



EVALUATION REPORT

From: Associate Professor Dr. Katia Emilova Kirilova, University of National and World Economy – Sofia, Department of Public Administration, Associate Professor of scientific specialty “Organization and management outside the field of material production (Electronic management, Administrative services)”, Doctor of scientific specialty 05.02.03 National Economy /Regional Economy and Administration/

Regarding: dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the scientific specialty “National Economy (incl. Regional Economy and History of the National Economy)”

Author of the dissertation: Petya Dobrinova Atanasova
Topic of the dissertation: *“Intelligent specialization of the regional economy (the example of Yambol district)”*

Reason for the evaluation report: participation in the composition of the scientific jury on defense of the thesis according to Order № 1123 / 20.05.2021 of the Rector of Trakia University.

1. Information about the PhD student

The PhD student studied under a doctoral program at the Department of Regional Development, Faculty of Economics, Trakia University, according to the Order for enrollment of the Rector of the Trakia University № 479 / 01.03.2018, with a term of study of four years. Supervisor is Prof. Dr. Yuliana Ivanova Blagoeva – Yarkova.

2. Brief information about the dissertation

The dissertation submitted for an opinion in terms of structure and volume meets the conditions for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". In structural terms, the development is presented in an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, table of contents, appendices, list of figures, list of tables, list of appendices. The dissertation is precisely formed in a volume of 222 pages, of which 198 pages of main text and appendices. 179 sources in Bulgarian and English, normative documents and Internet addresses were used. 45 figures and 27 tables are included. The approach to draw conclusions after each chapter of the development is correctly applied.

In terms of content, the introduction presents the relevance of the studied issues in the context of the intelligent specialization of the regions. It precisely and clearly defines the object, subject, purpose, and tasks of scientific research. In the dissertation the thesis of the research is correctly defined, namely: “Yambol district has resources and opportunities for intelligent and competitive economy, but there are problems before developing the innovation potential, the solution of which is related to policy at national level and measures at regional level. and local level”, which was confirmed based on the analysis and clearly systematized the main conclusions at the end of the study.

In the first chapter the theoretical bases and the methodical questions of the specialization of the regional economy are considered. Concepts for spatial distribution of economic activities are presented through analysis of various theories and research. The content and the role of the production specialization of the regional economy are clarified, through various author's statements. From the point of view of the scientific problem and in accordance with the purpose of the research, emphasis is placed on the intelligent specialization, as the own definition of intelligent specialization is proposed.

The object of analysis of the second chapter is the intelligent specialization in Bulgaria. The strategic guidelines for intelligent specialization at the national level are presented. An analysis has been performed and the trends in four thematic areas of intelligent specialization in Bulgaria have been outlined. In accordance with the scientific issues of the study, a detailed analysis of the regional specialization in activities with different technological level was performed.

The third chapter in terms of content is focused on the specialization of the regional economy in Yambol district. The level of development of the regional economy in the district is presented. Based on the presented methodology, the specialization and concentration of the regional economy in the considered region are analyzed. Sectoral groups with a leading regional effect have been identified. It has been established that the Yambol district is establishing itself in the recommended direction of the intelligent specialization "Industry for Healthy Living and Biotechnology".

The conclusion gives a summary of the achieved results.

3. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results

As a result of the development of the dissertation, the desired and necessary results have been achieved in the direction of defining proposals for priorities and measures for the development of intelligent specialization. I find the main tasks of the research to be fulfilled, and the goal of the dissertation to be achieved. Based on a theoretical study and a proposed methodological approach, an analysis of the level and dynamics of the regional economy of Yambol district was performed. As a result, specific recommendations have been made on the three leading objects of impact, namely: human resources, economic entities, and territory.

4. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

I accept the following scientific and scientific-applied contributions to the dissertation, namely:

- A literature review of the author's understandings and various theories related to the regional economy, the spatial distribution of production activities, as well as research and theories of regional specialization has been made. As a result, the basic concepts and their essence in the dissertation are clarified.
- An author's definition of intelligent specialization based on an analysis of EU policies and practices is proposed.
- A methodology for analysis of the specialization of the regional economy is proposed, which covers three approaches for reflecting the regional specialization, namely: general specialization, export specialization and intelligent specialization.

- A study of the specialization of the regional economy in Yambol district was conducted through the three approaches in the methodology and based on specifically selected indicators.
- Recommendations have been made for achieving intelligent specialization, highlighting the opportunities for the impact of these measures in the direction of adaptation to modern conditions and challenges.

5. Evaluation of the publications on the topic of the dissertation

It is evident from the documentation that a total of 3 publications are indicated in the dissertation. All publications are on the topic of the dissertation and provide the necessary publicity of the research.

6. Evaluation of the abstract

The presented abstract accurately and completely reflects the goals, objectives, and structure of the dissertation, as well as the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results.

7. Critical notes, recommendations, and questions

I recommend the author of the dissertation to continue his research in the field of intelligent specialization at different levels. The achieved results can be upgraded by expanding the focus and scope of the analyzed problems and exploring new relationships and dependencies.

8. Conclusion

I believe that the dissertation submitted to me for opinion by Petya Dobrinova Atanasova on "Intelligent specialization of the regional economy (the example of Yambol district)" for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" fully meets the regulations and requirements for this type of development. The scientific and scientific-applied results described above have been achieved in it. **Therefore, I express my general positive opinion and recommend the esteemed scientific jury to vote FOR the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Petya Dobrinova Atanasova in the scientific specialty "National Economy (incl. Regional Economy and History of the National Economy)".**

11.06.2021
Sofia

Signature

Заличено!
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kirilova