

REVIEW

for a dissertation on:

"SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL SOCIETY"

Doctoral student: **Vladimir Vladimirov – Zhitenski**

For the award of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in a scientific specialty "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (Social activities)", professional direction 3.4. Social activities, field of higher education education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences.

Research supervisor: Prof. Margarita Boneva, Doctor of Science

Author of the review: Associate Professor Miloslava Rusinova Yankova, Ph.D.

(Order No. RD-16-063/23.05.2023 of the Rector of Konstanti Preslavsky – University of Shumen)

I. Information about the applicant

Doctoral student Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov-Zhytenski was born in 1966 in Sofia. He graduated from the "Ilia Petrov" National School of Fine Arts, Sofia in 1985. During the period 1989-1995, he studied "Fine Art and Wall Paintings" at the National Academy of Arts, where he received a master's degree. During the period 2007-2010, he studied "Social Activities" at the Faculty of Education of the Konstantin Preslavski – University of Shumen and obtained the Master's degree.

In the period 1987-1988, he was a teacher of visual arts in 175 "Vasil Levski" elementary school, Sofia. During the period 1995-1999, he was a self-sufficient entrepreneur, realizing artistic projects and murals in a number of churches.

In 1999, he founded the construction company GP Group AD, where he is still the Chairman of the Management Board and the Executive Director. The company is socially engaged through donations for treatment abroad, including children, donations to various institutions and campaigns, many of which are personally initiated, donations for the reconstruction of religious buildings, scholarships for schoolchildren and students. Runs the most successful summer internship program for students in the field of construction every year.

The PhD student skilfully combines his scientific interests with pedagogical skills and entrepreneurial activity.

Vladimir Zhitenski possesses both leadership qualities, teamwork skills, a sense of responsibility, as well as good skills in using modern information and communication technologies in the social sphere. He speaks English at a very good level, and good Russian and Serbo-Croatian.

II. Actuality and significance of the issue

By order RD-10-383/27.07.2021, Vladimirov-Zhytenski was enrolled as a doctoral student in an independent form of study in the Department of Social Work, and by order RD-380/28.07.2022, he was dismissed ahead of schedule with right of defence.

Deepening contradictions of the modern world, among which socio-ecological problems occupy a special place, give rise to unpredictable humanitarian consequences for the changed reality. In this line of thought, the dissertation work "Socio-ecological problems of the global

society" not only reflects the scientific interests of the doctoral student, but also reveals its relevance as a response to the challenges posed by the need to find a balance between the values of the economic sphere and the values of the social sphere.

The pragmatic point of view explains the need to rethink the problem and the need for adequate managerial and institutional solutions.

This in turn requires, as the doctoral student notes, "environmental education and upbringing, environmental competence of the whole society, solved problems of sustainable development".

The development is distinguished by awareness in both theoretical and practical terms. References to literary sources provide the doctoral student with the necessary precision of the dissertation work.

III. General characteristics of the presented dissertation work

The dissertation is 251 pages long. It consists of an Introduction, three chapters, Conclusion, Conclusions, Recommendations, Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the study, References, Socio-ecological Literacy Assessment Survey and Appendices. The results of the empirical study are illustrated with 12 tables and 12 figures.

The bibliography includes 199 sources, of which 16 are normative documents, 107 in Bulgarian, 66 in Russian and 10 in Latin. The adopted structure is characterized by a sequence that reveals the logic of the analysis.

In the Introduction to the dissertation, Vladimir Vladimirov-Zhytensky substantiates the relevance and significance of the problem related to social ecology in the globalizing world, as well as the main approaches to the topic of environmental literacy, which directly corresponds to environmental security.

Based on the relevance of the topic of the dissertation, the goal and tasks of the research were set, the subject and the object were defined, the hypothesis of the research was established.

The research methodology is described, including expedient general and specific methods of scientific knowledge for the problem under consideration: theoretical analysis, system analysis, research and generalization of practices for collecting and processing information, empirical research, research of documents, observations, surveys, empirical - didactic studies on socio-ecological problems.

Chapter One "Globalization - Key Features" reflects the main features of the globalization process. The PhD student focuses on socio-ecological issues of globalization. He pays special attention to the crises in the globalizing world. A characterization of global anthropogenic pollution and its serious consequences for natural ecosystems and for man himself is made: anthropogenic pollution of the atmosphere; anthropogenic pollution of the hydrosphere; anthropogenic pollution of the lithosphere. The author of the dissertation analyzes environmental pollution with both biologically harmful substances and radioactive pollution. At the end of the first chapter, the doctoral student creates an idea about the anthropogenic electromagnetic field.

The theoretical analysis shows that the ecological crisis can be overcome through changes in the social environment by maintaining harmonious relations both at the global level between society and nature, and at the individual level.

In the second chapter, "Man and the global problems of our time", doctoral student Zhitensky presents the social dimensions of globalization.

