

OPINION

**From Prof. Dr. Silvia Trifonova Trifonova-Pramatarova,
University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Sofia**

of a dissertation for the award of the scientific degree “Doctor of Sciences”

in Area of Study 3. Social Sciences, Economics and Law

Field of Study 3.8. Economics

Author: Dr. Jolanta Olszewska

Title: “Financial security in the Republic of Poland (2015-2022)”

1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 107 of 01.03.2023 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance (VUZF) Prof. DSc. of Law Boris Velchev, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic “Financial security in the Republic of Poland (2015-2022)” for the award of a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the Area of Study 3. Social Sciences, Economics and Law, Field of Study 3.8. Economics. The author of the dissertation is Dr. Jolanta Olszewska – a candidate for the “Finance” Department of the VUZF.

The materials presented by the VUZF include all the necessary documents for the procedure, namely: CV in English, copy of the diploma for the acquired educational-qualification degree "Doctor", dissertation in Russian, abstract in Russian, abstract in Bulgarian, a list of publications and summaries, a certificate of fulfillment of the national minimum requirements for acquiring a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in a professional direction 3.8. Economics, scientific jury order, presentation by Dr. Jolanta Olszewska, reference of contributions in Russian.

In the abstract, the candidate has attached a total of 30 publications, and in the list of summaries of publications – summaries of 24 publications are indicated. In the abstract 3 monographs, 3 scientific editions, 2 publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 1 in Scopus and 1 in Web of Science respectively, 5 publications in non-refereed journals are indicated peer-reviewed or published in edited collective volumes and 15 published chapters in collective monographs.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Jolanta Olszewska has an educational and scientific degree „doctor“ in political science from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Faculty of Political Science, Poland since 2010. The topic of her dissertation work is „The Union of the Democratic Left in the elections in SubCarpathia (1990-2007)”. She completed a master’s degree in political science at the Pedagogical Academy Commission of National Education in Krakow, Faculty of Humanities, in 2005, and a bachelor’s degree in the same specialty at the University of Social and Economic Sciences in Tyczyn Faculty of Humanities, in 2003.

Since 2017, Jolanta Olszewska has been working as an assistant at the Rzeszów University of Technology position, initially in the Department of Security Science, later in the Department of Project Management and Policy, and now in the Department of Marketing. From 2013 to 2016, she was the dean of the Jasło Faculty of the Humanities and Economics Academy in Łódź, from 2020 to 2022 – a juror at the District Court of Rzeszów, and from 2020 until now – vice president of Polish Teachers' Union at the Rzeszów University of Technology. She has many additional trainings and qualifications.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation work of Dr. Jolanta Olszewska has a total volume of 251 pages. It is structured in an introduction, five main sections, subsections, conclusion, bibliography, list of figures, list of tables and list of graphs. 9 tables, 10 figures and 98 graphs are presented. The list of information sources includes 156 literary sources.

The **main goal of the research** is to analyze the level of financial security in Poland against the background of rapid economic changes in the country during the period 2015-2022. The author has formulated 6 specific tasks of the research. However, in the introduction of the work, the research thesis, object and subject of the research are not indicated.

The applied methods of scientific research are: method of induction and deduction, method of analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis, empirical analysis, descriptive analysis, factor analysis, desk analysis, graphical and tabular analysis, critical analysis.

The first section of the work is devoted to the essence of financial security. The title of this section talks about financial safety, and the text mainly about financial security, and it is not clear whether the same meaning is attached to both concepts. A typology of threats to financial security was made and 6 factors influencing the level of financial security in Poland were studied - demand and production, investments, public finances, international trade, financial condition of enterprises and monetary and credit policy and markets of assets. The second section of the paper is devoted to the financial safety net and the supervision of financial

