

STATEMENT

of a PhD thesis submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.7. Administration and management

Author of the dissertation: Lilia Nedkova Nedeva

Topic on the dissertation: „Social capital management in municipal organizations (based on the example of Plovdiv municipality)“

Member of the scientific jury: Assoc. Prof. Georgi Dimov Georgiev PhD, Technical University - Sofia, Branch Plovdiv, in the area on the higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal sciences, Professional direction 3.7. Administration and Management, scientific major "Economics and Management "

1. Relevance of the problem developed in the dissertation in scientific and applied terms.

Municipal organizations are an important participant in the socio-economic processes in Bulgaria. They play an active role in solving significant problems at local level. That is why their effective management is important for the successful development of municipalities in our country. Municipal organizations can also be a key factor not only in addressing certain problems, but also in forming a sustainable and proactive civil society.

The specificity of municipal organizations is embedded both in their legal regulation and in the role assigned to them as an instrument of local self-government.

In this regard, the considered issue related to the management of social capital in these specific municipal management structures in Bulgaria is significant and relevant in a scientific and applied scientific aspect.

These facts give me reason to accept the presented doctoral dissertation as relevant.

2. Degree of knowledge of the state of the problem and creative interpretation of the literary material

The doctoral student demonstrates good knowledge of the research problem. A total of 136 sources of information have been used, of which 76 in Bulgarian and 60 in English. The same are correctly cited and indicated in the bibliography of the dissertation work.

In the first chapter, the category of "social capital" is defined in detail and very well, tracing its development over the years. Its main components and measurements are derived. Figure 6 in the paper presents the place of social capital in building relationships in municipal organizations.

The research conducted is based on sufficient, well-selected and systematized empirical material, in accordance with the goals and objectives of the study.

Overall, the doctoral student shows good knowledge of the research subject and demonstrates scientific and research skills in exploring opportunities for improving the management of social capital in Plovdiv municipality, deriving results and formulating recommendations.

3. Compliance of the chosen research methodology and the set goal and objectives of the dissertation with the contributions achieved

The stated goal of the dissertation is to study the management of social capital in the municipality of Plovdiv and to derive guidelines for its improvement. The methodology chosen, briefly presented in the second chapter of the study, includes the use of two main tools – 1/ an in-depth interview with a general part and 10 researched items and 2/ a survey with 40 questions. It has allowed the PhD student to show the role and influence of social capital in the municipality of Plovdiv and to derive guidelines for its improvement. The results of the study are clearly shown in 49 graphs.

I believe that the methodology developed has basically allowed the goal and objectives set in the introduction to the dissertation to be achieved.

4. Scientific and/or applied scientific contributions of the dissertation work

The doctoral student claims a total of six contributions to the thesis. Three of them are presented as scientific-applied and three as practical-applied contributions.

I accept the stated contributions.

5. Assessment of the publications connected to the dissertation

A total of 6 individual publications are presented, directly related to the dissertation work and published in the period 2021 - 2022. All of them are in English. They provide the minimum required for the award of the

the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the professional direction 3.7. Administration and management.

6. Opinions, recommendations and remarks

I have no significant critical comments on the research presented. The paper would have benefited if, in the third chapter, along with the OP "Regions in Growth", the OP "Technical Assistance" 2021-2027 has also been considered as a potential source of project funding for indirect and direct financing of projects for the development of social capital in municipal organizations.

From a publications perspective, I recommend that Lilia Nedkova Nedeva not interrupt and continue to promote the results of the research through participation in scientific forums and specialized publications.

7. Conclusion

The dissertation work proposed for defense by Lilia Nedkova Nedeva is in accordance with the norms of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the regulations of the Academy of National and Information Security. It presents a completed study with specific scientific and applied scientific results and meets the requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Based on the above arguments, I give a positive assessment of the dissertation on the topic „Social capital management in municipal organizations (based on the example of Plovdiv municipality)“. I propose to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to make a decision to

award Lilia Nedkova Nedeva the scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 3.7. "Administration and Management".

Date: 14.01.2026
Plovdiv

Member of the scientific jury:.....
(Assoc. Prof. Georgi Georgiev PhD)