

## **REVIEW**

by Assos. Prof. Valentina Nikolova Vasileva, PhD  
„Angel Kanchev“ University of Ruse, Department of Pedagogy  
of the dissertation

of Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov-Zhytenski  
on the topic: "Social-ecological problems of global society"  
for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"  
in Higher Education Area 1 3. Social, economic and legal sciences  
Professional direction: 3.4. Social activities

Doctoral program: Organization and management outside the sphere of material production  
(Social activities)

Scientific supervisor: Prof. D.Sc. Margarita Kirova Boneva

This review was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff at the School of Higher Education, pursuant to Order No. RD-16 -063/23.05.2023 of the Rector of the „Konstantin Preslavski“ University of Shumen for the composition of the Scientific Jury for conducting a procedure for the public defense of a doctoral dissertation on the topic "Social-ecological problems of the global society", developed by Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov- Zhitensky for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" from a professional direction 3.4. Social activities, field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, doctoral program "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (Social activities)".

### **1. Brief biographical data**

Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov-Zhytenski was born on 16.05.1966 r. In 1985, he graduated from secondary education at the "Ilia Petrov" National School of Fine Arts in Sofia. In 1995, he graduated from higher education majoring in "Fine Art and Wall Paintings", EQD "Master", then in 2010 he obtained a Master's degree in Social Activities at „Konstantin Preslavski“ University of Shumen - Shumen. In 2021, he was enrolled as a doctoral student in an independent form of study (Order No. RD - 10-383/27.07.2021 of the Rector of the „Konstantin Preslavski“ University of Shumen) in professional direction: 3.4. Social activities, doctoral program: Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (Social activities) at the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Pedagogy of „Konstantin Preslavski“ University of Shumen. Dismissed with the right of defense, starting from 13.07.2022 (Order No. RD - 10-380/28.07.2022 of the Rector of the „Konstantin Preslavski“ University of Shumen). He is fluent in English, Russian and Serbo-Croatian languages, possesses a variety of digital skills.

He worked as a teacher of visual arts in 175 "Vasil Levski" Elementary School - Sofia.

In 1999, he founded GP Group AD, where he is still the Chairman of the Management Board and Executive Director.

The various positions held by the PhD student Vladimir Vladimirov-Zhytensky suggest the presence of a wide range of professional skills and extensive professional experience, which inevitably connect him with the issues of the dissertation work.

### **2. General description of the dissertation work and the materials attached to it**

For the preparation of the review, I was provided with a dissertation work and its accompanying: dissertation abstract and autobiography; a list of publications, a declaration of authorship, a reference to the moments of contribution and the relevant orders regarding the doctoral studies.

The dissertation work of Vladimir Vladimirov-Zhytensky is 251 pages long. The structure of the dissertation includes an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion; conclusions and recommendations, contributions of the dissertation work; list of publications on the dissertation work; references and appendices. The results of the empirical study are illustrated with 12 tables and 12 figures.

The bibliography covers 199 items. literary sources in Bulgarian, Russian and English. 3 publications were made on the subject of the dissertation.

The goal that the PhD student Vladimir Vladimirov-Zhytensky sets for himself is aimed at clarifying the environmental literacy of the young generation in higher schools and, on this basis, to create a conceptual theoretical model for solving environmental problems, in accordance with the conditions and circumstances of the country and the globalizing world.

In the introduction, Vladimir Vladimirov-Zhytensky substantiates the relevance and significance of the dissertation problem related to social ecology in the globalizing world. The ecological crisis, a result of anthropogenic pollution, gives rise to many problems related to people's health, environmental security, the problems of socio-ecological policy, globalization and the sustainable development of modern society. The dissertation is devoted to the main approaches to the problem of environmental literacy, directly related to environmental security.

Based on the topicality of the topic, the purpose and tasks of the research are defined, the subject and object are defined and a hypothesis of the research is raised.

In the introductory part, the methodology of the research is described, including expedient, adequate to the problem, general and specific methods of scientific knowledge: theoretical analysis, system analysis, study and generalization of practices for collecting and processing information, empirical research, study of documents, observation, surveys, empirical-didactic research on socio-ecological problems.

The first chapter "**GLOBALIZATION - ESSENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS**" is devoted to the essence and characteristics of globalization. Theoretically, the main directions and trends for studying the socio-ecological problems of globalization have been traced, with significant attention being paid to globalization in the context of its social dimension. The dissertation examines the crises in the global world, anthropogenic pollution and its serious consequences for natural ecosystems and for man himself, thus the ecological crisis can be resolved through changes in the social environment in the direction of maintaining harmony between society and nature on a global scale and between the social and the biological on an individual level.

