

## **OPINION**

**by Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Lyubomirov Andreychin,**  
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5.7. Architecture, Construction and Surveying,

**for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"**

by professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction and Surveying  
and State Enterprise "Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities and Details"

**with candidate: arch. Armend Hajrush Fazliu**

and the topic of his doctoral dissertation:

**Sustainable Development and Revitalization of  
Residential Environment of Prishtina City, Republic of Kosovo**

The opinion was prepared on the basis of Order No. 3-PK-15 of 09.10.2019 by Prof. Dr. Plamen Bochkov, Rector of New Bulgarian University, and on the decision of the Scientific Jury. When writing the opinion, the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act, the Rules for its implementation and the Regulation for the development of the academic staff of NBU were observed.

The dissertation contains 208 pages (198 pages in English version), which include: 6 modules (module 1 is an introduction and module 6 is a conclusion), 146 pcs. figures (photos, diagrams, drawings, incl. and 8 tables), bibliography with 40 printed and electronic sources, list of publications of the author on the topic - 3 pcs. (2 papers and one report at an international conference at NBU) The abstract to the dissertation contains:

81 pages, including 62 figures, of which 7 are tables.

(In fact, the figures in the abstract are 63, because on page 10 there is an archeological photograph without a number entitled "Ulpiana", which, unfortunately, is not mentioned in the text, but is also missing from the dissertation.)

- The relevance of the dissertation work of Arch. Armend Fazliu on the economic and urban development of the Republic of Kosovo, and in particular its capital, Pristina, is beyond doubt. The very title "Sustainable Development of the City of Pristina, Kosovo, and the Revitalization of the Living Environment" shows an ambitious intention for competent professional intervention in the existing urban environment and further housing policy in the capital of the youngest independent state in the Balkans.

Recently, through very difficult and turbulent times, the Republic of Kosovo must "catch up" on lost time in military conflicts and disasters caused by accelerated economic growth, and at the same time ensure a higher standard of living for its population.

With our dissertation our colleague Arch. Armend Fazliu proves that the accelerated achievement of sustainable development indicators can only be achieved with the help of the latest scientific methods and world-class achievements in the field of Urbanism and Architecture.

Along with his career as a university lecturer, the doctoral student also showed the qualities of a researcher with a broad knowledge of the history and current state of Pristina. These qualities are also built on the impressive list of objects from his design practice in Pristina. Arch. Fazliu is highly motivated in his desire to be useful with his knowledge and research on the urban development of the Republic of Kosovo, whose territory contains remains of ancient settlements and meetings of different peoples over the centuries. In addition to Pristina's importance as the capital of Kosovo, it is also a mirror of history with its preserved monuments, with the picturesque mix between past and present.

- In section 1.1. (on page 6 of the abstract and page 2 of the dissertation) the doctoral student gave a brief description of the nature of his work: "A general situational analysis of the town's development to date; diagnosis with problems in it; study of the state of the housing,

housing and construction environment and their management; basic guidelines and policies for their future sustainable development. "

I find this formulation to be a very important and useful essay on the work, including its main purpose, described later and in section 1.2.1., Which the doctoral student further follows.

- The tasks that the doctoral student has set and described in 1.2.2. of the dissertation, there are 8 and are properly selected in order to achieve the set goals. In this case, these tasks are: analyzes, directions and priorities, alternative scenarios, architectural-urban models and methodological guidelines for sustainable development of the residential environment. They also draw up recommendations for legal changes related to housing policy, as well as recommendations to the concerned ministries and agencies.
- I accept correctly the description of the methods and their combination in the research, ordered by the doctoral student on page 8 of the dissertation, which obviously led to the desired result by the author. (The methods should also be mentioned at the beginning of the Bulgarian version of the abstract.)
- "Module 6. - Conclusion" starts with section 6.1. "Summary conclusions" that are 14. (Some of these conclusions are repeated as contributions in the next 2 points.)

The following is the division of the contributions of the dissertation into three groups:

6.2. Scientific-research and practical-applied contribution of the dissertation (the contributions are 7, so the contribution should be in pp);

6.3. Applicability of work results - in 4 points;

6.4. Recommendations to the concerned ministries and agencies - 2 points

I accept the contributions so listed, although a closer look at them would certainly lead to another ranking. However, because of the specifics of the area in question, I would not object to the unification of scientific, applied and purely applied contributions, as well as their subsequent division into other grounds, because - in the end - this does not diminish them..

- The doctoral student's publications are as follows:

Two articles in the multidisciplinary online journal International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research (IJSER):

1. "The Living Environment of Urbanism in Kosovo", volume 9, issue 4, April 2018 (ISSN 2229-5518);

2. "Construction of Central Urban Parts in Major Cities and Historical Context", volume 9, issue 12, December 2018 (ISSN 2229-5518).

3. "*Smart Cities and Urban Development. Information and Communication Revolution and Artificial Intelligence in Favour of Changing Cities.*" – accepted for publication report of arch. Armend Fazliu at the International (Francophone) Conference at NBU - "CHANGING CITIES: Challenges, Predictions, Perspectives", Sofia, October 18-20, 2018. accepted for publication report of arch. Armen Fazliu at the International (Francophone) Conference at NBU - "CHANGING CITIES: Challenges, Predictions, Perspectives", Sofia, October 18-20, 2018

As the titles indicate, all three publications are closely related to the topic of the dissertation. (I think it was appropriate to attach the IJSER publication certificates to the doctoral student's papers.)

