic integration” in higher education field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics. Author of the thesis is: Robert Jurczak, PhD in DSc candidate programme „Finance and Insurance“ at VUZF.

The materials, submitted by Robert Jurczak include the following documents:

A copy of the thesis, abstract of the thesis, a declaration for paper originality, a completed card for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for scientific degree “Doctor of Science”, list of contributions of the thesis, list of publications, list of abstracts of the publications, related to the title of the thesis, CV, a certified copy of a diploma for awarded education and scientific degree “Doctor”.

The DSc candidate has attached: one (1) habilitation monograph, one (1) monograph, which is not presented as a main habilitation work, one (1) published book, on the basis of a defended PhD thesis, fifteen (15) articles and papers, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, eighteen (18) articles, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, four (4) published chapters of collective monographs and a list of citations.

2. Brief biographical reference of the candidate

The DSc candidate Robert Jurczak, possess the following education and experience :

Education:

- Doctor in economics, academic specialty: Economic development, which he has obtained at the Economic Faculty of West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, Poland;
- Postgraduate qualification in National security at the National Defence University in Warsaw;

Positions held:

- 2015-2020 part-time teacher and since 2020 – till moment (full faculty member) at the Academy of applied sciences in Konin, Poland;
- 2010-2014 he has held various academic positions at the Administration of the Municipality of Konin, Poland;
- 1996-2013 he has held various occupations in the private and public sector;

3. General characteristics and evaluation of the PhD candidate thesis

The DSc candidate thesis covers a total of 325 pages. It is structured in table of content, introduction, four chapters, reference list and list of 20 appendices. The first chapter consists of three sections, the second chapter has also three sections, the third chapter has three sections and the four chapter consists of three sections. The reference list covers a total of 132 sources, including 46 online sources, 55 tables and 65 figures.

4. Contributions and significance of the DSc candidate thesis for the development of science and practice

In the DSc candidate thesis, there has been discussed a relevant economic problem.

The agricultural sector in EU is continuing to expand its production in order to respond to the increasing global demand for food products, which according to the FAO forecasts will increase by 70% till 2050.

Original scientifically-applied contributions of the DSc thesis are the following improvements, made in the:

- Methodological instruments for establishing trend models, which contribute to the preparation of dynamic analysis and for identifying the main trends in the innovation development of food and agricultural sector, as well as for the bio-products market and for forecasting their sustainable production in the future;
- Methodology approach for trade risk management, which includes justification and implementation of the developed stages and approaches for usage of the information system for evaluation of three risk groups, which could emerge during the process of data gathering and processing, as well as reporting their impact over the companies, which operate in the agricultural and food sectors;
- It is developed a program for trade risks management in the agricultural and food sectors. The methodology approach towards risk management is developed in the design and implementation of reality.
- It is developed an institutional mechanism for creation and development of regional public-private partnership.
- It is prepared a forecast for the sustainable innovative development of the agricultural sector in the EU member-states.

5. Evaluation of the publications in relation to the topic of the DSc thesis candidate

The DSc candidate has attached: one (1) habilitation monographs, one (1) monograph, which is not presented as a main habilitation work, one (1) published book, on the basis of a defended PhD thesis, fifteen (15) articles and papers, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, eighteen (18) articles, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, four (4) published chapters of collective monographs and a list of citations. Nine (9) of the presented publications are directly linked to the topic of the presented by the candidate DSc thesis.

6. Evaluation of the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements

I concern that the DSc 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 scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 3.8. Economy

7. Abstract of the DSc 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. The main hypothesis of the thesis is formulated as a task of the research. It is necessary it to be preformulated.
2. In the DSc thesis, the author says that: "*The world concept for successful development of the economic systems at different levels is characterized in the following way: innovation=economic success*". However, not every innovation is successful and sometimes the total expenditures for unsuccessful innovations are higher. To be stated that the innovation itself equals the economic success, without comparing marginal benefits with the marginal costs, is wrong.
3. An analysis about the impact of artificial intelligence over innovations is missing. Without studying this impact, the topic, dedicated to the innovations is not so new.

CONCUSION

The DSc candidate's 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 DSc candidate's thesis shows that Robert Jurczak, PhD **possesses** good theoretical knowledge and professional skills in professional field 3.8 Economics, as **he 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 scientific degree „Doctor of Science“ to Robert Jurczak, PhD in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics.

20.4.2024

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shteryo Nozharov