



# UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS – VARNA

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ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ВАРНА

Вх. № 220-41 / 12.01.2026

## REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova

Department of "Agrarian Economics", Economic University of Varna,  
professional field 3.8 "Economics" and scientific specialty "Economics and  
Management (Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Regional Entrepreneurial Activity)"

**Subject** : dissertation for the award of educational and scientific "Doctoral" degree in the field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and Legal Sciences. Professional field: 3. 8. Economics , Doctoral program : " Agricultural Business ", University of Varna.

**Author of the dissertation**: PhD student Desislava Stefanova Ivanova

**Topic of the dissertation**: " Grain and Cereal Market in the Black Sea Region Countries "

**Reason for preparing the review**: participation in the scientific committee jury for the defense of the dissertation, according to Order No. RD 06-1 92 / 05. 12. 2025 of the Rector of the University of Varna and the decision of the scientific jury of the first meeting held on 12 . 12.2025

### 1. Information about the dissertation candidate

Doctoral student Desislava Ivanova completed her secondary education at the "Ioan Exarch" Secondary School of Economics - Varna, foreign language profile. During the period 2008 - June 2012 she studied and received a "Bachelor" degree in International Business (Russian and Spanish) at the European Business School London, Regent's University London Faculty of Economics, and in the period 2014-2016 - a "Master" degree in "Business Economics" at the University of Varna. In the period September-December 2010 she studied economics at the Moscow State University "M. V. Lomonosov", Moscow, and in the period February-June 2011 at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona - UAB Barcelona, Barcelona.

Doctoral student Desislava Ivanova begins her work at the company "Zarno Silistra 97" AD as the activities performed are related to management and solving issues related to the management of the company, as well as adopting plans, programs and strategies for the activity. From 2012 to the present, he is a commercial expert at "Zarneni Hrani Silistra" AD. The activities performed in the company include participation in local and international transactions, preparation of local and international contracts, communication with local and international clients and partners , as well as keeping business correspondence and archives.



The doctoral student studied at the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Varna under the doctoral program "Agricultural Business" in accordance with the decision of the Faculty of Economics, Protocol No. 3/26.09.2019 and Order No. RD 17-3046/02.10.2019 of the Rector of the University of Varna. The training was carried out on a regular basis, during the period 02.09.2019-02.09.2022. Doctoral student Desislava Ivanova has successfully completed her individual training plan, collected the required number of credits and has been discharged with the right to defense in accordance with the decision of the Faculty of Economics, Protocol No. 32/29.09.2022 and Order No. RD 17-581/30.09.2022 of the Rector of the University of Varna.

The dissertation was discussed at the Department Council of the Department of Agricultural Economics, protocol No. 04/17.11.2025. and a procedure for defense before a Scientific Jury has been opened, in accordance with Art. 53 and Art. 54 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Varna University of Economics .

## **2. General presentation of the dissertation work**

The presented dissertation work of the doctoral student is the result of an independent, purposeful and in-depth scientific study dedicated to the analysis of the stability and competitiveness of the grain market in the countries of the Black Sea region, with an emphasis on Bulgaria. The topic is clearly formulated and reflects the content of the theoretical, methodological and empirical analysis carried out. Its relevance is determined by the leading place of the grain sector in the structure of Bulgarian agriculture, its importance for food security and its role in international trade, especially in the context of increased competition in the Black Sea region.

The scientific significance of the work stems from the need for a more in-depth study of market mechanisms, price dynamics and factors determining the sustainability of grain production in the conditions of increasing instability of global resource markets. The dissertation work argues the need for a complex analysis of the interaction between internal and external determinants – geopolitical, climatic, institutional and infrastructural – that influence the functioning of the grain market. Particular attention is paid to cross-border effects and the role of international trade in the transmission of price signals between national and global markets.