instruments in Poland. In general, the translation in the abstract is inaccurate. In Bulgarian, there is no word for supervision of financial instruments. Apparently, supervision of trading in financial instruments is meant. Here the policy of the National Bank of Poland, the Financial Supervisory Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Financial Stability Committee and the Bank Guarantee Fund are considered. In the third section, an analysis of the activity of state institutions to guarantee the security of the financial sector in Poland is made. More specifically, the following section of the work examines the activity of the Financial Supervision Commission towards the subjects of the financial market in Poland. Here, such important issues as the effects of Poland's accession to the EU on the financial sector and the position of Poland against the EU countries on such indicators as the exchange rates of the euro against national currencies, the effective exchange rates of the country, imports and exports are touched upon, food prices, wage levels, inflation rates, energy prices and the housing market. In the last section, which is only 13 pages long, the legislative activity is examined, including the implementation of the provisions of the EU directives by the Ministry of Finance, as well as the issuance of recommendations by the Financial Supervision Commission.

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

In the list of contributions, which is in Russian, there are three scientific and two scientific-applied contributions of Dr. Jolanta Olszewska's dissertation work. After my translation of this reference from Russian into Bulgarian, I found that the reference mainly states the results of the scientific research of a theoretical and an applied nature. So I do not agree with most of the formulated contributions of the candidate, because in practice they are only results of the research.

In my opinion, the following **two scientific-applied contributions of the candidate's dissertation can be highlighted:**

(1) An analysis of the effects of Poland's EU membership on the country's financial security, with an emphasis on the influence on the formation of the country's financial policy, with the conclusion that due to the government's frequent disregard of the principles, directives and EU recommendations, Poland's financial security has been undermined for many years.

(2) Identification and systematization of the main negative factors affecting financial security in Poland in 2022 based on descriptive and empirical analysis, among which currency weakening, rising inflation, rising interest rates, rising prices stand out of housing, sharp increases in food and energy prices.

5. Assessment of dissertation publications

In the abstract, the candidate has attached a total of 30 publications, and in the list of summaries of publications – summaries of 24 publications are indicated. In the abstract 3 monographs, 3 scientific editions,

2 publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 1 in Scopus and 1 in Web of Science respectively, 5 publications in non-refereed journals are indicated peer-reviewed or published in edited collective volumes and 15 published chapters in collective monographs.

6. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

From the presented Reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the professional direction 3.8. Economics, which the candidate of Dr. Jolanta Olszewska has applied, it is evident that there is an over-fulfilment of these requirements.

7. Abstract

The content and quality of the abstract reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation work of the candidate. But the Bulgarian translation of the abstract is not good at all. Even the title of the thesis is not translated correctly. There are vague and incomprehensible phrases, sentences and paragraphs.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

My critical notes and recommendations to the presented dissertation work of Dr. Jolanta Olszewska are the following:

- In the introduction of the work, the research thesis, object and subject of the research are not indicated.
- Unbalanced structure of the dissertation work, insufficiently high level of depth. The need for more argumentation of fairly stated theses and statements.
- I do not agree with most of the formulated contributions of the candidate, because in practice they are only results of the research.
- Given the fact that the dissertation work is in Russian, it was very difficult to prepare the opinion.
- The Bulgarian translation of the abstract is not good at all. Even the title of the dissertation is not translated correctly. There are vague and incomprehensible phrases, sentences and paragraphs.
- Not submitted abstracts of all 30 publications listed in the abstract of the work, but only 24 publications, unknown why.

I have 2 questions for the candidate during the defense:

1. Are the terms "financial safety" and "financial security" synonymous because they are not the same? What is the difference between the two concepts because it is not explained anywhere in the paper?

2. What is the type of the monetary policy of the National Bank of Poland in recent years, what are its goals and instruments, and to what extent is the central bank of Poland independent from the country's government?

CONCLUSION

Jolanta Olszewska's dissertation work contains scientific and applied contributions and **meets** the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB. Due to the above, I give my *positive assessment* of the research conducted, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and ***I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the scientific degree „Doctor of Sciences“*** to Jolanta Olszewska in the Area of Study 3. Social Sciences, Economics and Law, Field of Study 3.8. Economics.

11.04.2023

Reviewer:

(Prof. Dr. Silvia Trifonova-Pramatarova)