

REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Victoria Svetlomirova Gatzova, PhD
from VUZF University – Sofia

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree “**doctor**”

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

Professional field 3.8 Economics

PhD Program “Finance, Insurance and Assurance”

Author: Ludmila Zhdanova

Topic: Methods of reducing financial threats in ensuring the economic security of enterprises from the wine-growing sector of Ukraine

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Igor Britchenko

1. General description of the presented materials

By order № 261/27.06.2023 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, Prof. Dr. L. Sc. Boris Velchev, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to provide a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic: “Methods of reducing financial threats in ensuring the economic security of enterprises from the wine-growing sector of Ukraine”, for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, PhD program “Finance, Insurance and Assurance” at VUZF.

The author of the dissertation is Ludmila Zhdanova, a PhD student in an independent form of study at the Department of “Finance and Insurance” with scientific supervisor Prof. Igor Britchenko.

In connection with the procedure, Ludmila Zhdanova submitted the following documents:

- Dissertation work;
- Abstract of the dissertation in Bulgarian and Russian;
- Reference on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in professional field 3.8. Economics;
- List of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation work;
- Summaries of some of the articles on the topic of the dissertation;
- The full texts of some of the publications on the topic of the dissertation work;
- Autobiography;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity.

I accept the five scientific publications (articles and reports) in non-refereed scientific publications, which Ludmila Zhdanova indicated in the reference for the minimum national requirements and in the list of publications on the topic of the dissertation work. I do not accept the monograph because it is actually the published dissertation, not a monograph distinct from the dissertation. This does not affect the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements because the doctoral student has a sufficient number of publications.

2. Brief biographical data for the PhD student

The doctoral student has a bachelor's degree in management from the Moscow State University of Commerce. She graduated from the State Academy of Statistics, Accounting and Auditing, and since 2009 has been a member of the Ukrainian Association of Chartered Accountants and Auditors.

Ludmila Zhdanova has extensive professional experience in the financial and accounting field, working for eight years as a chief accountant in various organizations, and then for another eight years as an auditor. She has been working as a financial director for nine years.

The education and the work experience of the doctoral student reveal consistency and purposefulness in her professional development and correspond to the requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in professional field 3.8. Economics.

3. Actuality of the topic and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

The doctoral student has presented in detail the actuality of the researched issues in the dissertation. Ludmila Zhdanova directs her research focus on wine production in Ukraine - one of the industries that has a serious potential to increase competitiveness and become an important source of income for the country. Quite logically, the need to develop a mechanism for reducing financial threats and ensuring economic security in the viticulture sector arises. Therefore, the current dissertation has an indisputable actuality.

The dissertation fulfills the main goal set by the doctoral student, namely to develop theoretical and scientific-methodological guidelines and practical recommendations for improving the methods and tools for reducing financial risks while ensuring the economic security of enterprises in the wine-growing industry in Ukraine. In order to achieve the goal and verify the author's thesis, seven research tasks have been set, which are clearly formulated, characterized by a logical sequence and within the framework of the presentation of the dissertation, they are completed by the doctoral student.

The research thesis is correctly defined and corresponds to the topic, structure, content, analysis and conclusions of the research. My recommendation to the doctoral student is to more clearly and precisely formulate the subject of research.

4. Knowledge of the problem

In the dissertation work 322 sources in different languages have been researched and presented. The number of literature used is a sign of the doctoral student's desire to seriously and responsibly research the problem discussed in the dissertation. The presented theoretical information, combined with the in-depth analyzes within the framework of the exhibition, testify to the good awareness of Ludmila Zhdanova regarding the researched issues.

5. Research methodology

The dissertation, with a view to achieving the main goal, fulfilling the tasks and verifying the research thesis, uses a methodology combining the following general scientific methods: analysis, summary, synthesis, deduction, induction, descriptive analysis, comparative analysis, SWOT-analysis, analysis of the environmental profile, SNW-analysis, PEST-analysis and statistical methods.