The purpose of the dissertation is clearly formulated and is logically related to the subject and object of research. The subject of the research is the factors influencing the stability of the grain market, market processes and the resulting socio-economic effects for Bulgaria and the region, and the object of research is the grain market in Bulgaria



and the countries of the Black Sea region. The formulated research tasks are consistent, interconnected and correspond to the logic of the presentation, covering both theoretical aspects and empirical analysis of market trends, the competitive environment and the attitudes of the main participants.

The dissertation defends a clearly formulated research thesis, according to which the grain market represents a strategic economic system, the sustainable functioning of which is key to the food security and economic development of Bulgaria and the Black Sea region. The thesis is logically developed through the verification of two hypotheses, which reflect both the influence of external factors on market stability and the importance of internal structural and institutional prerequisites for increasing the competitiveness of the sector.

The chosen methodological approach is adequate to the set goal and objectives of the study. A systematic and process approach was applied, which allows considering the market as a complex economic system, as well as a diverse set of analytical and empirical methods, including comparative and factor analysis, synthesis and generalization of data from a primary survey. The empirical research conducted among the main participants in the grain market in Bulgaria contributes to enriching the analysis with primary data and to a better understanding of the perceptions and attitudes in the sector.

The author has correctly taken into account the limitations of the study, arising from the territorial scope, the choice of cereals and the specificity of the available information. These limitations do not reduce the scientific value of the dissertation work, but clearly outline the framework of the analysis and create prerequisites for future research. The information base is extensive and includes both scientific literature and official statistical and institutional sources at the national and international level, which contributes to the reliability and argumentation of the conclusions drawn.

In summary, the dissertation represents a comprehensive, logically sound and scientifically substantiated study that contributes to expanding knowledge about the functioning and sustainability of the grain market in Bulgaria and the Black Sea region and has both theoretical and practical value.

***The dissertation meets the requirements of Art. 27 , para. 2 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.***

### ***3. Evaluation of the structure and content of the dissertation***

The dissertation has a total volume of 207 pages. Its structure can be assessed as well-balanced and logically consistent, sufficiently corresponding to the set research



goal and the formulated main scientific thesis. The distribution of the content according to the individual structural elements shows a thoughtful approach to the construction of the presentation and provides the necessary connection between the theoretical statements and the empirical analyses.

The work includes introduction, presentation in three chapters (164 pages), conclusion and references. The main text is supported by illustrative material, including 19 tables and 36 figures, most of which are appropriately selected and assist in understanding the presented analyses and results.

The bibliography is of sufficient volume and thematic relevance, including a total of 146 sources, of which 122 are literary and 24 are internet sources. This testifies to a good knowledge of existing scientific developments, as well as to a desire to use a diverse and up-to-date information base.

The style of the presentation is correct and scientifically sound, with clarity and logical presentation evident in most of the text. The presentation is well-argued, systematized is a significant volume of empirical material, which makes it easier to follow the main conclusions.

The first chapter of the dissertation examines key aspects of the grain market and approaches to assessing its stability. The author examines the role of the agricultural market for food security, social stability and sustainable development, indicating the specific characteristics of grain production and the influence of state and European policy on price and income stabilization.

The methodological framework for the study is systematically constructed and includes a comprehensive approach to assessing market stability by integrating macroeconomic and institutional determinants, the competitive environment, the attitudes of the main participants, and strategic development opportunities.

In the third paragraph of the first chapter, a four-step methodological framework is proposed, including: (1) analysis of the macro environment; (2) assessment of the competitive environment using an adapted Porter model; (3) survey of market participants; (4) formulation of strategic development guidelines. The study offers a logical and consistently structured framework that provides a good basis for the conclusions and recommendations in the dissertation.

Overall, the first chapter presents a balanced approach between theoretical analysis and applicability of the results, presenting a reasoned methodology for studying the stability of the grain market.