In Chapter Two, entitled "**Man and the global problems of the present day**", the focus is on the social dimensions of globalization, namely, it is the result of human activity, i.e. it has an anthropogenic origin, and by its nature and character it is a social phenomenon, due to which in most cases it is considered through the prism of humanitarian studies. Particular attention is paid to the factors that pollute the environment. Man is seen as the main ecological object.

A significant place is devoted to the "globalization - national security" case study. It is focused on demographic problems and human needs in the global society. Building individuals with value orientations for understanding the current problems related to society-nature relationships in conditions of globalization is a kind of guarantee for the socio-ecological and national security of any country. PhD student Zhitenski also touches on the demographic problems of the globalizing world, paying particular attention to the demographic crisis in Bulgaria.

Of interest is the paragraph entitled "Noodevelopment", which examines the issues that form the framework of society's noodevelopment in the future and are related to the eradication of poverty.

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

The case study "globalization - socio-ecological problems" was analyzed. The socio-ecological problems of globalization are defined and the key features of globalization are outlined.

The plan and dynamics of the research are presented in the Third Chapter, entitled "Model for solving socio-ecological problems in the Republic of Bulgaria". In my opinion, it is more correct for the chapter to be titled "Empirical study of socio-ecological literacy of students majoring in Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy and Social Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy of "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, who study the discipline "Social Ecology".

In paragraph 1 "**Research problem and research procedure**" it is not mentioned how the survey of the students of the mentioned bachelor's programs corresponds to the goal set by the researcher, namely "on the basis of a systematic analysis of globalization processes, security factors and the problems related to anthropogenic environmental pollution to create a conceptual theoretical model for solving socio-ecological problems in accordance with the conditions and circumstances of the global society."

A didactic experiment and a pedagogical experiment are mentioned as methods for didactic research, but it is not clear how exactly these methods were implemented, no goals, tasks, working hypothesis, etc. Each experiment must necessarily have the following basic steps to conduct as a minimum: formulation of a hypothesis; organization of an experimental process; determining the dependent and independent variables; determination of experimental group; conducting the experiment; analysis and summary of results.

In the Conclusion, the PhD student Vladimir Vladimirov-Zhytenski substantiates, based on the studies and findings, the need for a normative document dealing with the socio-ecological problems of the globalizing world and proposes a Methodology for developing a Concept for solving the socio-ecological problems in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Makes a description of the "Program for increasing the socio-ecological literacy of the population in the Republic of Bulgaria".

At the end of the dissertation work, conclusions are drawn in 6 paragraphs and two recommendations are given for the implementation of the Program for increasing socio-ecological literacy.

3. The **Abstract** is structured in a volume of 24 pages and briefly presents the main content of the dissertation work, scientific and scientific-applied contributions. A total of 3 scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation are presented.

#### 4. **Scientific contributions**

The scientific contributions indicated by the dissertation can be divided into two groups: *Theoretical-scientific contributions*, including a theoretical interpretation of the problem area:

1. The parameters of the global socio-ecological crisis and socio-ecological problems in the context of anthropogenic environmental pollution are revealed.

2. The essence of the socio-ecological problems in the globalizing world has been revealed and the theory enriched.

*Practical-applied contributions*: on the basis of the conducted theoretical and empirical research, a Conceptual theoretical model for solving social-ecological problems in the Republic

of Bulgaria is proposed. A program has been developed to increase the socio-ecological literacy of the population in the Republic of Bulgaria.

### **5. Critical notes and recommendations**

I make the following notes and recommendations related to the layout, execution and scientific style of the dissertation presentation.

1) The literature review should be more than a bibliographic listing and present the scientific achievements on the topic of the dissertation work to date. This overview should serve as a justification of the importance of the dissertation, in terms of what it will contribute to the research problem and what it will enrich the scientific knowledge to date. I would recommend the doctoral student in his future scientific activity to carry out more in-depth research on accepted normative documents in the researched field.

2) There is an incommensurability of the chapters of the dissertation (chapter one 148 pages, chapter two 68 pages, chapter three 3 pages). The logic for this kind of scientific work requires priority development of a third chapter aimed at the experimental proof of the formulated thesis. It is usual for this chapter to be 10-15% of the total volume of the dissertation.

3) Some texts and findings could be refined by the PhD student, as they are too general and not significant enough to support the practical significance and objectives of the dissertation research.

4) It would be good to draw conclusions and summaries at the end of each chapter.

5) Data from the empirical research should be in the main part of the dissertation with relevant comments and analyses.


6) It is good to indicate whether the "Conceptual Model" proposed by the PhD student is original or adapted and customized for the purposes of the research.

### **6. Conclusion**

The indicated critical remarks are rather in the direction of constructive and positive criticism and recommendations for the future scientific activity of the author, and therefore I give a positive assessment and propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov-Zhytensky in the District of higher education 1 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction: 3.4. Social activities, Doctoral program: Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (Social activities).

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Prepared the review:

  
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