

REVIEW

by prof. Virginia Ivanova Zhelyazkova, DSc, Ph.D. from VUZF University-Sofia

of a dissertation for the award of a scientific degree

"Doctor of Science"

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

Professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: Dr. Alina Valenia

Topic: "Competitiveness of European Union Member States in the Context of the Implementation of Europe 2020 Strategies"

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 (VUZF University-Sofia), prof. Boris Velchev, DSc, Ph.D., I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic "Competitiveness of European Union Member States in the Context of the Implementation of Europe 2020 Strategies" for the acquisition of a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the Field of Higher Education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional area 3.8. Economics.

The author of the dissertation is Dr. Alina Valenia - a candidate for the "Finance and Insurance" department at VUZF.

Materials provided by Dr. Valenia include:

- CV;
- a copy of the diploma for the acquired educational and qualification degree "Ph.D.";
- Dissertation for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Science";

- abstract of the dissertation;
- reference to the scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation and their summaries;
- report on the contributions in the dissertation;
- reference to the citations of the candidate's scientific works by other scientists;
- a report on the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements for awarding the “Doctor of Science” degree according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation.

In connection with the present procedure, the applicant has attached:

- two independent monographic works;
- a total of 18 scientific publications in various scientific journals.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

The candidate, Dr. Valenia obtained a master's degree in economics and the production and trade of agricultural products in 1985 from the Hugo Kollatai University of Agriculture in Krakow. In 1998, she obtained a doctorate in agricultural sciences from the Warsaw School of Economics.

Dr. Walenia is distinguished by her long experience as an academic lecturer and scientist at the University of Rzeszów, Poland. She is the author of over 100 scientific publications. In parallel with her work in the field of higher education, since 1986 she has been working in the division of the Supreme Audit Chamber of Polskav, Rzeszów, as the chief specialist "Public Control".

3. Topicality of the subject and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

The Europe 2020 strategy of the European Union and its implementation has generated both political enthusiasm and serious debate in the international scientific literature about its effectiveness and efficiency. The fulfillment of the great ambitions and goals set in it was unfortunately put to serious tests. The results of the member

countries' efforts in the period up to 2020 lay the foundation for their readiness to realize the new, even higher goals of the union, presented in the so-called Green Pact (or Green Deal).

In the light of the wide discussion of the competitiveness of the member states on the implementation of "Europe 2020" Strategy, the dissertation presented for consideration has an undisputed dissertability.

The results of the research presented in its framework are interesting and have a marked current importance.

4. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation

The work was developed in Russian language and consists of a total of 292 pages, divided into an introduction, five sections, a conclusion and lists of the literature used, tables and graphs in the text.

The introduction has an ushering nature to the issue and it clearly reveals the author's motivation for choosing a topic.

Within the first, short section, the candidate pays special attention to the methodology of the research. The objectives of the work and the hypotheses are substantiated in detail, clearly and correctly. This detail of the description of the research approach speaks of the depth of the candidate's knowledge of the issues she researches. The presentation is logical and coherent.

Within the second section, the candidate presents the theoretical aspects of the competitiveness of the economy in an analytical plan. Here, the main theories in this field, the factors that shape the international competitiveness of the economy and the main indicators that are used for the purposes of tracking it are examined and discussed elaborately.

The object of the next, third section of the work are the financial instruments of the EU, which support the implementation of "Europe 2020" Strategy within the framework of the cohesion policy. In this part, the author analyzes in detail, first, the model of European policies in this area in the period 2014-2020, then the objectives of the EU's investment and innovation policy, the competitiveness of the EU's cohesion policy after 2020 and presents the individual initiatives and programs, set for the realization of the EU goals for the period 2021-2027. This section represents a very good overview of EU policies related to the implementation of the "Europe

2020" Strategy and the main guidelines of these policies and the tools for their implementation set for the next period.

In the fourth section of the dissertation, the candidate presents his assessment of the degree of implementation of the key areas of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Here, the author analyzes key indicators of the strategy's success both for individual member states and for the union as a whole. The ratings of the EU member states in the context of their implementation of the strategy are presented, the most significant result of the implementation of the strategy in global terms is analyzed - the state of competitiveness of the EU as a whole on international markets.

The analysis flows smoothly and logically into the next, last, fifth section of the dissertation, the subject of which is the competitiveness of the economies of the EU and the member states according to various indicators of competitiveness. First of all, the author analyzes the competitiveness based on the information on the gross domestic product of the individual member countries. It then continues with an examination of income inequality, the risk of poverty and other aspects of social isolation, the regional competitiveness index, which shows the state of individual regions within the borders of member states, data on the human development index and others.

In the conclusion, the main inferences of the study are correctly and consistently presented. The work has a completed character. The author is undoubtedly very well acquainted with the scientific literature on the topic she researches, and this is evident both from the depth of the analyzes within the work, and from the number of quoted sources: a total of 177 in different languages.

The text is enriched with numerous graphs and tables that illustrate the author's ideas and the results of her research.

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

The applicant has defined and provided reference for a total of eleven contributions. They are not divided by type, but I assign them to the category of scientific and applied contributions. I accept them the way they are worded. I believe that these formulations objectively reflect what was achieved in the work.

6. Evaluation of dissertation publications and fulfillment of minimum national requirements

The publications submitted for review on the subject of the dissertation work, as well as their citations, are sufficient in number and type to meet the national minimum requirements for awarding the “Doctor of Sciences” scientific degree, laid down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

8. Personal participation of the candidate

At the time of writing the review, there is no information about plagiarism in the works of Dr. Valenia.

9. Abstract

The abstract in an abbreviated form correctly reflects what was achieved in the dissertation and was prepared in accordance with the accepted academic norms for this kind of scientific work.

10. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant criticisms of the study. I recommend Dr. Valenia to publish his dissertation in English. In this way, it will gain wider recognition.

11. Personal impressions

I do not know the candidate personally, but from the competition documentation I can confidently confirm that she is a scientist with serious potential.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation of candidate Dr. Alina Valenia on the topic: "Competitiveness of European Union Member States in the Context of the Implementation of Europe 2020 Strategies" has indisputable scientific and scientific-applied contributions. The candidate's scientific output is enviable. I give my positive assessment to them and vote "FOR" the awarding of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in 3.8 Economics to Dr. Alina Valenia.

04/12/2023

Sofia city

Reviewer:

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(prof. V. Zhelyazkova)