The second chapter of the dissertation “Research on the Grain Market in the Black Sea Region Countries” presents a thorough and systematic analysis of the strategic importance of the region and the national characteristics of the four leading countries –



Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. In paragraph 2.1, the author successfully demonstrates the role of the Black Sea region as a geoeconomic corridor with an impact on global food security, supporting the presentation with current data on the production, exports and market shares of the countries in the period 2000–2023. The analysis of the dynamics of wheat production shows well-argued interrelations between climatic, technological and political factors, and the presentation of the comparative market positions clearly illustrates the leadership of Russia and Ukraine and the stable contribution of Bulgaria and Romania. The methodological outline is logical and consistent, using statistical data and visual graphics to support the arguments.

In section 2.2, national grain market profiles are examined through a unified methodological framework that takes into account production structures, cost dynamics, export potential and regulatory features of the countries. The author convincingly demonstrates the territorial concentration of production in Bulgaria, the strategic importance of port infrastructure in Romania, Ukraine's adaptability in the context of the conflict and the dominant production power of Russia. The presentation of the data is clear and supported by appropriate tables and figures, which facilitates the understanding of regional dependencies and the competitiveness of national markets.

Section 2.3 presents a systematic analysis of the factors determining sustainability, price dynamics and market stability in the Black Sea region. The integrated macroeconomic, natural-climatic, institutional and market aspects are argued, with the emphasis on the impact of climate change, military conflicts, logistical constraints and the financial environment being particularly valuable. The recommendations for modernization of production and infrastructure, technological innovations and increasing information transparency demonstrate a practically oriented approach of the study.

Overall, the second chapter is well structured, coherent and well argued. Quantitative data, graphical presentation and analytical conclusions are skillfully combined. And the analytical picture of the Black Sea region as a strategic center of world trade in cereals is clear, convincing and applicable for subsequent research and policies.

Chapter three presents a comprehensive analysis of the competitive environment and the attitudes of market participants in the Bulgarian grain production. The adapted model of M. Porter is used to assess the barriers to entry and exit, the power of customers and suppliers, rivalry and the role of the state. A positive aspect is the systematic approach and the quantitative justification of the assessments.

Section 3.2 examines the attitudes of the participants through a survey covering producers, traders and logistics. The author analyzes in detail the economic structure,



the dynamics of yields and revenues, financing and participation in European programs. A positive point is the integration of quantitative assessments with qualitative observations, which gives a rich picture of the sustainability of the sector.

The concluding paragraph correctly identifies the critical factors for market stability – climate change, infrastructure, technology and institutional support – and proposes strategic solutions. The emphasis is placed on integrating observations and empirical data into concrete recommendations.

The overall result of the dissertation research shows that the set goal has been achieved and the research tasks have been fulfilled. The dissertation examines the strategically important grain sector, demonstrating in-depth knowledge of the socio-economic processes and the dynamics of the agricultural market.

The dissertation has applied an adapted methodology for assessing market stability, combining macroeconomic analysis, competitive analysis, survey research and strategic synthesis. The results show a relatively low stability of the sector, with challenges in the areas of climate, infrastructure and technological renewal, while highlighting potential in marketing and collaboration.

The initial hypotheses have been confirmed, and based on the analysis, a Strategic Framework and seven strategic development directions have been formulated, including adaptation to climate change, technological modernization, infrastructure development, marketing and digitalization, cooperation, and institutional improvement. The dissertation represents a significant contribution in theoretical and practical terms, offering a methodological basis for the study of agricultural markets and specific strategies for sustainable development of the grain sector, increasing competitiveness and ensuring food security.

*In terms of structure and content, the dissertation corresponds to the requirements of Art. 56 , para. 2 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.*

#### ***4. Scientific and applied scientific contributions of the dissertation work***

The doctoral student has made significant contributions to the dissertation work, as follows:

First, existing theoretical models for assessing competitiveness and sustainability have been systematized and adapted, and they have been applied in the context of the agrarian economy and, in particular, grain production in Bulgaria and the Black Sea region.

