

PROBLEMS IN DOCTORAL STUDIES – CONFLICTS OR ADVANTAGES?

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***Abstract:** Each Doctoral Student encounters problems in collecting data and conducting surveys. There is no universal solution to these problems, but we can help ourselves with useful ones advice for research and innovation. Conflicts and problems accompany us everywhere in life, but here we will look at some of them that are found in the training of doctoral students. In this report, I will look at some common problems, conflicts and advantages in the training of doctoral students especially in Bulgaria.*

***Keywords:** study, organization, problem, conflict, advantage.*

JEL CLASSIFICATION: D74; L2; M14

INTRODUCTION

Creation of competencies for solving economic problems usually depends on the quality of research. Young researchers are those generators of ideas who enrich the economic theory and practice, diagnose real processes and design specific alternatives for increasing economic growth by using the latest modern research methods and have an accurate assessment of the results achieved. The doctoral studies requires modern teaching methods, highly qualified supervisors and appropriate funding.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Investment in research and innovation is an investment in Europe's future. They help us to be globally competitive and to maintain our unique social model. They improve the daily lives of millions of people in Europe and around the world and contribute to solving some of the biggest social challenges.

European Union support for research and innovation promotes the cooperation between research teams across countries and disciplines, which is crucial for making revolutionary discoveries.

Through its multiannual framework program for research and innovation, the European Union provides us with many funding for:

- Strengthening the position of the European Union in the field of science;
- Strengthening industrial innovation, including investment in key technologies;
- Responding to major social challenges such as climate change, sustainable transport and renewable energy;
- Ensuring that technological breakthroughs become viable products with real trade potential – by building partnerships between industry and governments;
- Strengthening international cooperation in the field of research and innovation.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2017 – 2030

The National Strategy for Development of Scientific Research in the Republic of Bulgaria defines the objectives and the respective measures and actions on the part of the State for research development for the period 2017 – 2030.

The Strategy is one of the necessary conditions for achieving the objectives set out in the Partnership Agreement of the Republic of Bulgaria with the European Commission in the programming period 2014 – 2020. The Strategy is in line with a number of national and European documents.

PROBLEMS IN DOCTORAL STUDIES IN BULGARIA

According to Wikipedia: A **problem** is a situation preventing something from being achieved. The word comes from a Greek word meaning an "obstacle" (something that is in your way). Someone who has a problem must find a way of solving it. The means of solving a problem is called a "solution".

According to Colin's dictionary: A **problem** is a situation that is unsatisfactory and causes difficulties for people.

In our case I will look at some problems I encountered while teaching doctoral students in Bulgaria.

1. The first difficulty is in determining the topic of the doctoral thesis – From doctoral student is expected to determine the topic of the dissertation in the first month after enrolment. If the doctoral student has any experience, this is not a problem. But, if it comes straight from the student bench, it is very difficult to orient oneself in the matter and subject matter of something new and unknown.

2. The second problem is the preparation of the individual study plan of the doctoral student - It is normal for doctoral student to have difficulty, as he has no experience in this. Nobody taught us this at the university and without the valuable help of the supervisor there is no way for the doctoral student to deal with it alone.

3. Another significant problem is that taking the obligatory doctoral exams requires a lot of time and energy, but the grades are not included in the overall assessment of the doctoral thesis. These exams are usually between two and four in number and take the first year of study.

4. Funding doctoral studies:

- the remuneration of the supervisor: Supervisors should be sufficiently motivated to carry out this highly qualified work with desire and enthusiasm. It is obvious that they are not currently receiving adequate remuneration for this. This reduces the quality of work, respectively the quality of training of doctoral students in Bulgaria;
- lack of funds for practical training of doctoral students, especially those in economic disciplines: Here is no practical training in the curricula of doctoral students. At the same time, no company is willing to admit doctoral students to do survey or research. How then do we want to get good results?;
- the fee for the public defence: when the defence is held within the specified time frame, the fee is covered by the university if the doctoral student is full-time or part-time, otherwise it must be covered by the doctoral student;

- lack of connection between the scholarships received by doctoral students and the fulfilment of the obligations under their individual study plans: Nobody cares how the doctoral student is doing, whether he will have a successful public defense. The state invests in the training of doctoral students, but this is not tied to feedback: what is the success of the training of doctoral students in full-time education, how many of them actually complete their dissertation and obtain a doctorate.

CONFLICTS IN DOCTORAL STUDIES IN BULGARIA

Conflict is [serious](#) disagreement and [argument](#) about something [important](#). If two people or groups are in conflict, they have had a serious disagreement or argument and have not yet [reached agreement](#). The concept of **conflict** includes: conflict, contest, combat, fight, affray.

Organizational Conflict or otherwise known as workplace conflict, is described as the state of disagreement or misunderstanding, resulting from the actual or perceived dissent of needs, beliefs, resources and relationship between the members of the organization. At the workplace, whenever, two or more persons interact, conflict occurs when opinions with respect to any task or decision are in contradiction.

It can be said that the conflict is a special case of the problem.

Taking into consideration the definition of „**conflict**” in the Bulgarian Monolingual Dictionary as „collision, a clash of forces, interests”, these conflicts are:

- Inequality between full-time and part-time or independent doctoral students – The conflict is in receiving a monthly scholarship only from doctoral students in full-time education;
- Significant resources are needed to conduct practical research – It turns out that doctoral students in part-time or independent form of study must finance their own research;
- More opportunities and resources are needed for publishing the research results – PhD students are forced to look for opportunities for publications without a participation fee. As a result this may be at the expense of quality;
- It is difficult to find a company or organization that is willing to allow a doctoral student to carry out practical research related to the dissertation – Everyone uses personal contacts and acquaintances to gain access to data from real companies and organizations;
- Difficult communication between the supervisor and the doctoral student, as supervisors usually do not feel motivated enough for this activity – Adequate and decent pay for this highly qualified work must be offered.

ADVANTAGES OF DOCTORAL STUDIES IN BULGARIA

The definition of **advantage** means anything that provides a more favorable position, greater opportunity or a favorable outcome.

The advantages of studying doctoral students in Bulgaria can be summarized as follows:

- People studying for a doctoral degree usually have academic ambitions – Most who already own doctoral degree start to work as university lecturers;
- Some may also see the doctoral degree as a chance for a better job or position in the corporate sector – There are already many such cases;

- The advantages of doctoral degree studies in Bulgaria are: relatively low tuition fees; a monthly scholarship for full-time doctoral students of about 250 euros; access to university facilities: dormitories, libraries, gyms, etc.
- Doctoral students in Economics, Management and Finance almost always find a job after that – It can be said that this is a matter of prestige;
- The doctoral degree gives an exceptional career advantage in multinational companies at high-level positions;
- Possessing a doctoral degree is an advantage in expert roles in many ministries and institutions.

CONCLUSION

Doctoral studies prove to be the steadiest path to career advancement in many organizations with a firm personnel policy.

Research is essential in doctoral studies.

The goal of each doctoral student is to contribute to growth and development through research and innovation.

There are many problems and conflicts related to doctoral studies, but there are many advantages and opportunities after completing the degree.

Therefore, everyone who has chosen to study this degree must be persistent, pursue their goals and be convinced that the efforts worth it!

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