



May 26, 2021

STANDPOINT

by **Prof. Dr. Vesselina Vasileva Dimitrova**

University of Economics- Varna

of a dissertation for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Science"

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

Professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: Dr. Maria Borovska

Topic: Increasing the financial and economic competitiveness of logistics companies by the use of analytical models (*translated into Bulgarian*)

1. General description of the submitted documents

By Order № 82 of 08/04/2021 of the Rector of the University of Finance, Business and Entrepreneurship (VUZEF-Sofia) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Grigoriy Vazov, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific jury for providing a procedure for the defense of a dissertation entitled "Increasing the financial and economic competitiveness of logistics companies by the use of analytical models (translated into Bulgarian)" for obtaining a degree "Doctor of Science" in the field of Higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics. The author of the dissertation is Dr. Maria Borovska. At the first reunion of the Scientific jury on 27/04/2021, I have been appointed to write a standpoint.

The documents submitted by Dr. Maria Borovska include a CV, copy of the diploma for the acquired Ph.D. educational-qualification degree (in original and translated into Bulgarian), dissertation and abstract of the dissertation for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of

Science" (in Russian and translated into Bulgarian), abstract of the dissertation for the award of Ph.D. educational and scientific degree (in original and translated into Bulgarian), citation level reference, reference for contributions, Bulgarian minimum national requirements (MNR) reference for the scientific degree "Doctor of Science", publications on the current procedure in original language in full-text content, summaries of the publications in Bulgarian and Russian languages.

The candidate has submitted 24 publications for the competition but only 11 publications will be evaluated. The other 13 submitted publications are either not on the topic of the dissertation, or overlap in content with other already presented publications.

2. Brief biographical background of the candidate

Dr. Maria Borovska is born in 1952. She is the author of over 70 scientific papers in the field of mathematics and economics. On 20.01.1995 with diploma number 198 she has received the degree of "Doctor of Science" at the Faculty of Management and Informatics of the Academy of Economics Oscar Lange in Wroclaw with a dissertation entitled "Analysis of the functioning of a non-deterministic system for inventory management." Since 2015 Dr. Maria Borovska has been working as a senior researcher at the Higher State School Prof. St. Tarnovski in Tarnobrzeg. Dr. Maria Borovska has won several awards from the Polish Minister of Education and the Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin. Dr. Maria Borovska has taken part in the organization of over 40 international scientific conferences.

3. Actual aspects of the topic and appropriate set of goals and research tasks

The problem developed in the dissertation has a scientific and scientific-applied aspect. The aim is to make a forecast for the logistics business performance with the opportunity to increase its competitiveness and financial stability. The main research task of Dr. Maria Borovska is to present a new method and mathematical tools (defined by the author herself as a "patent") to support the supply chain management process of the service center in the whole logistics system.

4. Level of problem knowledge

Dr. Borovska's biography and her scientific publications show that she has been researching the problem in her dissertation for many years and knows it in depth.

5. Research methodology

The chosen research methodology in the dissertation is appropriate and includes forecasts based on time series and many observations on the effectiveness of the logistics performance of the companies.

6. Characteristics and general evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation includes 193 pages as an introduction, three chapters (named sections), and a conclusion. In addition, 75 pages of annexes, 3 pages of keywords, 8 pages of descriptions of figures, tables, and formulas are also included. The literature reference in the dissertation includes 165 publications.

The first chapter entitled "Theoretical aspects of increasing the financial and economic competitiveness of logistics companies" examines the nature of logistics, logistics services, and logistics systems by defining the quantitative (mathematical) models for their efficiency. The second chapter entitled "Analysis of the functioning of the logistics system in the enterprise" deals with the inventory management process at different levels. The third chapter entitled "Forecasting of the functioning of the logistics activities of the enterprise" contains the specific forecasts of the author for the functioning of the logistics systems regarding related activities, characteristics, and weaknesses. The body of the dissertation gives grounds to make further contributions.

7. Contributions and significance for science and practice

The dissertation offers an author's model for approving with new means already existing scientific problems in the field of logistics management. The long-term scientific research of Dr. Maria Borovska allows her to contribute to the Bulgarian scientific community with some quantitative pieces of evidence and to adjust the critical levels of supply stocks, and hence the characteristics of the logistics service center in the supply chain system through preliminary forecasts and thus, to guide logistics managers in the direction of right financial performance. The achievements of Dr. Maria Borovska can be used for computer simulations in logistics companies, thus setting some favorable prospects for scientific testing of the results of her dissertation also in transport systems as key units in the logistics service center.

8. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation

The total number of publications that reflect the work and results of the dissertation of Dr. Maria Borovska is 11. According to the order of the reference list sent by the candidate, I have

evaluated 11 publications with the following numbers: 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 20, 21a, 21b, 22. The evaluated publications on the dissertation work include 2 studies (in Polish editions with scientific review), 1 monograph (in Bulgarian edition with scientific review), 8 publications (mainly articles in Polish journals with scientific review, scientific volumes of Polish universities or chapters in collective monographs with scientific review published in Bulgaria). The publications of Dr. Maria Borovska in co-authorship are 2 (respectively number 21a, 21b). As they do not reflect the personal contribution of the candidate, I assume that each author has a personal contribution of 50%. Only publication number 11 is in the English language, the rest of the publications are provided in original- in Polish language and with abstracts translated into Bulgarian. The presented reference of citations meets the minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 3.8. Economy. Four auto-citations are found in the reference list of citations. Dr. Maria Borovska has no published articles, papers, or citations in the Scopus or WoS databases.

9. Compliance with the Bulgarian minimum national requirements (MNR)

Information on the fulfillment of the Bulgarian minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 3.8. Economics shows that the scientific research of Dr. Maria Borovska covers the set of Bulgarian minimum national requirements (MNR).

10. Personal participation of the candidate

The dissertation is an original author's work of Dr. Maria Borovska and does not repeat her previous Ph.D. thesis for obtaining the Ph.D. educational and scientific degree.

11. Evaluation of the abstract

The abstract of the dissertation includes 24 pages and presents in a brief statement with all mandatory elements of the dissertation.

12. Critical remarks and recommendations

For future competitions, in which Dr. Maria Borovska wishes to participate, I recommend her strictly to comply with national and administrative requirements for completeness and appropriateness of the whole documentation.

13. Personal impressions

I do not know personally the candidate.

14. Recommendations for further contributions and results

I recommend Dr. Maria Borovska to give wider visibility of her publications and scientific results of dissertation outside the universities that she represents in Poland and Bulgaria.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation of Dr. Maria Borovska contains scientific, scientific-applied, and applied results, which represent a contribution to Bulgarian science and meet the mandatory requirements of the National Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the further Regulations of law implementation. The presented documents comply with the requirements of the national regulations for admission and training of Ph.D. students (Ph.D. degree and degree "Doctor of Science") at the University of Finance, Business, and Entrepreneurship (VUZF-Sofia).

The dissertation shows that the candidate Dr. Maria Borovska has theoretical knowledge and scientific professional skills in the Professional field 3. 8. Economics by demonstrating her experience for independent research.

Due to the above-mentioned, I give my *positive evaluation* of the research presented in the dissertation and I invite all members of the Honorable scientific jury to award the degree of "Doctor of Science" to Dr. Maria Borovska in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3. 8. Economics.



The standpoint is written by:

Prof. Dr. Vesselina Dimitrova