

OPINION

by Prof. Atanas Georgiev Lyondev, PhD

on a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of 'Doctor'
in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional
field 3.7. Administration and management

by Maxims Kaimovs

on the topic:

**„Management of Waste Generation and Treatment Processes in the Countries
of the Baltic Sea Region“**

The preparation of this opinion was commissioned by a decision of the Academic
Council, as determined by Order of the Rector of the Academy of National and
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1. Relevance of the Dissertation Topic

The topic of the dissertation „Management of Waste Generation and Treatment Processes in the Baltic Sea Region Countries" is extremely timely and has high social significance in the contemporary scientific and societal context. It is directly related to the global challenges of the 21st century – sustainability, circular economy, and environmental security. The focus on macroeconomic factors affecting waste management in the Baltic Sea region allows for the extraction of valuable insights for regional cooperation and the harmonization of policies between old and new market economies.

2. Compliance of quantitative results with the minimum national requirements for obtaining a PhD

The materials presented in the current procedure comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and its implementing regulations. To obtain the degree of PhD, the candidate must defend a dissertation under the conditions and procedures of the LDASRB. Only those who meet the minimum national requirements under Article 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the LDASRB are allowed to defend a dissertation. The publications under review serve as evidence of the author's scientific activity in the field of science chosen for their academic growth. The quantitative assessment meets the minimum required points according to the groups of indicators specified in the Implementing Regulations of the LDASRB for Field 3: Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, professional area 3.7: Administration and Management. Maksims Kaimovs has presented 3 (three) scientific publications (one publication has been accepted for printing. An official note has been provided) on the topic of the dissertation, with a total of 30 points for all the publications.

3. Understanding of the State of the Problem

The candidate demonstrates excellent knowledge of the state of the problem, both theoretically and empirically. The candidate shows comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the state of the problem. The analysis covers both the broad theoretical framework (sustainable development, circular economy) and the specific empirical and technical aspects of waste treatment methods (recycling, waste-to-energy, biological treatment). The scientific tools used are appropriate and up-to-date.

The scientific thesis is clearly formulated, and the methods used are appropriate for achieving the goal. The empirical analysis is carried out based on the conducted research, which demonstrates the candidate's ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice.

4. Overall opinion on the construction of the dissertation

The dissertation is well-structured, logically coherent, and meets the requirements for a scientific work of this caliber. The structure is logical, consistent, and fully appropriate for the objectives set. The work follows the classic academic model: 1. Theoretical framework (Chapter I). 2. Empirical basis and methods (Chapter II). 3. Analysis and results (Chapter III). 4. Conclusions and recommendations (Conclusion). This approach ensures a smooth transition from theory to practical conclusions.

5. Scientific Contributions to the Research

The main contributions include:

- Theoretical: Development of the concept of sustainability as a complex evolutionary system and introduction of the concept of "Sustainable Regionality" as the fourth pillar of development.
- Methodological: Classification of countries based on a macroeconomic criterion and application of comprehensive statistical analysis (correlation and regression).
- Practical: Identification of priority macroeconomic factors and development of specific recommendations for improving processes in the region.

6. Evaluation of the abstract

The presented abstract contains the main problems in the dissertation and the methods for their resolution. The abstract has been developed in accordance with the requirements and reflects the main points and contributions of the dissertation.

7. Presence or absence of plagiarism in the dissertation

In accordance with Article 10, paragraph 2 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, I do not have information and consider that there is no plagiarism in the dissertation submitted for evaluation.

8. Conclusion

The presented dissertation constitutes a scientific study of a problem that is interesting from both a theoretical and practical perspective, which has been successfully analyzed and for which proposals for improvement have been made. I believe that the results obtained in the dissertation and the publications on the topic provide sufficient grounds for the successful defense of the dissertation. The doctoral candidate has achieved the set goal by conducting a comprehensive theoretical analysis and carrying out an original empirical study. The results of the research are reliable and valid,

confirming the initially formulated scientific thesis. The conclusions and recommendations drawn are specific and applicable in the practice of managing waste generation and treatment processes.

The dissertation is solid, scientifically significant, and meets the requirements for original research. In view of the achieved results and contributions, I propose that the dissertation be admitted for public defense for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "PhD."

The above gives me grounds to give my positive opinion on Maxims Kaimovs obtaining the PhD degree in the professional field 3.7 Administration and Management, with the dissertation topic „Management of Waste Generation and Treatment Processes in the Countries of the Baltic Sea Region".

12.01.2026

Plovdiv

Prepared the opinion by:

Prof. Atanas Lyondev, PhD