

ОPINION

by Prof. Valentina Nikolova – Alexieva, PhD

regarding

dissertation for the acquisition of 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

Maxim 's Kaimovs

on the topic:

" In the government on the processes of generation and treatment on waste in the countries from the region on Baltic sea "

The preparation of this opinion was assigned by a decision of the Academic Council, determined by Order of the Rector of the Academy of National and Information Security No. 1 09/05.01.2025, city of Plovdiv

1. Relevance of the research problem

The topic of the dissertation is extremely relevant. The author clearly states that the modern world is faced with increased rates of scientific and technological progress and rising standards of living, which leads to increasing pressure on global resources and the environment. The concepts of sustainable development and circular economy are presented as a response to these challenges related to resource depletion, pollution, climate change and increasing amounts of waste. The study focuses on macroeconomic factors influencing the generation and treatment of waste in the context of sustainable development and the circular economy, which is essential for modern societies and economies.

The relevance is also enhanced by the time scope of the study (2009-2023), which covers recent data and trends.

2. Compliance of the quantitative results of the candidate's scientific activity with the minimum national requirements for obtaining the ESD "Doctor"

From the presented Report as a quantitative assessment, it is seen that Kaimov's covers the minimum required points by groups of indicators according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB in area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.7 Administration and Management. 3 (three) scientific publications are presented, one of which has been accepted for publication. In total, for all publications, the doctoral student has 30 points.

3. Knowing the status of the problem

The author demonstrates very good knowledge of the theoretical foundations and modern management of waste generation and treatment processes.

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

In the theoretical part, based on a comprehensive literature review, the concept of sustainability and sustainable development, as well as the main pillars of sustainable development, from the perspective of regional development, are clarified. The concept of sustainable regionality is introduced as one of the subsystems of sustainability. The circular economy is also examined as a factor facilitating the development of sustainability and a new way of thinking.

The second chapter examines the concepts and different views on the nature of waste generation and treatment processes in a circular economy. This chapter contains a detailed description of waste treatment processes; their advantages and disadvantages are indicated. The implementation of these

waste treatment methods in the countries of the Baltic Sea region is analyzed. The developed analysis allows the division of the countries of the region into different groups for the purposes of regression analysis.

Chapter Three provides additional justification for the division of the countries in the region into groups. An analysis of the macroeconomic factors that influence waste management and processing in the groups of countries is presented, which is the basis for formulating conclusions and recommendations aimed at improving the waste processing processes applied in the countries of the region.

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

The author successfully connects theoretical statements with practical aspects of management, which shows the ability for critical thinking and scientific interpretation. The dissertation work has developed in-depth analyses of the research problems, in accordance with the set goals and objectives of the study. I highly appreciate the excellent theoretical preparation of the doctoral student and the research abilities, on the basis of which he formulates specific proposals of a practical nature.

4. Structure of the dissertation

The dissertation work contains *an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, a list of tables and figures and covers 204 pages* . The structure corresponds to the goal and the tasks set to be solved. The literature 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, as well as results obtained by numerous researchers working in related scientific fields. The development is excellently illustrated and includes *20 figures and 17 tables* . The following methods were used: *literature review, information analysis, descriptive method, quantitative and qualitative methods, statistical methods and others.*

The structure is consistent with the goals and objectives of the study and allows for clarity and logical coherence between the individual parts.

5. Scientific contributions to the study

Scientific contributions:

- a new approach to considering the concept of sustainability and its pillars, as well as the overlapping areas of these pillars, are explained from a regional development perspective;

- a new concept of sustainable regionality has been developed, which differs significantly from the idea of regional sustainability in terms of the approach to regional development; a definition of the introduced concept is proposed;
- The macroeconomic indicators that have priority importance for the processes of waste generation and treatment have been determined, as a tool for managing waste treatment through regulation and administration of these indicators.

Scientific and applied:

- a study 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) on waste generation and treatment processes;
- formulating specific recommendations with a high degree of applicability to responsible parties to improve the management of waste generation and treatment processes in the countries of the Baltic Sea region.

The results of the study can be used to increase the efficiency of waste generation and treatment management processes. They can 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.

6. Evaluation of the abstract

The abstract correctly and adequately reflects the content, structure and main results of the dissertation work. It clearly presents the goal, tasks, scientific thesis, methodology, main results and scientific contributions. The figures and tables included in the abstract correspond to those in the dissertation, which contributes to its clarity and readability.

7. Presence or absence of plagiarism in the dissertation work

There are no signs of plagiarism in the presented dissertation. All sources used are correctly cited and included in the bibliography, while academic ethics and good scientific practices are observed.

8. Conclusion

The dissertation presents an in-depth and up-to-date study of the macroeconomic factors influencing waste generation and treatment in the context of sustainable development and circular economy in the Baltic Sea Region. The author demonstrates excellent knowledge of the problem,

building on existing concepts with the introduction of “sustainable regionality”. The structure of the work is logical and consistent, and the methodology used (correlation and regression analysis of time series) is adequate for the set goals.

The scientific contributions are clearly formulated and include both theoretical (new concept) and empirical (identification of specific factors and differences between groups of countries) results. Overall, the dissertation appears well-structured, methodologically sound and with clear scientific contributions that contribute to the development of the scientific field.

From the above, I give my **positive opinion** on acquiring **the ESD "doctor" from Maxim's Kaimovs**, in the professional field 3.7 Administration and Management, with the topic of the dissertation **"Management of waste generation and treatment processes in the countries of the Baltic Sea region"**.

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Plovdiv

Prepared an Opinion:

/ Prof. V. Nikolova – Alexieva, PhD /