Second, a complex theoretical and methodological framework has been developed for studying the stability of the grain market, which integrates an analysis of



macroenvironmental factors, an empirical study of the attitudes of market participants, an assessment of the competitive environment, and the formulation of strategic development scenarios.

Third, an empirical study was conducted among key participants in the grain market in Bulgaria, which summarizes their perception of the stability of the sector, the dynamics of yields and revenues, as well as the importance of technology, infrastructure, marketing and cooperation for the sustainability of the market.

Fourth, the stability of the market was assessed through quantitative indicators and complex indices along the main factor directions, which allows for the identification of key risks and priorities for interventions at various management levels.

Fifth, strategic guidelines for the future development of the sector have been formulated, with specific procedural measures proposed for each direction, aimed at adaptation to climate change, technological modernization, infrastructure development, financing, digitalization, and enhanced cooperation between participants.

Some of the contributions are primarily of a scientific, theoretical and methodological nature (first, second and fourth contributions), while others are of a scientific, applied and strategic nature (third and fifth contributions), reflecting the complexity and practical applicability of the research.

## ***5. Publications and participation in scientific forums***

Doctoral student Desislava Ivanova presents 4 publications on the topic of the dissertation, including two articles - one independent and one co-authored and two independent reports . The reports have been presented at university scientific conferences at the University of Varna and the University of National and World Economy, and the articles have been published in the journal *Izvestiya* of the University of Sofia and the prestigious journal *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science*, of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, indexed in Web of Science (Q3). The presented publications reflect the key results of the dissertation work and convincingly present the author to the scientific community.

***The doctoral candidate meets the minimum national requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor", according to Art. 26, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.***

## ***6. Evaluation of the autoref***

An abstract in Bulgarian and English is provided . It meets the regulatory requirements and adequately summarizes the structure, logic and content of the



dissertation, including the assessments and conclusions. It sufficiently presents the conducted analyses, conclusions and scientific contributions.

## **7. Plagiarism detected or not detected in the dissertation paper or the abstract**

There is no legally proven plagiarism in the dissertation.

## **8. Notes and recommendations**

The dissertation provides valuable results on the stability and competitiveness of the grain market in the Black Sea region and forms a solid basis for practical application. The scientific research can be built upon in the future by subsequent monitoring of the impact of the implementation of these strategic approaches, which will allow further enrichment of the methodology and adaptation to the dynamics of the regional market. The integration of additional factors such as environmental conditions and international trade trends can complement the predictive value of the analysis and support the strategic planning of the sector.

## **9. Questions**

The debatable nature of the topic raises the following questions:

1. It is known from economic theory that prices have a dual manifestation - as a result of the market situation and as a tool for influence. How does this manifestation look on the grain market in the Black Sea region?
2. What measures and by whom should be taken to implement the strategic recommendations? Is synergy necessary in the actions of institutions and non-governmental organizations at the national level and what should it be expressed in?

## **10. Conclusion**

The peer-reviewed doctoral dissertation is a comprehensive, independent scientific work with original theoretical-methodological and practical-applied contributions. It is distinguished by a clearly structured study of the competitiveness and sustainability of the grain market in Bulgaria and the Black Sea region, integrating theoretical models and empirical analyses. The main goal and specific tasks of the development have been successfully achieved, and the presented scientific results demonstrate the doctoral student's skills in building a research methodology, using analytical tools and formulating practical solutions for stabilizing and developing the sector.

The dissertation on the topic " Grain and Cereal Market in the Black Sea Region Countries" complies with the requirements of the Agricultural and Cereal Markets Act



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in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.

Based on the above, I give a categorical **positive assessment** of the dissertation work and propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 3.8. Economics, field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences , doctoral program "Agricultural Business" by Desislava Stefanova Ivanova.

15. 01.2026.

