

STANDPOINT

from

Assoc. Prof. Dr. MAIA IANKOVA NATCHKOVA

PhD, Certified Public Accountant, Registered Auditor

Bulgaria, Sofia, UNWE, Department "Accounting and Analysis"

at UNSS - Sofia,

Scientific specialty 05.02.07 "Accounting, control and analysis of economic activity", Professional direction 3.8. "Economy"

on

dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**"

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

Professional direction 3.8. Economy

with author : Atanas Yanev Stoyanov

on the topic : "Current financial-accounting aspects of business combinations"

1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 198 of 25/04/2023 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 work on the topic "**Current financial-accounting aspects of business combinations**" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the Higher Education District 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is **Atanas Yanev Stoyanov** - PhD student at the "Accounting and Auditing" Department of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia. The scientific supervisor of the dissertation work is Prof. Emilia Milanova – Tsoncheva, PhD.

The materials submitted by the doctoral student Atanas Yanev Stoyanov include documents according to the presented list, containing brief biographical data and information on fulfilling the requirements for training in the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", a copy of the diploma for the acquired educational qualification degree "Master", an application for public defense, certificate of fulfillment of the minimum requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor", dissertation work and abstract to it, list of all publications, list of publications on the topic of

the dissertation work, copies of publications on the topic of the dissertation work and their abstracts, a list of known citations of the author of the dissertation's publications by other authors, a reference to the author's scientific and applied scientific contributions to his dissertation, and a declaration of originality and credibility.

The documents submitted by the doctoral student fully meet the requirements for opening a procedure for the public defense of a dissertation work before a scientific jury for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

2. Brief biographical details of the applicant

The doctoral student completed a Bachelor's degree in "Accounting" at UNWE, a Master's degree in "Accounting" with a specialization in the public sector at UNWE and is studying for a Doctoral degree in "Accounting, Audit and Analysis" at VUZF. In parallel with his studies, he has been working in practice as an accountant and auditor assistant since 2018.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation is 241 pages long, well structured in an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. The following is a bibliographic reference, which contains 259 items sources, of which 42 pcs. Cyrillic sources, 201 pcs. Latin sources, 6 pcs. foreign databases and 10 pcs. other internet sources. In the work are presented 8 tables, 4 pcs. graphics, 2 pcs. figures and 3 pcs. applications. Literary sources are used and cited in good faith and correctly. The paper is written in accordance with the current legal acts and accounting standards, with the latest amendments reflected as of 12/31/2022, with a limitation on the exclusion of public sector enterprises from the scope of the dissertation work.

The topic of the dissertation is current and significant and is of interest to the theory and practice of accounting. The topicality of the topic, the scientific-applied goal and the research tasks, the thesis and the instrumentation of the research are well presented. Appropriate research approaches are used in the dissertation work to achieve its main goal and successfully solve the set tasks. The individual chapters of the dissertation work are well balanced and developed in a logical sequence. As a result of the carried out scientific research, the doctoral student proposes a number of improvements in the accounting reporting of business combinations, which are related to the need to revise the concept of fair value and the need to amortize goodwill. One of the PhD student's claims related to fair value is that in the absence of a certain minimum volume of transactions, the legitimacy of the determined fair value is called into question. He found gaps in the accounting regulatory framework in determining fair value, namely the lack of a requirement in accounting standards to undertake an exhaustive search of all possible markets to determine fair value. The main scientific thesis of the

doctoral student, that market selection, by reference to the most advantageous one, introduces a company-specific fair price, is essential for accounting theory and practice. The PhD student quite rightly argues that it is a misconception that the value of goodwill acquired as a result of a business combination remains unchanged over time. Of great importance to accounting is his thesis, which states that goodwill acquired as a result of a business combination is unable to generate cash flows without the help of other assets. It is indirectly increased by the costs incurred in connection with the enterprise's activity. Thus, the value of goodwill acquired as a result of a business combination is supported by other additional costs that lead to the generation of internally generated goodwill that does not meet the requirements of accounting standards for its recognition as an asset. In the research done, the doctoral student found that when carrying out corporate restructuring, the managements of the enterprises pay attention to the possibility of the "right" transactions to improve the indicators for environmental, social and governance factors (ESG indicators). It is in this direction that he finds application and implementation of integrated reporting and seeks solutions to improve financial reporting.

I believe that the dissertation work of doctoral student Atanas Yanev Stoyanov, presented for discussion, contains significant and original theoretical studies of a scientific and scientific-applied nature in the field of accounting. It is a personal work of authorship and is free of plagiarism. The scientific style is at the required level, and scientific expressions and special terminology are generally used correctly by the PhD student.

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

The doctoral student formulated 4 (four) contributions, namely:

- carrying out a meaningful historical review of the separate waves of mergers and acquisitions;
- proposals to eliminate some shortcomings in the concept of fair value;
- argumentation of the need for the introduction of mandatory accrual of goodwill amortization expenses on a systematic basis during its useful life;
- a proposal for the inclusion of integrated reporting indicators in the disclosures to IFRS 3 Business Combinations in their role as non-financial measures of the success of business combinations.

The contributions correspond to the content of the dissertation work and the achieved results of the research done.

5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

The doctoral student has attached 3 (three) articles on the topic of the dissertation work, published in the journal of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in 2019, 2020 and 2022, which are correctly indicated in the reference and in the abstract to the dissertation labor. They are concrete evidence that the scientific production of the doctoral student related to the topic of his dissertation has been successfully tested in accounting theory and practice.

6. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

I believe that the doctoral student has fully fulfilled the minimum national requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional direction 3.8. Economics, which are indicated in the attached reference for the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

7. Abstract

The abstract of the dissertation work is prepared in accordance with the established requirements of the relevant regulations and presents sufficiently, completely and accurately the content, the achieved results and the main contributions of the doctoral student in it. It has a volume of 57 pages and clearly, accurately and fully reflects the content of the dissertation work.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant critical remarks towards doctoral student Atanas Yanev Stoyanov. My main recommendation to him is to continue his research on the problems of accounting theory and practice and to maintain a high level of his research activity.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, I believe that the dissertation presented for discussion *contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science* and *meet all* the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the Regulations for implementation of the ADASRB. 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 Atanas Yanev Stoyanov **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 educational and scientific degree "Doctor"* to **Atanas Yanev Stoyanov** in the Department of Higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3.8. Economy.

24/05/2023

Prepared the opinion: 

Assoc. Prof. Maia Natchkova, PhD,
CPA, registered auditor