

## STANDPOINT

by Assoc. Dr. Lyudmila Boykova Dikova

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

in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional direction 3.8. Economy

Author: Alina Walenia PhD

Topic: "COMPETITIVENESS

OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

IN THE LIGHT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

### 1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 106 of 01.03.2023 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, Prof. Doctor 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 "COMPETITIVENESS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE LIGHT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "EUROPE 2020" STRATEGY for obtaining a scientific degree " Doctor of Science" in Higher Education Department 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is Alina Walenia PhD - candidate at the Department of Finance.

The set of materials submitted by Dr. Alina Walenia on electronic media is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the VUZF (curriculum vitae, copy of the diploma for the acquired educational and qualification degree "doctor", dissertation, list of contributions, abstract, list of publications, presentation, order for determining the scientific jury).

The candidate has attached 2 monographs and 18 publications.

### 2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Dr. Alina Walenia is an academic researcher at Rzeszów University. The author has contributed research in the topic(s): Code of Ethics and Rural Area. Author has hindex 3, co-authored 26 publications, receiving 22 citations. The candidate for the procedure, Alina Walenia

PhD , has work experience, appropriate education and permanently focused scientific interests in the field of the competition announced by the university.

I do not know the candidate personally.

### 3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation contains an introduction, 5 chapters and a conclusion, the total volume of the work is 289 pages, an up-to-date and appropriate bibliography is used.

The individual parts (chapters) are developed and presented in a very good, logically sustained and argued sequence in terms of object, subject and content. This convincingly proves that the author knows well and deals with the complexity and specificity of the matter under consideration. In all chapters of the dissertation, multi-faceted in-depth theoretical-practical studies and analyzes have been carried out, allowing the making of logical and objective conclusions, the disclosure of current and prospective problems, on the basis of which the questions and arguments supporting the author's research are developed. body thesis. After each chapter of the development, the author makes general conclusions that serve as a basis for the analyzes in the following parts. In the conclusion, the main findings regarding the achievement of the set goals of the research, the research thesis, the methodological issues, as well as an opinion regarding the degree of feasibility of the proposals made are presented. The content of the dissertation work allows to make an analytical review of the development, on the basis of which to deduce the specific assessment of the positive sides, the obtained scientific and scientifically applied results, the contributing moments and the problems of the development.

The dissertation fulfills its purpose to present the theoretical aspects of the competitiveness of the economy according to economic theories, the factors that shape international competitiveness, and to indicate the measures that determine this process. Based on data from Eurostat and other international financial institutions for the period 2010-2020, an assessment was made of the extent to which the goals of the "Europe 2020" strategy are being met and its impact on the competitive positions of the member countries of the EU as well as the EU in the international arena.

The main results of the dissertation work are the following:

(1) detailing the theoretical concepts of competitiveness together with the factors that shape it, as well as presentation and assessment of the general competitiveness policy implemented in the European Union,

(2) presentation of the main provisions of the EU cohesion policy, as well as the instruments and programs in the financial perspective 2014-2020, as well as the factors supporting the process of its modernization after 2020,

(3) characteristics of the principles and financial instruments of the EU cohesion policy in the financial perspective 2014-2020 and in the program period after 2020, defining the prerequisites for the development strategy of the European Union "Europe 2020" for 2010-2020 d. and related threats and problems,

(4) presentation of the impact of the Europe 2020 strategy on the functioning of cohesion policy in the EU in relation to the multiannual financial program for 2014-2020 as well as in the current financial perspective 2021-2027,

(5) carrying out a comparative evaluation of the degree of implementation of the adopted indicators of the "Europe 2020" Strategy in individual countries and in the EU,

(6) identifying the indicators of the Europe 2020 strategy that have not been achieved in the Member States and indicating the reasons,

(7) assessment of the extent to which the funds from the EU budget intended for cohesion policies are used to support the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy,

(8) determining the competitive position of the EU in the international arena in connection with the implementation of the prerequisites of the Europe 2020 Strategy for 2010-2020,

(9) determining the competitiveness of EU member states in relation to other countries in the world based on regional competitiveness indices published by the European Commission and other ratings developed by international financial institutions,

(10) development of a synthetic indicator that determines the degree of implementation of the "Europe 2020" strategy using statistical methods, which is determined on the basis of detailed indicators (published by the European Commission) for monitoring the implementation of the prerequisites of the strategy,

(11) ranking of EU member states in four groups, taking into account changes in their development in 2010-2020 (group 1 - high: stable Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, group 2 - medium high: stable Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Ireland, Austria, group 3 - medium low: stable Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, France, Portugal, group 4 - low: stable Cyprus, Spain, Italy).

The results of the research presented in the dissertation work are very important for the planning of the socio-economic development of the individual EU member states, as well as of the EU as an organization in the international arena.

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

The presented dissertation definitely meets the requirements recorded in the current normative documents - ZRASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant documents of the VUZF. Alina Walenia PhD 's dissertation has the necessary formal and substantive qualities of "dissertability":

(1) formal – there is a meaningful thesis, a full-fledged system of basic methodological elements (object, subject, goal, hypotheses, limitations), content-relevant scientific apparatus and a respectful volume;

(2) substantive – review of leading mutually complementary theories, critical analysis in a context relevant to the purposes of the dissertation, clear and original own opinion, substantiated polemic with a number of imposed theses, multiple "valences" to research and management practice through creation of a heuristic conceptual framework for the interpretation of complex and socially significant processes.

Undoubtedly, the issue is current and significant.

#### 5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

The candidate has attached 2 monographs and 18 independent publications.

The relevance of the papers proposed for review is clearly specified. We can summarize that the subject of the presented publications is focused on the problems of professional direction 3.8. "Economics". It covers current theoretical and applied problems of competitiveness. There is interdisciplinarity in the publications, which is balanced in a problematic sense. In the works proposed for review, these problems are analyzed in detail, through the use of creative scientific approaches, with the application of systemic thinking, with knowledge of the issues under consideration. The candidate demonstrates an individual scientific focus and offers a high-level scientific output, as well as demonstrates specialized expertise.

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

Scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation research are in sufficient volume and possess undeniable research merits.

With the presented publications and with his dissertation work, the candidate fulfills the national minimum requirements laid down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation for the Acquisition of the National Doctor of Science Degree under 3.8. Economy.

#### 7. Abstract

The abstract is prepared in accordance with good academic practices and correctly reflects the essence of the dissertation in a concise form.

The author has scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation. The text of the abstract fully reflects the content and corresponds to the theses developed in the dissertation.

The candidate has presented a sufficient number of scientific publications, with which she fulfills the national minimum requirements laid down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its Implementation for the acquisition of the Doctor of Science degree under 3.8. Economy.

At the time of drafting the opinion, there is no information that would give grounds to doubt the authenticity of the dissertation work and scientific publications presented for consideration.

#### 8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant critical notes and recommendations.

### CONCLUSION

The dissertation submitted for consideration represented a current scientific research. It fully meets the requirements for such kind of scientific developments and has indisputable scientific qualities. The publications on the topic complement the image of the candidate as a thorough specialist with serious practical knowledge, which she combines with an excellent knowledge of the currently existing theory in the field of her chosen topic.

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all 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. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements of the Regulations for admission and training of doctoral students in the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation shows that the candidate, Alina Walenia PhD, has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional Direction 3. 8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the academic degree "Doctor of Sciences" to Alina Walenia PhD in Higher Education District 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3. 8. Economics.

04/13/2023

Reviewer: Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Dikova, PhD