Varna

Prepared the review:

/ Prof. Dr. T. Turiakova/

Заличена информация съгласно  
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

## REVIEW

Вх. №

PA20-86/19.01.2026г.

of the dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree  
"Doctor" according to an announced procedure by the University of Economics – Varna

### 1. General information

- This review is prepared by Prof. Plamena Yovchevska, Dsc, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture);
- The basis for writing the review is Order No. RD – 06-192/05.12.2025 of the Rector of the UE - Varna on the appointment of a scientific jury and the decision of the first meeting of the scientific jury on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025;
- The author of the dissertation work is Desislava Stefanova Ivanova;
- The topic of the dissertation work is "Cereal Market in the Black Sea Region Countries".

### 2. Information about the doctoral student

The professional biography attached by Desislava Ivanova correctly reflects the stages of her education and training. She graduated from the Fifth high school with a foreign language program in Varna. Mrs. Ivanova got Bachelor degree in international business after studying at the European Business School London, Regent's University London (2008-2012). In accordance with the profile of the qualification obtained (Russian and Spanish languages), D. Ivanova studied economics at the Moscow State University "M. V. Lomonosov" in 2010 and at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in 2011. Desislava Ivanova acquired Master degree after studying business economics at the UE - Varna during the period September 2014 - September 2016. In 2019, D. Ivanova was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Agricultural Economics with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Stanimirova, doctoral program "Agricultural Business". After completing the academic obligations listed in her individual doctoral plan and successfully passing the doctoral exams, the doctoral candidate was formally removed from active doctoral studies on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 with the right to defend her thesis. Desislava Ivanova possesses extensive professional expertise in the thematic area of the doctoral research.

### 3. General presentation of the dissertation work

The dissertation work is presented in form and volume in accordance with the specific requirements of the primary unit. Contains: title page; table of contents, introduction; presentation; conclusion - a summary of the results obtained with a declaration of originality; bibliography. Worked out with a classical structure, the study is presented in three chapters. The dissertation is in volume of 207 pages, including 36 figures and 19 tables, also enlists 146

sources of literature. The presentation is in accordance with the requirements of Art. 27, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

#### **4. Assessment of the structure and content of the dissertation**

The felicitous chosen structure of the dissertation work allows the author to fully present the scientific and applied solution of the real practical problem she is investigating. The content of the work is in accordance with the scientific question posed by the dissertation candidate. The development of the individual stages of the response follows the structure and logically builds on the content of the dissertation. The scientific and applied scientific results contained in the study represent an original contribution to science. The dissertation work demonstrates that the candidate possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge in the relevant specialty and the ability to conduct self-dependent scientific research. This is in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna. The main content of the dissertation work is presented correctly in the abstract. The lexical and stylistic characteristics of the text testify to a well-developed writing style.

#### **5. Assessment of the structure and content of the dissertation**

Desislava Ivanova places the dissertation research "Cereal Market in the Black Sea Region" in the coordinate system of the grain market - an exchange-traded commodity, whose importance, vulnerability and relevance is timeless. The content is in accordance with the scientific nature of the presented dissertation. The topic and research tools are relevant to the object - the market; the subject - factors and effects; the goal - assessment of stability and strategic directions and the formulated tasks - research of the market as an economic system; compilation of a methodological framework for researching stability and competitiveness; analysis of trends and specifics of the market in the region with a focus on Bulgaria; analysis of the competitive environment; analysis of the attitudes of the entities related to the market; formulation of strategic directions. The tasks are detailed and partially overlapping, but this is typical of a large part of doctoral theses. The research thesis presents the market as a strategic system for the socio-economic development of the region and Bulgaria, linked to the complex influence of exogenous and endogenous factors at macro, meso and micro levels. The resulting two hypotheses are formulated around the low stability of the market given the influence of geopolitical and climatic factors, the second hypothesis focuses on Bulgaria, where competitiveness depends on internal factors.

