STATEMENT

on a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree **"Doctor"** in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (agriculture)

Author of the dissertation: Ivanka Stoycheva Zhekova
PhD student in self-study program at the Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics at the Trakia University, Stara Zagora

Scientific adviser: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Desislava Ivanova

Topic of the dissertation:
„ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE"

Statement from: Prof. Dr. Nadka Stefanova Kostadinova, from the Department of Management, Faculty of Economics, Trakia University, Stara Zagora, field of higher education: 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", professional field: 3.8. "Economics", scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Agriculture)
appointed a member of the scientific jury by order № 2610 of 11.10.2021 by the Rector of the Trakia University, pursuant to Art. 5 (3) and (4) of the PRAS of the Trakia University.

1. 1. Relevance of the problem.

The presented dissertation deals with current and significant topics. The changes in the structure of the economic system are determined by the changes in the regional branch structure. Regions are an integral part of the national economy, forming a complex and interconnected system. The different manifestation of these factors in a given territory is the cause of regional disparities. This requires the expansion of the analyzes of these factors and processes, and their role for the economic development of the country and the regions.

2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

The main goal of the research conducted in the dissertation is precisely and clearly formulated, the object of research is correctly chosen - the regional branch structure at national and regional level. The methodology used is adequately selected for the purpose and object of research, based on a wide range of economic and statistical methods for research, and assessment of the regional industry structure. The output information covers variation and time series. The results of the analysis are based on empirical research.

3. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results.

The dissertation has a total volume of 235 pages. The content of the dissertation is well presented and illustrated with 35 tables and 16 figures. The necessary correspondence between the different parts of the study has been reached. The work is structured in an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, ending, list of references, appendices.

219 literary sources were used in the dissertation, of which 37 in Bulgarian and 182 in a foreign language.

4. Discussion of the results and used literature.

The structure of the Dissertation reflects the research model adopted by the author.

In the first chapter the author has presented theoretical and methodological bases in assessing the regional industry structure. Emphasis is placed on the development of theories of economic growth, as well as the factors that characterize it. In a logical sequence, the doctoral student builds a methodology for assessing the regional industry structure based on regional efficiency and economic growth.

Chapter two presents the localization and specialization by regions and industries. The author correctly groups areas by the indicator "SSD" and localization coefficient. Shift share analysis is quite appropriately applied in the study of changes in employment by sectors of the economy and by regions in Bulgaria. A huge amount of statistical material has been processed, as a result of which the analysis performed by the author is comprehensive and proves the competence of the doctoral student.

In Chapter Three, a factor analysis and economic assessment of structural regional differences is performed. The districts of the country are ranked according to certain indicators, forming differences in the regional branch structure. The sum of the ranks presents a summary indicator that gives an idea of the approximate position of each area in terms of economic level and development potential.

Based on the survey, conclusions and recommendations have been formulated for each of the administrative regions of the country, which can be applied in formulating regional policies.

5. Contributions to the dissertation.
The significance and merits of the dissertation are reinforced by the scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions presented by the author, which I accept in full.

6. Critical notes and questions.
There are some technical errors of grammatical nature in the thesis, which in no way diminish the merits of the dissertation.

7. Published articles and citations.

The author has presented three publications related to the dissertation. Of these, two are independent in English and one is co-authored. One of the separate articles is cited.

The presented abstract is in a volume of 39 standard pages and objectively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the various economic research methods applied by the doctoral student, the summaries and conclusions made, I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of ZRASRB and the Rules of the Trakia University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it **POSITIVE**.

I allow myself to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively and to award **Ivanka Stoycheva Zhekova** the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**" in the scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture), professional field 3.8 Economics, field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences.

Заличено!

Date: 15.11.2021 г.   **STATEMENT**
Stara Zagora   **AUTHOR:** ....

(prof. dr. Nadka Kostadinova)