The social dimension of globalization includes: a globalization process based on universally shared values, requiring states, international organizations, business, civil society and the media to assume their responsibility; to take their responsibility; compliance with the obligations and rights of international law, as economic development is based on compliance with human rights; ensuring the basic material and other demands, guaranteeing human dignity for all, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Rights n eradication of poverty; a sustainable development trajectory that creates and expands opportunities for all for sustainable livelihoods and employment, promotes gender equality and reduces inequality between countries and peoples; a more democratic governance of globalization that ensures greater voice and participation, as well as accountability, while ensuring full respect for the powers of the institutions of representative democracy and the rule of law.

According to Vladimir Vladimirov-Zhytensky, knowledge of the socio-ecological problems of globalization is a guarantee of their solution.

A special place is devoted to the connection "globalization-national security. The dissertation notes that security problems are almost always existential, and their solutions are most often political. In this line of thought, these problems can be managed relatively successfully and up to a point only as long as they lead to quantitative changes, and much more difficult when they lead to qualitative changes.

Particular attention is paid to the factors that pollute the environment, where man is seen as the main ecological object.

The doctoral student focuses on demographic problems and human needs in the globalizing world, paying special attention to the demographic crisis in Bulgaria.

The conclusion that Vladimir Zhitenski draws is that the formation of individuals sensitive to the current problems of the relationship between society and nature in the conditions of globalization is a kind of guarantee for the socio-ecological and national security of each country.

Neodevelopment is analyzed, where the problems that form the framework of society's underdevelopment in the future are examined, and the emphasis is on the eradication of poverty.

The focus of the final chapter two is on the issue of sustainable development. Its main characteristics are indicated. Of particular importance to the topic of the dissertation are the five main principles on which the concept of sustainable development is based: humanity is actually capable of giving development a sustainable and long-term character, so that it meets the needs of people today, without depriving future generations of the ability to satisfy their needs; available restrictions in the area of exploitation of natural resources are relative.

The third chapter, entitled "***A model for solving socio-ecological problems in the Republic of Bulgaria***" can be considered as a kind of empirical projection of the theoretical model formulated in the first and second chapters.

In the third chapter, social research is described.

Since the study was carried out through voluntary participation / from the point of view of sociology, it is the method of the respondents / 79 students - bachelors from the specialties "Preschool and primary school pedagogy" and "Social pedagogy" of the Faculty of Education of the Shumensky University took part in it. Konstanti Preslavsky – University of Shumen

under the supervision of 2020/2021 who study the discipline "Social Ecology". The obligation of absolute confidentiality has been observed.

Two methods were used to collect the necessary information in the field:

1. Theoretical analysis of the literature related to the researched topic.
2. Survey.

The survey was developed to assess socio-ecological literacy based on a theoretical analysis of the curricula and study plans for bachelors. It consists of 12 open-ended questions. The questions are selected on the basis of the studied ecological concepts and problems related to globalization and the socio-ecological problems of society, therefore the doctoral student defines them as pedagogical.

The processed results are indicated in tabular and graphical form as appended to the dissertation, which makes them more visual, but their analyzes are missing.

The conclusions about the socio-ecological literacy of the society derive from them.

As a result of the analyzes of the entire dissertation research, recommendations related to the solution of the socio-ecological problems of the global society are formulated, including first place in Bulgaria.

The aim of the study is to create a conceptual theoretical model for solving socio-ecological problems in accordance with the conditions and circumstances of the global society, based on a systematic analysis of globalization processes, security factors and problems related to anthropogenic environmental pollution.

In the **Conclusion**, PhD student Zhitenski points out that the "Global Crisis" is a characteristic feature of modern society. Despite the fact that the environmental problems of the global society are almost daily present in the media and global networks, and a person is episodically exposed to the negative impact of the polluted environment, modern societies have come to terms with this fact.

A project for the "Program for increasing the socio-ecological literacy of the population in the Republic of Bulgaria" was launched. It emphasizes socio-ecological education, as education for social development, which includes the socio-ecological dimensions of development.

The conclusions are contained in 6 paragraphs, which faithfully reflect the content of the dissertation.

Two recommendations are given regarding the implementation of the program for increasing socio-ecological literacy.

The abstract adequately reflects the structure and content of the dissertation work.

The presented 3 scientific publications correspond to the topic of the dissertation work.

The contributing moments are correctly indicated. They are the result of both the in-depth theoretical analysis of the problems under consideration, the existing international and Bulgarian documents, as well as the **empirical data from the research**. The emphasis on the practical applicability of the developed conceptual theoretical model for solving socio-ecological problems in the Republic of Bulgaria and a program to increase the socio-ecological literacy of the population in the Republic of Bulgaria deserve special attention.

IV. Critical notes and recommendations

1) There is an incommensurability between the chapters of the dissertation (first chapter 148 pages, second chapter 68 pages, third chapter 3 pages), Especially between the first and third chapters.

2) The results of the empirical research should be in the body of the dissertation, not in the appendix.

3) Specific detailed analyzes of the conducted research are missing.

V. Conclusion

Vladimir Zhitenski's dissertation, through its theoretical and practical results, despite the critical remarks and recommendations, meets the requirements of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria This gives me grounds for a positive assessment, as well as to propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov-Zhytensky in the scientific specialty "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (Social activities)" , professional field "Social Activities".

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Shumen

Prepared the review:
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