- There are no citations from other authors and reviews in the scientific press in the texts of the abstract and dissertation.

Following are some of my specific notes and recommendations for my dissertation.

- **Notes on graphic materials in the abstract and in the dissertation:  
thesis work:**

Even at the beginning of the abstract, we encounter a technical error that needs clarification to avoid readers' perplexity: page 8 of the Bulgarian text (containing tables with numbers 8, 9 and

10) apparently remained there by mistake before printing and the tables should be removed, not only because they do not fit the format, but because they are repeated. (It is better to keep page 8 blank before module 2, so as not to confuse page numbering when possibly cited by other jury members.)

Tables 8 and 9 are attached below - on page 18 of the abstract, and table 10 on page 8 (educational structure of the urban population) does not appear in this text. In the previously printed English abstract, the tables are available again on page 8. (As this is a much older text of the abstract - only 57 pages long, I will not dwell on it further.)

In the Bulgarian language dissertation version, the same three tables are numbered 9, 10 and 11 on pages 27 and 28, respectively.

Some of the town plans, implemented as figures in the text, lack the legends of graphics and colors, which turns them into colorful paintings only. For example, in the abstract: FIG. 10 on page 20 - Pristina Master Plan for Urbanization, fig. 13. on page 22 - General layout of Pristina, fig. 40 on page 47 - Land Use, etc. (The same figures without legends are also included in the dissertation.) There are also plans that have legends but are not legible. (For example, Fig. 13 - Pristina Strategic Development Plan. In such cases, an "external" legend must be added to the figure - annotations with the corresponding colors, at least for those parts of the plans for which they were applied. closer to this way of illustration are the five schemes in Figure 4 in the abstract - "Territorial Growth of the City of Pristina", but they also needed to be clearer.

On page 46 of the abstract, fig. 39 - a picture of the layout (respectively in the dissertation it is on page 123 - fig. 107) under the heading "Mining and quarrying". There is no graphic or textual information what this means.

To conclude with specific notes on graphic materials in the work, I must also add to the ambiguity about the series of perspectives in Figs. 36 and 37 (pages 43 and 44 of the abstract), respectively. 104 and 105 (on pages 121 and 122 in the paper), called the "Development Framework Map", and in the links below (in English from the Internet), it is referred to as "Detailed Urban Neighborhood Regulatory Plan №..."

We see the same ambiguity on page 45 of the abstract, where two perspectives are combined in FIG. 38 under the heading "Transport Safety and Security". (In the dissertation, this is Fig. 106 on page 128.)

Urban examples from the cities of Baltimore (Fig. 57), St. Louis (Figs. 58 and 59) and Los Angeles (Figs. 60 and 61) in the United States, included as illustrations in the abstract (Figs. 142, 143, 144 and 145, respectively). work), have no relation to the text (or context) of the dissertation and appear to be accidentally caught there. I am convinced that the doctoral student meant something to use them, but that must be stated clearly and in the right place.

- **Text notes:**

The text of the dissertation itself is of a good professional level and with clear intentions, so I will not dwell on it in detail. Some minor amendments and terminological clarifications will be required when publishing the work. I will only allow one note concerning historical comparison:

In point 4.2. "Priorities in City-wide Sustainable Development" on page 49 (below) we read from the abstract: "Technology park is essentially a new form of industrial localization." (Emphasis is mine - DA)

Here it was necessary to specify when and where this form appeared as new, because the technology parks (zones) were created more than 40 years ago in England, France and then West Germany. California's Silicon Valley is also an area of its kind and is even older.

My colleagues at UACEG Prof. Assen Pisarski and Assoc. Prof. Violeta Komitova - after their study in England - published a study entitled "New Directions in the Structure of Labor Areas (Business Parks and Science Parks in England)" in the UACEG Annual Booklet - Sofia , 1994-

1995. At the same time, technology parks were already included in our students' urban course and diploma projects for production areas, but only recently have several technology parks been under construction in our country.

And when it comes to publications, let me end with another recommendation:

References to the bibliographic list and references should avoid avoiding references to too old works, although the number of references in the bibliography may be reduced.

I was pleased to read the names of my professors Lyuben Tonev and Petar Tashev among the authors of the works cited, but they were written nearly 50 years ago (1971 and 1972). We probably still have a lot to learn from them (as well as from some Soviet and Western works translated into Russian and published in the 1980s, which are also on the list). But for reasons that relate to the contemporary sound of the topic and the title of the dissertation, which should draw attention to the author's ideas about the future of Pristina, users and "implementers" of work recommendations should find quotes and references to contemporary titles on the topic Sustainable Development.

- The recommendations and notes I have made do not affect the nature of the dissertation. They can be taken into account and reflected relatively easily. After some errors have been corrected in the dissertation and some clarifications have been made, it should be published in order to be used for educational as well as practical purposes, both by experts and politicians at the local level in Pristina or at state level in the Republic of Kosovo.

- In conclusion, I can say that I generally accept the dissertation presented! It shows that its author Arch. Armend Fazliu possesses a deep theoretical knowledge in the fields of urbanism and architecture;

**For these reasons, I give a positive assessment of the dissertation work of the doctoral student and as a member of the scientific jury I will vote to be awarded an arch. Armend Hajrush Fazliu Educational and Scientific Degree Doctor in Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities and Details of Professional Degree 5.7. "Architecture, Construction and Surveying".**

Sofia, 2 January 2020

/ Assoc. arch. Dimitar L. Andreychin /