

OPINION

By Dimitar Ivanov Kostov, professor VUSI, thesis work for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"

Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional direction: 3.8. Economy

Author of the dissertation: Dr. Robert Yurchak

Dissertation topic: "Mechanism for innovation development in the agricultural and food sector in the context of regional economic integration"

I have been appointed to participate in the scientific jury by order No. 136/27.03.2024 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance Prof. Dun Boris Velchev.

I participate in the scientific jury with an opinion for the defense of the dissertation work on the topic: "Mechanism for innovative development in the agricultural and food sector in the context of regional economic integration" with author Dr. Robert Yurchak, PhD student in the Department of Finance.

1. General description of the presented materials

The author of the dissertation has submitted all the necessary documents according to the requirements and regulations of VUZF - Sofia.

The dissertation and the abstract are presented in electronic and paper form.

The declaration of originality of the dissertation work includes the necessary requirements that give me reason to be convinced that the dissertation work is entirely the authorship of the candidate and does not violate the copyrights of other persons.

With the said declaration, it is declared that this dissertation work does not duplicate materials from the dissertation work for obtaining the ONS "Doctor" by the same author.

The doctoral student declares that the results obtained and described in the dissertation work by other scientists are correctly cited in the bibliography in compliance with copyright.

The author declares that this dissertation work has not been submitted to other higher education institutions with a request to obtain the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

From the reference on the fulfillment of the scientometric indicators for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences", it can be seen that the author fully covers them.

The list of publications and their abstracts are presented as required. The reference for citations is also presented in the same way.

I accept the declaration of originality of the dissertation work and consider that it has original scientific and practical contributions.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Doctor Robert Yurchak was born in 1970. in Poland. He graduated from the Szczecin University of Technology with a degree in economic development. There is also another major in national security from the National University of Defense in Warsaw. He is a docent at the Academy of Applied Sciences in Konin. Conducts classes on Public Sector Management for public bodies and state administration and other disciplines.

There are several specializations in the field of economics and national security. He speaks Russian and English.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation work is very well designed. The materials are presented in a volume of 325 pages and include: an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, a list of references and 20 appendices. The presentation of the analysis of materials is indicated in 55 tables and figures. The bibliography is 178 sources in Polish and English. In connection with the dissertation, 35 publications were made, of which one was a monograph.

The agricultural policy of the European Union is one of the most important priorities, both for all member states and for each individual country. Poland is a country with highly developed agricultural production and has a leading role in the development of agriculture in the Union.

Each member state of the European Union has its own characteristics regarding the development of agriculture and must find the right way to be included in the EU CAP. This requires it to constantly justify its policy for the development of agriculture, taking into account the global problems of Europe and the world.

In this regard, I believe that the topic is dissertable, with a high degree of theoretical and practical importance, and the issues of innovation as a specific factor for economic growth are leading in the research.

The purpose of the dissertation work is very specific and fully corresponds to the title of the work. It is directly related to solving the problems of innovations in agriculture and specifies the need to develop a conceptual model for the mechanism of innovative development of the agricultural and food sectors in the EU countries.

The tasks related to the achievement of the goal are defined very correctly. I consider it necessary to note that they are arranged in such a sequence as to allow the achievement of the goal.

It should be noted that the first tasks are quite rightly related to analyzing the theoretical foundations of the formation of the EU CAP and reveal the essence, classification and types of innovations related to this policy.

It makes a good impression that already in the first tasks the questions for the study of the methodological approaches for the formation of inter-network innovation cluster structures are posed. In the last tasks of the research, forecasts for the sustainable development of the agricultural and food sectors in the EU

countries, as well as the prospective directions for the development of the innovation process in these sectors, are included for development.

The subject of the study is the economic mechanism for innovative development in both sectors. It is also defined in the very title of the dissertation work. It quite rightly includes 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 sectors.

The development methods used are both traditional and modern.

The information used to develop the dissertation work is related to the scientific achievements of local and foreign authors on the issues of the mechanism of innovative development of the agricultural and food sectors in relation to regional economic integration.

Contribution of the dissertation work is that the doctoral student has taken into account the legal provisions of the FAO, as well as the legal framework of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland.

The scientific hypothesis is related to the development of the theoretical and methodological foundations for the formation of the economic mechanism for innovative development of the agricultural and food sectors in the EU countries.

The development structure is in the traditional model, which I consider correct. The first section is theoretical-methodical and includes issues related to the creation of the economic mechanism for innovative development of the agricultural and food sectors. The CAP of the EU with its development trends is examined in great detail.

The author has made a detailed and in-depth analysis at a high scientific level of the essence of the EU CAP and its objectives. Innovation in practice, as well as the approach to studying and evaluating innovation, are also discussed here.

A contributing point is the determination of the types of innovation, which, according to the author, can be of a product and of a process. Their characteristic is related to the principle of combination, being technological, organizational and marketing in nature.

