



## STATEMENT

**By:** Assoc. Prof...Miglena Dimitrova Angelova

**University of National and World Economy** .....

**Doctoral programme:** "Organization and Management in Telecommunications and Post"

**Field of higher education:** 3. „Social, Economic and Legal Sciences“

**Professional direction:** 3.7. „Administration and Management“

**Regarding:** Dissertation for conferring the ONS "Doctor" on

Professional direction: 3.7. Administration and Management

Doctoral program "Organization and Management in Telecommunications and Post"

Department of "Management in Communications", UTP.

**Author of the dissertation:** Nikolay Krasimirov Nikolov

**Dissertation topic:** Concept for building an Intelligent (Smart) City (on the example of the Sofia)

**Basis for presenting the review/opinion:** participation in the scientific jury for the defense of a dissertation, in accordance with the Order №3-УПА-6/24.01.2024 of the Vice-rector for educational process and accreditation, ÜTP.



## **1. Brief information about the PhD student**

Nikolay Nikolov is a PhD student at the Department of Communication Management at the University of Telecommunications and Posts since March 2022. Before that, he was a graduate engineer in Automation since 2012, having successively completed a Bachelor's and Master's degree at Technical University -Sofia. Subsequently, he acquired the professional qualification of a Teacher, as well as a Teacher of Information Technologies from the Faculty of Engineering and Pedagogy of TU-Sofia, Sliven. In 2021 he achieved a Master of Telecommunications Manager, professional direction 5.3 "Communication and computer technology" from PU "Paisiy Hilendarski". In the last few years, the PhD student has been a teacher in two secondary schools in Sofia, having previously worked at CEZ as a Data Control Engineer. The entire educational and professional experience of the doctoral student provide the necessary basis and knowledge for the development of the presented dissertation work.

## **2. General characteristics of the presented dissertation**

The developed dissertation has a total volume of 170 standard pages, and is structurally divided into an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, references and appendices. The reference includes 179 cited sources, the main part of which are in English (130), 32 in Bulgarian, and 17 Internet sources are also cited. A total of 5 tables and 31 figures are included in the main text of the work.

## **3. Degree of knowledge on the research topic by the PhD student and relevance of the dissertation**

The topic of the dissertation is relevant, considering the fact that the concept of smart cities, and its application itself, is part of the development strategies of every modern city in the world that strives to achieve sustainable development and a

high standard of living for its residents. From this point of view, Sofia, as the largest city and capital of Bulgaria, should also focus purposefully on its strategic development policy.

The main goal of the research is well formulated - to establish the possibility of developing Sofia as an intelligent city.

The doctoral student has appropriately defined the object and subject of the dissertation, skillfully using the tasks and methodology by which he achieved the results in the dissertation and the claimed contributions.

#### **4. Assessment of scientific and applied scientific contributions**

The dissertation is a complete, logically coherent and well-structured scientific product. It clearly highlights the analysis of the development of smart cities, including through built technological infrastructure, the possibilities of Artificial Intelligence and the processing of a large array of data. In this regard, I consider that it contains the claimed contributions, which for me are applied scientific and applied and refer to a contribution to the enrichment of existing knowledge related to the concept of smart cities.

#### **5. Assessment of publications on the dissertation**

The PhD student presents a total of three publications, in two of which he is a co-author, and one is his own as an author. All publications present different aspects of the dissertation work. In this sense, the scientometric requirements regarding the publication activity of the dissertation student are satisfied.

#### **6. Evaluation of the abstract**

The abstract fully corresponds in terms of structure and content to the dissertation reviewed by me. Layout requirements are met and all required attributes are

included. By familiarizing yourself with the abstract, you can get a clear idea of the dissertation work and its results.

## **7. Critical notes, recommendations and questions**

I have no significant critical remarks on the dissertation work. At the same time, in my opinion, in the questionnaire (bearing in mind that the research collects information specifically for the city of Sofia, and the questionnaire itself is distributed on the Internet), considering the achieving greater precision in the results, it would be better to include additional questions related to the profile of responders, collecting information whether they are residents, traveling for work or visitors of the city.

Given the topicality of the problem under consideration, I would recommend the dissertation student to strengthen his publication activity by publishing his future works in English in global scientific databases. In this way, the results of his work will be even more visible to the scientific community.

From the point of view of the practical applicability of the dissertation work, I would recommend that it be brought to the attention of the management of the Sofia Municipality.

The comments and recommendations made do not reduce the merits of the developed dissertation work, but aim to support the dissertation student in his future scientific research. The dissertation fully meets the content and stylistic requirements for the acquisition of the "Doctor" Degree.

## **8. Conclusion**

The proposed dissertation work by PhD student Nikolay Krasimirov Nikolov on the topic "Concept for building an intelligent (Smart) city (on the example of Sofia)" is fully in accordance with the requirements for obtaining the educational

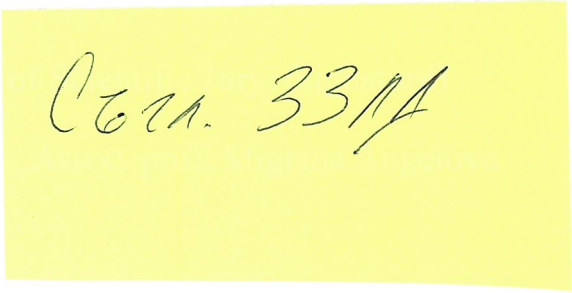
and scientific degree "Doctor" according to the applied legislation. The dissertation work is a logically complete and structured work with original, current and significant scientific-applied and applied contributions.

There are the necessary reasons to declare my positive assessment and I propose to the respected scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" in professional direction 3.7. "Administration and Management", doctoral program "Organization and Management in Telecommunications and Posts" by Nikolay Krassimirov Nikolov.

26.02.2024 г.

Sofia

Member



Cena. 331A