

OPINION

By:

Assoc. Prof. Vasil Stefanov Petkov, PhD

University of National and World Economy, Sofia

Scientific field: World Economy and International Economic Relations

Regarding:

A dissertation submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree “PhD” in World Economy and International Economic Relations

Author of the dissertation: SIMEON STOILOV STOILOV

Title of the dissertation: INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND ITS ROLE IN THE TRANSITION TOWARD INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BULGARIAN ECONOMY

1. Information about the doctoral candidate

The doctoral candidate was enrolled in a doctoral programme at the International Economics Section of the Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in the doctoral programme World Economy and International Economic Relations.

2. General characteristics of the submitted dissertation

The dissertation consists of 235 pages and includes three chapters, a bibliography, a list of abbreviations used, tables, figures, and statistical sources. The bibliography contains 307 sources, in addition to 12 statistical sources.

The study represents a valuable contribution to scientific knowledge in the examined field, and its relevance is indisputable in view of the transformations taking place in technological development, geopolitical processes, and the growing importance of innovation.

The introduction contains all the main components – object and subject of the study, research questions, aim and objectives, research limitations, research methodology, thesis and hypotheses, as well as a brief presentation of the structure of the dissertation. The aim of the study and the research objectives correspond to the content and direction of the dissertation. The thesis is precisely formulated, and the adopted hypotheses are appropriate to the structure and content of the work.

The doctoral candidate presents in detail the information base, research methods, and limiting conditions, which objectively reflect the content of the study. The conclusions are correct, logical, and relevant to the predefined thesis, hypotheses, aim, and objectives.

The first chapter begins with a literature review, followed by definitions and the scope of international transfer of innovations and technologies. The interrelations and interdependencies between them and sustainable development, external factors for economic growth, global value chains and competition, as well as technological sovereignty, are examined. The inclusion of interim conclusions at the end of the chapter is a well-chosen approach.

The second chapter is devoted to examining Bulgaria's position within the innovation environment of the EU and globally. Emphasis is placed on innovation development, the regulatory and institutional environment, and the protection of intellectual property. Finally, the economic foundations and indicators for a sustainable transition, energy transformation, national strategies, the investment framework, and the importance of a strategic approach for achieving success in the examined field are outlined.

The third and final chapter focuses on the study of models, effects, and the national perspective as components of the strategic approach. The conceptual framework is analysed, and historical and international parallels are drawn. A specific contribution is the development of a framework for a model assessing the multiplier effect, as well as a national roadmap for strategic implementation in Bulgaria.

The conclusion summarizes the main findings reached by the doctoral candidate, which are of significant practical importance.

3. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and applied research results

The presented dissertation possesses scientific and scientific-applied value, as it addresses issues that will become increasingly relevant.

The main scientific and applied results can be summarized as follows:

a strong knowledge of the relevant literature and careful use of specific terminology is evident;

- the literature has been analysed and systematised, and the use of such a large number of sources is commendable;
- throughout the exposition, the thesis, hypotheses, aim, and objectives of the research are substantiated through appropriate examples and original conclusions;
- the research methodology is labour-intensive, interesting, and productive;
- historical models are systematised and a comprehensive theoretical and conceptual model is developed;

- international and national models are analysed, on the basis of which valuable conclusions and recommendations are made;
- a model is formulated for the transformation of Bulgaria from a passive recipient into an active participant and exporter of innovative solutions;
- the examined case studies enrich the research and contribute to improving the quality of the work, as they substantiate the research thesis;
- the scientific apparatus is used precisely.

The dissertation reveals scientific and applied contributions that enrich existing theory and practice.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that the aim and objectives of the research have been achieved and that the main thesis has been proven under the formulated hypotheses.

The dissertation is entirely the author's own work, no plagiarism is identified, and the minimum national requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" are fulfilled.

4. Evaluation of the scientific and applied contributions

The author identifies the contributions of the dissertation by classifying them as scientific, empirical, analytical, and applied. These contributions can be accepted, although they could be formulated in a more concise and synthesised manner within 3–4 main contributions.

5. Evaluation of publications related to the dissertation

The publications submitted in connection with the dissertation topic exceed the required minimum. They address various aspects related to the dissertation topic and demonstrate that the doctoral candidate has worked systematically on and reflected deeply upon the subject matter. In addition, through these publications, the author's main achievements in the dissertation have gained public visibility.

6. Evaluation of the abstract

The submitted abstract meets the requirements. The doctoral candidate has conscientiously presented the main issues and achievements of the dissertation in the abstract. The most important research results are included. The stated contributions correspond to the thesis, hypotheses, aim, objectives, and results of the study.

7. Critical remarks, recommendations, and questions

I have no critical remarks.

During the defence, I would like the author to answer the following question:

“Is accelerated catch-up development in Bulgaria possible under the current conditions, in order to overcome the lag behind the examined EU Member States and to create prerequisites for achieving higher competitiveness?”

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the dissertation submitted for review possesses the necessary qualities and merits and meets all legal requirements, which gives me grounds to express my firm positive opinion on awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor of Economics” in the scientific field World Economy and International Economic Relations to the doctoral candidate Simeon Stoilov Stoilov.

I will vote “IN FAVOUR.”

02.02.2026 / Sofia

Signature:
(Assoc. Prof. Vasil Petkov, PhD)