

STANDPOINT

by Assoc. Prof. Tanka Vasileva Milkova PhD, University of Economics – Varna

of dissertation for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional field 3.8. Economics

Doctoral program "Finance, Insurance and Social Insurance"

Author: Tatyana Venelinova Todorova

Topic: „Financial aspects of business model in entrepreneurship (as a result of an advanced university course)”

Supervisor: Prof. Sava Grozdev, DSc, Assoc. Prpf. Radostin Vazov, PhD

This standpoint has been prepared on the basis of Order № 36 / 11.03.2021 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, with which I was appointed a member of the scientific jury for conducting a procedure for defense of the dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 3.8. Economics and decision made by the scientific jury (Protocol No 1 of a meeting of the scientific jury on 26.03.2021).

1. General description of the submitted materials

- The materials submitted by Tatyana Todorova include the following documents:
- Dissertation (in English)
- Abstract of the dissertation (in Bulgarian and English)
- CV
- Copies of three articles
- Summaries of publications (in Bulgarian and English)
- Reference for fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 3.8. Economics

2. Brief biographical data about the doctoral student

PhD student Tatyana Todorova graduated in English philology at Sofia University and then headed abroad for an economic education. She graduated in a bachelor's degree in the programme of International Business and Management Studies (IBMS), at Inholland University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands), as well as a master's degree MSc International Public Management and Policy, Leiden University (the Netherlands). According to the CV provided, it can be concluded that Tatyana Todorova has an extensive practical experience, even as a lecturer at the Inholland University of Applied Sciences.

3. Relevance of the topic and expediency of the set goals and objectives

The dissertation work is entirely devoted to an up-to-date topic. It studies issues essential for the economic science, in particular entrepreneurship education, as well as the effect of this education on the development of the economy. The topicality of the theme is justified in the dissertation paper.

The defined objectives and tasks are conformed to the author's thesis. They are clearly defined there and can be found in paragraph 2.1 of the dissertation. I assume that the main thesis, purpose and goals are presented at the beginning of the dissertation, just in the very introduction.

4. Knowledge of the problem

After my acquaintance with the dissertation work and the publications that accompany it, I can confirm that the PhD student has deep theoretical knowledge of the actual subject, uses correctly a sufficient mass of literary sources, including a significant number of electronic ones. Based on this, she manages to extract scientific knowledge that she then uses for her theoretical and applied pieces of research.

5. Research methodology

Numerous methods and techniques for research have been used in the dissertation work. An approach where one and the same phenomenon is explored with several different methods has been applied there. Everything has been made on a basis of a survey. The main methods of study that are used are “comparative research method”, “concretization” and “specialization”, “abstraction”, “induction” and “generalization”, “observational study”, “descriptive statistical approach”, “predictive analysis”, “correlation analysis”, “ANOVA analysis”. In my opinion, all of the applied methods are correct and appropriate for achieving the objectives set in the study.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation work consists of 161 pages in total, 112 pages of which present the basic text. A structure is of six chapters, as the first one is an introduction and a theoretical overview on the subject, chapters number two, three and four show the essential part of the study. The fifth chapter presents the validity, limitations and future guidelines for the development of the study while the sixth one plays the role of a conclusion with some main inferences and contributions of the author. The proposed theoretical parts are deeply deployed and are based on a large number of literary sources. What is more, the author's opinion on a great number of issues is clearly expressed. Empirical studies can be defined as purposeful and they are conducted correctly. There are analyses and conclusions available from the obtained results. The author's ability to do independent theoretical, practical and applied research is quite evident.

7. Contributions and significance of the development for the science and practice

The dissertation paper contains significant scientific and, even more important, applied contributions. I estimate all of the contributions made by the author as I most highly appreciate the model for a university entrepreneurship programme with funding, where higher education institutions are tasked with stimulating the creation of start-ups and have the opportunity to implement it at the same time as a self-funding mechanism.

8. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation

PhD student Tatyana Todorova presents three scientific publications without co-authors. They are all responding to the necessary required scientific level. They are published in English and are connected with the subject of the dissertation. The publications are published in journals of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, which are included in the National Reference List of modern Bulgarian scientific publications with scientific review.

9. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

According to the provided report and the verification of the provided information that had been carried out, the PhD student Tatyana Todorova meets the minimum national requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the professional field 3.8. Economy.

10. Personal participation of the doctoral student

I believe that the assessed thesis, as well as its adjacent contributions, are prepared entirely by the author. I have no reason to claim for the presence of plagiarism in the dissertation.

11. Abstract

The abstract applied to the dissertation is long 33 pages in total. It was developed according to all of the requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” and contains the main elements characterizing the overall dissertation work. Although it reports correctly the main achieved results, it would be better if there was a greater focus on the financial aspects of the business entrepreneurship model.

12. Critical remarks and recommendations

The present dissertation work deserves a number of positive comments, as well as some critical remarks and recommendations. However, the critical notes are not as major as to diminish the efforts of the PhD student as well as the achieved scientific and applied results. I have one question for the PhD student: Have all the higher education institutions in Bulgaria, offering entrepreneurship education been examined, and if not, then on what criterion have those, included in the study been selected?

13. Personal impressions

I do not know the doctoral student and I have no personal impressions.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-practical and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for application of ZRASRB.

PhD thesis shows that the doctoral student Tatyana Venelinova Todorova has theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional field 3.8. Economics, as demonstrated qualities and skills for independent research.

Given all the above, I give a positive assessment of the research in the dissertation and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree „Doctor” to Tatyana Venelinova Todorova in the field of Higher Education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3.8. Economics; doctoral program „Finance, Insurance and Social Insurance“.

12.04.2021

Prepared the standpoint:

(Assoc. Prof. Tanka Milkova, PhD)