

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY
BY PROCEDURE FOR ACQUISITION
OF ESD „DOCTOR“
DOCTORAL PROGRAM:
"FINANCE, MONEY CIRCULATION,
CREDIT AND INSURANCE (FINANCE)“

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Ivanov Milinov, Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov"- Svishtov, Department of "Finance and Credit".

Author of the dissertation: Nikolay Kirilov Kalistratov, Doctoral No. D010221242, full-time doctoral studies, education financed by the state, by field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction: 3.8. Economics, PhD program: "Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance (Finance)".

Dissertation topic: "Influence of the shadow economy on tax revenues in Bulgaria"

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Stoyan Prodanov

This opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the existing Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republik of Bulgaria, the Implementing Regulations and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff an the "D. A. Tsenov" Akademy of Ekonomist - Svishtov.

I. General characteristics of the dissertation work

The thesis project submitted for review on a topic "Impact of the Shadow Economy on Tax Revenues in Bulgaria", authored by Nikolay Kirilov Kalistratov is in the volume of 191 standard pages, which includes title page, table of contents, introduction, main text of three chapters, conclusion, bibliography and appendices.

The development is illustrated with 41 figures and a list of 140 used and cited literary sources.

The scientific development of the author Nikolay Kirilov Kalistratov has the character of a dissertation work, which is a study of an actual problem of a financial and economic nature.

The title of the dissertation is well formulated, presenting the current issues under consideration, related to the phenomenon of the "gray" economy, widespread in time and space, in different countries and forms of public organization, which limits the generation of public revenues, and hence the possibilities of parties to provide public goods. It examines the "gray" economy as a persistent global phenomenon, with deep historical roots especially in political instability caused by frequent changes of governments and parliaments, suggesting the need for a deeper analysis of its causes, dimensions and impact in order to formulate effective policies to reduce its negative impact on the economy and society.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation.

The methodology of the research is based on used specialized literature and the current regulatory framework, applying the methods of analysis and synthesis and the principles of the comparative, logical and systematic approach. The author demonstrates good scientific style and analytical thought. The dissertation work has an approved standard structure, which consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of used and cited references, a reference for compliance with the national requirements under the PP of ZRASRB, a declaration of originality.

In the introduction correctly for presented object, subject, research thesis, the main goal and the tasks that the research sets itself.

In the first chapter, a comprehensive theoretical review of the concept of "gray economy" is made, presenting a theoretical introduction to the tax system and its problems, their interrelationships with the business environment and the "shadow economy" phenomenon.

In the second chapter, the aspects of the development of the gray economy phenomenon and the negative impact on the generation of public revenues are analyzed. The author analyzes the effects of various methods of combating the shadow economy and presents the need to use a holistic approach in combating it.

The third chapter presents an empirical study of businesses and citizens in relation to the shadow economy and tax avoidance. Measures to limit the negative influence of the shadow economy on tax revenues in Bulgaria are analyzed.

In the conclusion, it summarizes the conclusions of the three chapters and the necessary measures to limit the negative influence of the shadow economy on tax revenues in Bulgaria.

The author's abstract is developed in the necessary volume - 56 pages, standard structure and information that corresponds to the content of the dissertation work, reflects the achieved results and the main points of contribution summarized by the author.

The necessary publications (a study and two reports presented at scientific conferences) are attached to the dissertation, which include important parts of the author's research.

III. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation work.

The dissertation has its scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the field of finance, which build on research in the field of harmonization of European taxation and tax control.

The main scientific and applied contributions of the author can be presented:

First. The topicality of the issues related to the influence of the gray economy on tax revenues, the capacity of the state to finance public policies are substantiated.

Second. Tax morale, which defines individuals' willingness and willingness to pay their taxes and comply with tax laws as a complex phenomenon dependent on multiple factors, is debated. Arguments are presented from the perspective of different ethical schools and the ethical dilemmas of taxation are examined.

Third. The benefit of applying a holistic approach to the study of the shadow economy is argued.

Fourth. The problems of tax legislation in Bulgaria are analyzed and the main methodological problems before the redesign of taxation to reduce the shadow economy are defined.

Fifth. Empirical research was conducted, including a survey on the effects of the gray economy and the attitudes of businesses and citizens. Research based on qualitative methods is designed to enrich and expand the hypotheses in the

research process, offering new ideas and increasing the depth of analysis of the results obtained.

Sixth. Recommendations have been formulated to combat the shadow economy and effectively reduce its size in Bulgaria. They are based on good practices from Europe, the analysis of empirical research and the case studies studied in the dissertation. They include strategies for influencing various determinants of the gray economy, taking into account the difficulty and time needed to implement some of them.

IV. Dissertation critical notes, questions and recommendations.

The dissertation presented for review has no significant weaknesses, omissions or contradictions, which gives me the reason, instead of questions, to give my recommendation to the author, based on the practical experience he has and the significant reform ideas presented, to continue with scientific research on the subject until real results are achieved, related to a significant reduction in the size of the "gray economy" in our country.

V. Summary Conclusion and Opinion.

The peer-reviewed dissertation work on the topic: "Influence of the shadow economy on tax revenues in Bulgaria" with author Nikolay Kirilov Kalistratov, is an independent scientific development that has the features of an in-depth dissertation research on an important and current problem of a financial and social nature. That is why I believe that the dissertation work fully meets the criteria for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" from the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation in the SA "D.A. Tsenov" - Svishtov. Therefore, in my opinion, I give a positive assessment of the open procedure and recommend to the respected scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the doctoral program: "Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance (Finance)" to doctoral student Nikolay Kirilov Kalistratov.

Prepared by.....

07.05.2024

(Assoc. Prof. Dr Valentin Milinov)