

**STANDPOINT**  
**BY PROF. D.SC. SONYA ILIEVA**  
**of a dissertation on the topic "SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS**  
**OF THE GLOBAL SOCIETY'**  
**with author: Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov-Zhytenski**  
**for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"**  
**Field of higher education 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)**

**1. Information about the doctoral student**

Vladimir Georgiev Vladimirov - Zhitenski was born in 1966 in the city of Sofia. He graduated from the "Ilia Petrov" National School of Fine Arts - Sofia. He completed his higher education at the National Academy of Arts. In 2010, he obtained a master's degree in social activities at Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen. In the same university, in the period 2021–2023, he is already a doctoral student in an independent form of study at the Department of Social Work.

He was 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.

**2. Analysis of the dissertation development**

The dissertation submitted for opinion consists of an Introduction, three chapters, Conclusion, Conclusions, Recommendations, Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the study, References, Survey for the assessment of socio-ecological literacy and Appendices.

In the INTRODUCTION, the dissertation is presented as dedicated to the main approaches to the problem of environmental literacy, directly related to environmental security.

It argues the relevance of the problem under consideration, defining the goal, object, subject, tasks and hypothesis of the theoretical research.

CHAPTER ONE "GLOBALIZATION - ESSENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS" presents the key characteristics of globalization. Immediately after, the PhD student focused on socio-ecological problems of globalization. Special attention is paid to crises in the globalizing world. A characterization of global anthropogenic pollution 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 biologically harmful substances and radioactive pollution. At the end of the first chapter, the doctoral student creates an idea about the anthropogenic electromagnetic field.

In the SECOND CHAPTER "MAN AND THE GLOBAL PROBLEMS OF CONTEMPORARY TIMES", doctoral student Zhitenski presents the social dimensions of globalization. In detail, it examines national security and the problems of globalization. The demographic problems of the globalizing world do not escape his gaze. In the context of

globalization, he pays special attention to human needs. He then centers his analysis on neodevelopment. A good finale to the chapter is to focus on the issue of sustainable development.

In the THIRD CHAPTER "A MODEL FOR SOLVING THE SOCIAL-ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA", the doctoral student clarifies the research problem and the research procedure. An analysis of the research results follows. The extreme brevity of this chapter is striking - only three pages /!?!/.

IN THE CONCLUSION, doctoral student Zhitenski points out that the "Global Crisis" is an attribute of modern society, which has accepted and reconciled with the state of the relationship between society and nature, regardless of the fact that these problems are daily present in the media and global networks, and a person is episodically exposed of the negative impact of the polluted environment. A description of the "Program for increasing the socio-ecological literacy of the population in the Republic of Bulgaria" is being made. It offers an emphasis on socio-ecological education, as education for social development, which includes the socio-ecological dimensions of development.

CONCLUSIONS are contained in 6 paragraphs that faithfully reflect the content of the dissertation.

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

SCIENTIFIC AND SCIENTIFIC-APPLIED CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RESEARCH are formulated, which, according to the doctoral student, are related to the dissertation. According to the writer, these lines could be discussed further.

THE LITERATURE consists of 199 sources, of which 188 are in Cyrillic and 11 are in Latin. It is noteworthy that the majority of sources in the Russian language are indicated in the work.

Unusually, only after the Literature was presented a SURVEY for assessing socio-ecological literacy with several sociological figures attached. For this survey, critical comments follow in item 3 of the opinion.

### **3. Critical notes and questions**

- 3.1. In the concept of the dissertation - actuality, object, subject, goal, tasks, the thesis supported by the author of the dissertation is missing. A brief literature review of scientific sources on the problem should also be presented in the Introduction.
- 3.2. The methodology of the dissertation is not sufficiently clearly justified. The scientific principles on which the dissertation is based are not indicated.
- 3.3. The content of the dissertation itself is incorrectly distributed - the first chapter appears too voluminous - 147 pages, in practice it is about two thirds of the dissertation. The second chapter – 79 pages, and the third chapter, where the empirical study should be developed, is only about 3 pages. Thus, the principle of the correct structure of the dissertation is violated, for example: 1st chapter - 30-40 pages; 2nd chapter - 40-70 pages; Chapter 3 -70-80 to 90 pages. The second chapter and the third chapter should be larger in volume than the first chapter in the indicated ratio, with the weight falling on the third chapter - the empirical study.

- 3.4. Each chapter of a dissertation should end with summaries and conclusions. This is the logical end of each chapter and serves as a foundation for the development of subsequent theses in subsequent chapters. This is something that is missing in this dissertation. These conclusions are independent of the general conclusions at the end of the dissertation, but correspond to them.
- 3.5. Globalization is not unequivocally accepted by society - only in a positive aspect. The dissertation would have gained much if a special place had been devoted to its criticism.
- 3.6. At the end of the dissertation, just after the literature used, a "Social-Environmental Literacy Assessment Survey" is displayed, consisting of only 12 questions displayed. It is not reasoned - what is the aim of this survey, who is it aimed at - who are the respondents, in what way and at what time was the survey conducted and what is the analysis of the recorded empirical information. It is also illustrated with sociological figures without analysis of them, without summaries and conclusions that could serve in the development of the dissertation. In general, this survey, indicated in this unusual place, turns out to be pointless and meaningless.
- 3.7. The dissertation itself gives the impression that it is a set of different texts that have been put together to create content on a certain topic.

I have no questions for the PhD student, but I hope he will take my critical remarks into account.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Despite the critical comments made to the doctoral student and the doctoral dissertation, I give my positive assessment and

#### **I SUGGEST**

the doctoral student Vladimir Vladimirov - Zhitenski to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education: 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).

25/06/2023  
Shumen

Prepared the standpoint:

  
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