In connection with the classification of innovations in the agricultural and food sectors, the author has his own development, which is a personal contribution. The results of this study are indicated in the figure. In this regard, he defines a cluster as a network education from innovation systems to a value chain.

The second chapter is related to the state and main trends in the development of the agricultural sector in the EU. The research here is carried out in the context of the world experience, the experience of the EU and Poland. The author's contribution is his determination of the basic conditions that characterize innovative development. He considers these to be: environment, scientific

production, organizational-legal basis, investments, financial support, human resources, informational support and risks.

The doctoral student has made a thorough analysis of these conditions in the EU countries. He pointed out the implementation of new technologies that are related to the bio-economy and bio-technologies as an important factor of innovative development.

In this part of the dissertation, attention is paid to aspects of the experience of developed countries in terms of stimulating innovation processes. The author believes that these are the issues related to the concentration of resources and funds for priority innovation projects for competitive technologies in certain industries and for the construction of innovation technology clusters.

In this part of the development, attention is also paid to modern trends in the sustainable development of agriculture in Poland.

In the third part of the development, the methodological tools for evaluation and regulation of the regional market of food products and logistics services are indicated. A fairly detailed analysis shows that some countries have a very good level of food security, while others have a good and average level. The doctoral student made a scientific contribution to the calculation of the global food security index. Based on his own development, he calculates this index including three indicators, which include economic accessibility, quality and safety, and physical availability. The figure shows the integral indicator for six EU countries.

The author's own research into the categories of 'innovation' and 'innovation' food product has enabled him to identify the characteristics that should be used as the basis of a classification scheme for innovation food products. According to him, they are: according to their purpose, depending on the food group, according to the area of innovative transformation, depending on the modification of the food product and in relation to the market entity. This is a significant contribution.

The personal research done by the author provides an opportunity to justify the conditions for ensuring the logistics process in the agricultural and food sectors. Based on in-depth research, the author has established that the most important characteristic of logistics systems is the integral set of elements that interact with each other and take into account the entire complex of factors influencing both the size of material stocks and the intensity of internal production logistic flows.

The fourth part of the development is the main part of the dissertation work. It presents the conceptual model for innovative development of the agricultural and food sectors. Here are the most important contributions of the dissertation. The author has developed a program to manage commercial risks in these two sectors. In this section of the dissertation, the formation of an institutional mechanism for the development of the regional public-private partnership is substantiated.

In a certain sequence, the stages of the company's development strategy in the future are explained. The preliminary selection of risks, the plan for preventive measures and the final preparation of the risk implementation program.

The author has developed, based on his own research, a Concept for an integrated risk management system. In the dissertation work, it is presented in a figure. The developed matrix model for effective development of innovative products is also an in-house development. These two author's developments from the dissertation are the most significant contributions.

The dissertation also includes conclusions that summarize the overall development and indicate its contributions.

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

Dr. Robert Jurczak's dissertation is a remarkably well-done scientific study with a great theoretical contribution to science and a practical contribution to Poland's agriculture.

I will summarize the specific contributions as follows:

A. Scientific and theoretical contributions

1. Definition of the concept of "innovation" in the field of agricultural and food sectors.
2. Justification of a concept for innovative development of the agricultural and food sectors.
3. Development of a methodology for consumer choice of innovative products.
4. An institutional mechanism for the creation and development of a regional public-private partnership has been developed.
5. Methodological approaches have been developed for the formation of inter-network innovation cluster structures.

B. Scientific and practical contributions

1. A program has been developed for the management of commercial risks in the agricultural and food sectors.
2. A forecast for sustainable innovative development of the agricultural sector in EU countries has been prepared.
3. Measures and recommendations are proposed for the formation of an institutional mechanism for the development of a public-private partnership within the framework of the digital economy.

5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

The total number of publications on the dissertation work is 35, of which 2 are monographs. All of them are related to the dissertation work and its subject matter.

6. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

In order to acquire the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences", according to the minimum national requirements, the author has covered all groups of indicators and exceeded some of them by the number of points.

7. Abstract

The content of the abstract fully corresponds to the content of the dissertation. It was prepared according to the requirements of the regulations - national and VUZF.

8. Critical notes and recommendations

I consider it necessary to remove the materials of a practical nature from the dissertation work and provide them to the EC of the EU.

CLOSING

The dissertation work is a fully completed scientific research with great theoretical and practical importance for science and practice.

The large number of publications made by the author and his significant teaching and administrative activities show that he has deep scientific knowledge.

The dissertation fully complies with the ZRASRB and its regulations for application, as well as with the rules for acquiring the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" at VUZF.

This gives me reason to confidently give my POSITIVE assessment of the conducted research, as well as to propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the scientific degree "DOCTOR OF SCIENCES" to Dr. Robert Yurchak in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences and professional direction 3.8. Economy.

10.04.2024

Prepared the opinion:

Prof. DS. Dimitar Kostov