

REVIEW

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Professional field: 3.7 Administration and Management

Industrial Management Department

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Regarding: competition for obtaining the academic position PhD in:

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

Professional field: 3.7 Administration and Management

Doctoral Program: Organization and Management out of the Sphere of Material
Production (Public Administration)

Author: **MEcon Maksims Kaimovs**

Dissertation topic: **Management of Waste Generation and Treatment
Processes in the Baltic Sea Region Countries**

Scientific supervisor: **Prof. Dr. Mihail Mihaylov**

Plovdiv

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1. Relevance and significance of the developed scientific problem

EU waste policy aims to protect the environment and human health and promote the efficient use of resources as well. In this regard, waste management can be seen as a key element for achieving sustainable growth of the European economy. Waste management is a complex process and requires active participation of central and local governments, businesses, households and individuals. In-depth scientific research is crucial for waste management to develop sustainable solutions and advance treatment technologies.

I believe that studying waste management issues in the Baltic Sea region countries, both in theoretical and applied science, helps protect the environment, conserve natural resources, and reduce pollution.

2. General characteristics and structure of the dissertation work

The dissertation work contains the following sections: introduction, three chapters, conclusions, literature review, list with tables and figures and has a length of 204 pages. The structure corresponds to the purpose and the tasks set to be solved. The literature review contains 268 sources in the field of sustainable development and waste management. A number of data and analytical materials provided by statistical offices and departments were used; reports prepared by authorities and international organizations participating in the described processes, and results obtained by numerous researchers working in related scientific fields were considered.

The work is well illustrated and includes 20 figures and 17 tables. The following methods were used: literature review, information analysis, descriptive, quantitative and qualitative methods, statistical methods and others.

The introduction justifies the relevance of the study, hypotheses, goal, objectives, and subject of the study; the methods applied, limitations of the study, results, practical value, and proposals for defense.

In the first chapter, based on a comprehensive literature review, the concept of sustainable development is clarified. The main pillars of sustainable development are outlined from the perspective of regional development. The concept of sustainable regionality as one of the

subsystems of sustainability is introduced. The circular economy is cited as a transformative factor in business and development, facilitating the sustainability and a new way of thinking.

The second chapter examines the concept of waste generation essence and the treatment processes in the context of a circular economy. This chapter contains a detailed description of the waste treatment process; the advantages and disadvantages of different treatment methods are indicated. The implementation of these waste treatment methods in the countries of the Baltic Sea region is analyzed. The analysis developed by the author allows for the division of the countries of the Baltic region into different groups for the purposes of regression analysis.

Chapter Three contains additional justification for dividing the countries of the region into groups. As a basis for formulating conclusions and recommendations aimed at improving waste processing applied in the countries of the region, an analysis of the macroeconomic factors influencing waste management and processing in these countries is conducted.

The conclusion summarizes the results of the study, presents the findings and recommendations.

To conclude this section, I summarize that the dissertation work is structured according to the set aims and objectives of the research. The analysis of the researched problems is thorough and in accordance with the set goals and objectives of the study. I highly appreciate the excellent theoretical preparation and research abilities of the doctoral student, on the basis of which he formulates specific proposals of a practical nature.

3. Evaluation of the scientific results and contributions of the dissertation work

Two groups of scientific contributions reflecting the achievements of the doctoral student stand out: scientific and applied scientific.

Scientific contributions of the dissertation:

- a new approach to examining the concept of sustainability and its pillars is used i.e., the overlapping areas of these pillars are explained from a regional development perspective;
- a new concept of sustainable regionality, differing in terms of the approach to regional development is developed; a definition of the introduced concept is proposed;

- macroeconomic indicators are defined as a tool for managing waste treatment through regulation and administration of these indicators.

Scientific and applied contributions:

- a study on waste generation and treatment processes was conducted in two groups of countries: old market economies (group I – Denmark, Germany, Finland and Sweden) and new market economies (group II – Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland);
- in order to improve the management of waste generation and treatment processes in the countries of the Baltic Sea region, specific recommendations have been formulated that have a high degree of applicability to the responsible parties..

The results of the study can be used to increase the efficiency of waste generation and treatment management processes. They can also be used by the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Ministry of Health, as well as by businesses and non-profit organizations.

4. Assessment of dissertation publications

In connection with the dissertation work, three independent articles have been published. I accept all publications as directly relevant to the dissertation work. They summarize and publish essential problems and results of research in the dissertation work.

5. Assessment of the abstract

The presented abstract of the dissertation is 47 pages long. It reflects the goals and objectives of the research, the emphases of the individual chapters of the dissertation, and the author's contributions. The abstract is developed in accordance with the requirements for its preparation and reflects the main results and contributions of the dissertation.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

The dissertation is a completed comprehensive scientific study, with a fulfilled goal and solved tasks, containing original scientific results.

I have no critical remarks. The two recommendations made during the advance discussion have been removed by the doctoral student in the final version of the dissertation work.

Question: What is your assessment of the attitudes and capacity of the responsible participants in managing waste generation and treatment processes?

7. Conclusion

The dissertation of **Maksims Kaimovs** proposed for defense, is in accordance with the norms of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASRBA), the Regulations for its Implementation and the Regulations of the Higher School of Security and Economics (HSSE).

The work represents a completed study with certain scientific and applied scientific results and meets the requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

Taking into account the achieved scientific and applied scientific results in the dissertation, the fulfillment of the national scientometric criteria and the successful scientific research activity of the doctoral student, I give my positive assessment of the dissertation on the topic **Management of Waste Generation and Treatment Processes in the Baltic Sea Region Countries**.

I propose that the esteemed scientific jury decide to award Maksims Kaimovs the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.7. Administration and management.

14.01. 2026

Plovdiv

Reviewer:

/ Prof. Toni Mihova Ph.D./

