

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Eng. Evdokiya Panayotova Petkova, PhD South-West University "Neofit Rilski" – Blagoevgrad, Faculty of Engineering

on the dissertation submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

in: Area of Higher Education 1. Pedagogical Sciences Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Training in ... Doctoral program: Methodology of Teaching in Technology and Technology

Author: Irina Borislavova Slavova Title: "*A Model for the Ecologization of the Curriculum in Technologies and Entrepreneurship*" Scientific supervisor: Prof. Margarita Kirova Boneva, D.Sc. (Econ.) – Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski"

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral candidate

By Order No. RD-16-005 / 26.01.2026 of the Rector of Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski", I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for conducting the defense procedure of the dissertation entitled "*A Model for the Ecologization of the Curriculum in Technologies and Entrepreneurship*" for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Training in ..., Doctoral program Methodology of Teaching in Technology and Technology.

The author of the dissertation is Irina Borislavova Slavova, a full-time doctoral student in the Department of "Pedagogy of Training in Fine Arts and Technological Education", supervised by Prof. Margarita Kirova Boneva, D.Sc. (Econ.) – Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski".

The set of materials submitted by Irina Borislavova Slavova complies with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Shumen University and includes:

- application to the Rector requesting the initiation of the defense procedure;
- CV in European format;
- minutes of the Departmental Council regarding the readiness for initiating the procedure and the preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- dissertation;
- abstract;
- list of scientific publications related to the dissertation topic;
- copies of the publications;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents.

The doctoral candidate has submitted 3 publications.

2. Brief biographical data

Irina Slavova graduated from Shumen University “Episkop Konstantin Preslavski” in 2015 with a Bachelor’s degree in *Social Activities*, and in 2016 with a Master’s degree in *Regulation and Control in the System of Social Activities*. Since 2021 she has been enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the Faculty of Education of the same university and was granted the right to defend in 2024.

3. Relevance of the topic

The topic of ecologizing the curriculum in *Technologies and Entrepreneurship* is relevant due to growing global environmental challenges and the need for education to develop competencies for sustainable development. Despite existing strategic documents and policies, the subject still shows deficits, fragmentation, and a lack of a systematic approach to integrating ecological knowledge and skills. Developing a model for ecologization of the curriculum would represent a significant contribution both scientifically and practically, supporting the modernization of education and preparing students for active participation in sustainable societal development.

4. Knowledge of the problem

The doctoral candidate does not demonstrate sufficiently deep knowledge of the state of the problem and processes the literature mainly descriptively, without the necessary critical perspective or creative analysis.

5. Research methodology

The chosen research methodology does not sufficiently ensure the achievement of the stated aim or provide adequate answers to the research tasks. Although appropriate methods are formally mentioned, their description and application are superficial, incomplete, and methodologically insufficiently justified. Key elements are missing, such as a clearly defined sample, control conditions, proven reliability and validity of the instruments, and in-depth statistical analysis. As a result, the methodology does not guarantee scientific rigor, and the collected data do not allow for a convincing verification of the hypothesis or research tasks.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation and contributions

The dissertation, dedicated to the ecologization of the curriculum in *Technologies and Entrepreneurship*, contains numerous conceptual, methodological, and structural weaknesses that call into question its scientific validity and contribution.

- The theoretical part is incomplete and fragmented. There is no in-depth analysis of key scientific concepts related to environmental education, sustainable development, and integrative approaches in teaching.
- The formulation of object, subject, aim, and tasks is inaccurate and incomplete. Some tasks are too general, others unfulfilled or insufficiently justified. This hinders the logical coherence of the research.
- Serious weaknesses are found in the methodology. The pedagogical experiment is described schematically, without sufficient information about the sample, conditions, control variables, or measurement tools. There is no evidence of reliability or validity of the diagnostic instruments. The presented results are limited and lack statistical processing, making the conclusions difficult to defend.

- Structurally, the dissertation suffers from repetitions, lack of logical sequence, and omissions. Some sections are too short, others overly descriptive without analytical depth. Terminological inaccuracies are also present.

- The stated contributions are exaggerated and insufficiently justified. Some represent descriptive activities rather than genuine scientific contributions. There is no clear distinction between theoretical, methodological, and practical contributions.

In this form, the contributions do not meet the requirements for a dissertation, as they do not demonstrate sufficient scientific novelty, originality, or evidential support.

7. Evaluation of publications and personal contribution

The doctoral candidate presents three publications: one in the proceedings of an International Scientific-Practical Conference (Armenia, Ijevan, 2022) and two in the Yearbook of Shumen University, Faculty of Education (2023). The publications do not reflect results from the dissertation.

8. Abstract

The abstract formally meets the requirements but does not clearly and concretely present the main results and contributions of the research, which hinders an objective assessment of its scientific value. Its quality needs improvement, with greater analytical depth, precision, and clarity in describing the empirical results and contributions.

9. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation's contributions and results

The dissertation shows an intention to explore a relevant topic but suffers from serious conceptual, methodological, and empirical weaknesses. The lack of in-depth theoretical analysis, incomplete methodology, insufficient evidential support, and unconvincing contributions prevent the work from being assessed as scientifically significant in its current form.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the dissertation has potential but does not fully meet the expectations for scientific rigor and persuasiveness required for awarding the degree "Doctor". It requires substantial revisions.

Based on the analysis of the content, structure, methodology, and scientific justification, the dissertation does not sufficiently meet the requirements set by current regulations. The weaknesses in the theoretical framework, methodological argumentation, empirical verification, and formulation of contributions significantly limit its scientific value.

Due to these substantial shortcomings, I consider that the dissertation cannot be admitted to defense in its current form. The doctoral candidate must undertake significant revisions, including refining the theoretical part, strengthening the methodology, expanding and deepening the empirical analysis, and clearly and convincingly formulating the contributions.

After addressing the shortcomings within one year from the present date (in accordance with Art. 31 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Shumen University, amended 26.11.2021), a new defense procedure may be initiated.

I therefore recommend that the scientific jury return the dissertation of Irina Borislavova Slavova for revision so that it may reach the required level of scientific rigor, argumentation, and completeness necessary for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Training in ..., Doctoral program Methodic of Teaching in Technics and Technology.

21.02.2026

Prepared by:

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