

## SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT

by Prof. Rositsa Rangelova Pavlova, Doctor of Economic Sciences, Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

on the dissertation for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Economic Sciences" (Doctor of Sciences) in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics

**Author:** Associate Professor Dr. Yaroslava Sergeevna Levchenko

**Thesis statement:** "Financial support for bridge construction in Ukraine based on a comprehensive approach to increase investment attractiveness"

### 1. General description of the submitted documents

By order № 100 of 29.04.2021 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance (VUZF) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Grigoriy Vazov I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury for providing a procedure for defense of a dissertation on "Financial support for bridge construction in Ukraine based on a comprehensive approach to increase investment attractiveness" for obtaining the degree of "Doctor of Sciences" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economics. The author of the dissertation is Associate Professor Dr. Yaroslava Sergeevna Levchenko - Candidate for Department of Finance at VUZF in the doctoral program "Finance and Insurance" in the professional field 3.8. Economics.

The documents submitted by Dr. Yaroslava Levchenko are as follows: CV, a copy of diplomas such as that for associate professor at the Kharkiv National Automobile and Road University (2019), that for the defense of a doctoral dissertation for education and scientific degree "Doctor of Economics" on "Assessment of investment attractiveness of an enterprise and application in the context of regional development" (2018), certificates for participation as a reviewer in various journals, participation in some programs for scientific qualification, etc., the dissertation work, abstract, list of publications, reference for contributions, reference for fulfillment of national minimum requirements, etc.

### 2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

The attached CV gives an idea of the education and scientific development of Dr. Yaroslava Levchenko. The main conclusion, in my opinion, is that the scientific path consistently directs her to the development of the topic of proposed dissertation.

### 3. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation on the topic "Financial support of bridge construction in Ukraine based on a comprehensive approach to increase investment attractiveness" consists of 401 pages, incl. introduction, five chapters, conclusion, and references (bibliography), list of abbreviations used, 69 tables and 42 graphs. If the format of the dissertation text is adjusted to the accepted standards

(1800 characters per page, or Times New Roman 12), it is smaller - 296 pages, which in itself is not a problem. The bibliography contains 509 sources, of which 277 are in English, and the rest - in Russian and mostly Ukrainian. It should note that the common practice is to first describe the literary sources in the native language, then in a foreign language (English), which is not observed here. It would be good in this list to separate groups by the sources such as: scientific publications, laws and other normative documents, websites, etc.

#### **4. Contributions and significance of development for science and practice**

The topic of the dissertation is perspective, given the benefits and the need to invest in economic development. In the report on the contributions to the dissertation (which is repeated instead of a conclusion in the dissertation and this is not a good decision), three groups are successfully distinguished: received for the first time, improved and further developed. *The original contributions* include working out of the concept of investment attractiveness of bridge construction, which includes “a combination of objective and subjective external conditions and factors that significantly influence the investment decision-making process for financial support and economic growth”. *The improved contributions* include: proposing an approach to understanding the category of "financial support", classification of ways to improve investment attractiveness in the context of financial support for bridge construction, etc. Among *the further developed issues are as follows*: a methodology for allocating public funds to financial support for building bridges, a methodology for determining the global vector of regional priorities, a methodological approach to the integrated assessment of potential, introduction of dual form of education in the system of financial support in the context of the development of bridge construction, etc.

The contributions and significance of the development are mainly scientific-applied and applied. Given the personal participation of Dr. Yaroslava Levchenko in scientific and expert programs, plans and topics, it is assumed that parts of the achievements in the dissertation are likely implemented.

#### **5. Evaluation of the dissertation publications**

Dr. Yaroslava Levchenko has stated as a scientific production as a result of the study 66 publications, incl. 5 collective and 1 individual monograph. There is no attached list of those from the first doctoral dissertation, which should to be separated from those applied for in this doctoral dissertation. The title of the authors' monograph (which is actually co-authored by Dmitriev I.A.) coincides completely with that of the first doctoral dissertation and should not be taken into account now.

The list of 66 publications contains mainly works before 2018 (from 2010 onwards), there are mostly proceedings of participation in scientific conferences, and consists of works mainly in Ukrainian, which makes it difficult to evaluate them. Among the documents there are only 17 publications with their full text. In the absence of full textual content, there is a list of 49 summaries of the requested 66 publications, some of which are different from the topic of financial support for bridge construction in Ukraine. If these facts are taken into account, a strong reduction of the requested number of publications should be made. Many of the publications are co-authored with more than one co-author, but there are no separation protocols and the real contribution of Dr.

Yaroslava Levchenko cannot be assessed. I acknowledge 24 citations of 10 publications of the doctoral student - those citations that have been made in publications since 2018. They are enough in number. The impact factor is not mentioned, and according to the magazines where they are published, it is not expected.

## **6. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements**

The report on the Dr. Yaroslava Levchenko fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for obtaining the degree of "Doctor of Sciences" is quite vague in places. For example, it should definitely not include 100 points in section B for an already defended doctoral dissertation for a "doctor of sciences", which is to be defended. It is not clear why the unpublished monograph is not presented as the main habilitation work: Levchenko Y. S. (2020). Theoretical and methodological bases of financial support of bridge construction of Ukraine within the framework of public-private partnership. - Sofia: Publishing House VUZF "St. Gregory the Theologian », 272 p. What are the considerations for this, as it corresponds to the topic of the dissertation? Probably the minimum requirements are met, but I can't say because there are no reference values applied for the respective indicators.

## **7. Abstract**

In general, the abstract is made according to the requirements. It consists of 46 pages, of which 38 are text and 8 are a list of the author's publications, which should present here. Instead, attention should be focused on the essence of the research thesis and the main results achieved in the dissertation.

## **8. Critical remarks and recommendations**

- It is not clear the difference in the nature of the study of Dr. Yaroslava Levchenko at first dissertation and the present (the so-called small and large doctoral dissertation). The second work should be more theoretical, with an important, generalizing fundamental thematic scope and depth of consideration to prove a research thesis stated at the beginning. As far as there are contributions here, they are scientific-applied. I recommend the author to take a more in-depth approach to research.

- The author relies too much on the role of dual education as a factor in increasing investment attractiveness, which in practice results in some deviation from the topic of the dissertation with its effect in the future. Instead, other important factors such as the political and economic stability of the country in particular Ukraine, including the financial and banking system, the stability and quality of institutions, the quality of the workforce and innovation today, the spread of corruption and others should be considered.

- No distinction was made between the content and the contributions in the previous dissertation for ONS "Doctor of Economics" and the one for "Doctor of Sciences", both of which are on quite similar topics and the first took place only 3 years ago.

- There is a sufficient number of requested scientific publications, but there are overlaps, more depth is needed between them. Some of them, in co-authorship, are 3-4 pages long.

- The submitted documents are quite unorganized, and some are missing - for example, separation protocols, full text of the publications in Bulgarian or English, others are repeated, as

the list of publications, which is different in different sources, and others are not needed, for example, diplomas other than that of associate professor and doctor of economics.

- The impression is that the submitted documents and the application for defense of a doctoral dissertation are essential more for the acquisition of an academic position than for the defense of a scientific degree.

## **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation contains scientific-applied and applied results, which could consider as a contribution to science and, in general, meet the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for Application of ZRASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results do not fully, but correspond to the specific requirements of the Regulations for admission and training of Dr. Yaroslava Levchenko at VUZF.

I give a positive assessment of the research presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the degree of "Doctor of Sciences" to Associate Professor Dr. Yaroslava Sergeevna Levchenko in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3. 8. Economics.

May 26, 2021

Reviewer: Prof. D.Sc. Rositsa Rangelova