The author successfully completes the tasks set, using a well-tested set of approaches, methods and tools. The application of the systematic approach is a successful solution and combines the scientific issues and business ecosystems researched by the doctoral student for the purpose of a comprehensive assessment. PESTEL analysis is skillfully used in the development; those familiar with the method would not expect its frequent mention. It is worth noting the conscientiously presented critical review and the aptly applied thematic bibliography in the study. The implementation of the task of compiling a methodological framework for studying stability and competitiveness is consistent with an assessment of macroenvironmental factors; a structured questionnaire survey to assess sustainability among entities operating in the grain market; analysis of the competitive environment using Porter's model; formulation of strategic guidelines with an emphasis on food security. The study highlights a number of results related to the applied methodological solutions, but here the effectiveness of applying Porter's model of the five main forces for competitive intensity and attractiveness of the market and the use of PESTEL analysis stands out most clearly.

Desislava Ivanova's author's work proves the main research thesis and the two stated hypotheses. I believe that the dissertation would benefit from cutting back on some of the overly verbose explanations and partial repetitions. Experience shows that young researchers share their knowledge widely. But sometimes they miss key characteristics, as is the case with the lack of description of a general aggregate during fieldwork. Judging by the presented percentage of respondents and the empirical data shown, this is probably a quota study. I highly value conducting a survey and realize how difficult it is to establish a trusting relationship with respondents. In this regard, given the experience and expert profile of the respondents, I believe that the doctoral student could apply the 7-point Likert scale in order to avoid encapsulation and better differentiate the responses with a small number of respondents. The application of the statistical reliability measure (Cronbach's Alpha) allows for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms, causes, and motivations behind the respondents' attitudes. Potential additional conclusions would facilitate an in-depth study of the nuances of the binomial relationship to derive significant new details relevant to the proposed strategic solutions. Covering more specifics in the survey implies deepening the contributing points.

A thorough familiarization with the dissertation research gives me reason to accept the following main scientific and applied contributions:

- Based on studied theoretical models of competitiveness and sustainability, a complex theoretical and methodological framework has been built for studying the stability of the grain market with high potential for applicability;

- Conducted a survey to establish respondents' attitudes towards the stability of the grain market in Bulgaria and formulate strategic procedural measures at various management levels. The growing importance of food security increases the need for strategic decisions.

#### **6. Publications and participation in scientific forums**

In accordance with the quantitative requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna and the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the doctoral candidate presents four publications on the dissertation work. For three of them she is one person author, one is co-authored with the scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Stanimirova. Two publications are articles, one of which is in an indexed scientific journal with an impact factor. Three of the publications are published in English, which is an opportunity for some of the research results to reach a wider range of users. The doctoral candidate has participated in four scientific forums. This is a direct meeting with the scientific community, a research marker and a test of the achieved results. The indicated publications meet the minimum national requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", according to Art. 2b, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

#### **7. Plagiarism found or not found in the dissertation work and abstract**

No plagiarism is found in the evaluated work and abstract.

#### **8. Critical notes and recommendations**

I believe that it would be more appropriate, when seeking cooperation with key consulting structures, to address/indicate the Agricultural Academy in the survey, instead of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Within the structure of the AA there are several scientific institutes whose research activities are in the thematic focus of the dissertation. Empirical sociological research conducted shows interest of registered farmers in achievements in agricultural science.

#### **9. Questions to the dissertation candidate**

Do you agree with the assumption that the application of the 7-point Likert scale will enrich the results of the survey?

#### **10. Conclusion**

The content of this review is a result of a detailed examining of the documents provided by the doctoral candidate. All are prepared in accordance with the required regulatory framework. They are in accordance with national legislation and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna. The dissertation is a completed, original scientific work. Evidence of the good theoretical preparation of the candidate and the

acquired ability to conduct independent research with scientific and applied scientific contributions.

Based on the above, with full conviction, I propose to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to vote on awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Desislava Stefanova Ivanova in professional field 3.8 Economics, doctoral program "Agricultural Business" at the University of Economics-Varna.

15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Reviewer:

Заличена информация съгласно  
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

Prof. Plamena Yovchevska, Dsc