The selected methodological toolkit largely allows achieving the set goal and obtaining an adequate answer to the tasks set in the dissertation work.

6. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

Ludmila Zhdanova's dissertation has a total volume of 223 pages and consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and appendices. Structurally, the dissertation is characterized by good balance and logical consistency in the development of the researched problem.

The bibliography includes 322 literary sources in English and Russian, including a number of monographs, studies, articles and online sources, and a significant part of them are from the last 5 years and are characterized by actuality.

A positive impression is made by carefully designed tables, figures and graphs, which help to better structure and visualize the information.

The first chapter of the dissertation is theoretical, focusing on revealing the importance of the highly developed wine sector in Ukraine for increasing the country's economic security. The chapter introduces the historical development of the industry and assesses its economic and strategic importance. The doctoral student presents the essence of the economic security of the industry from a financial point of view and analyzes the financial risks and threats to ensure the economic security of the enterprises of the industry in the context of the Ukrainian and foreign approaches.

The second chapter includes an assessment and financial analysis of the activities of wine industry enterprises, as well as a diagnosis of threats to their economic security. An assessment of the current state of the industry globally and in Ukraine was made. There is an analysis of the structure of the economic security of the enterprises from the wine industry and an assessment of its financial aspect has been carried out. The chapter ends with a diagnosis of financial threats to the economic security of enterprises from the wine industry branch in Ukraine.

The author's participation is most strongly felt in the last chapter of the dissertation work. The doctoral student presents proposals for minimizing financial threats and optimizing the provision of economic security for enterprises in the studied industry. The third chapter begins with a benchmarking analysis to minimize the financial risks for the activities of wine industry enterprises. The key elements of the organizational-management mechanism for counteracting threats to the economic security of the industry in Ukraine are presented.

The chapter concludes with Ludmila Zhdanova's proposed quality control system, adopted by the world's leading wine producers, as one method of reducing threats to economic security in the wine industry.

The main conclusions of the study are correctly presented in the conclusion.

7. Scientific contributions and significance of research results for science and practice

Ludmila Zhdanova's dissertation undoubtedly contains scientific and scientific-applied contributions, related to the expansion of theoretical knowledge and practical skills to reduce financial threats and ensure the economic security of enterprises from the wine-growing industry. At the end of the abstract, the doctoral student has identified three scientific and four scientific-applied contributions, which, however, she calls “scientific results”. In general, I accept the contributions of the dissertation work, indicated by the doctoral student, as I consider that they reflect what has been achieved within the framework of the dissertation.

8. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

In the reference to the minimum national requirements and in the list of publications on the topic of the dissertation, Ludmila Zhdanova indicated five scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation - one article in English published in a non-refereed journal and four reports in Russian, which were also published in non-refereed scientific publications. Four of the publications are independent, one is co-authored. The publications, which are related to the issues investigated in the dissertation, fulfill the requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree “doctor”, that are in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

9. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

According to a check of the materials, submitted by the PhD student, it is found that there are 100 points with a required minimum of 80 points. Therefore, I can conclude that Ludmila Zhdanova fulfills the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “doctor” in the professional field 3.8. Economics.

10. Personal participation of the PhD student

At the time of preparing the review, there is no information available that would cast doubt on the authenticity of the dissertation work and the publications submitted to it. The sources used are correctly cited in the dissertation. I believe that the obtained results and formulated contributions are a personal merit of the doctoral student.

11. Abstract

An abstract in Bulgarian and Russian is attached to the dissertation work. It has a volume of 30 pages and correctly reflects in a concise form the structure and the content of the dissertation work. The contributions of the research are also included in the abstract. I recommend that the PhD student add a table of contents and a list of scientific publications according to good academic practices.

12. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant critical comments on Ludmila Zhdanova's dissertation work. My recommendation is to formulate the subject of the research more clearly and precisely.

13. Personal impressions

I don't know the PhD student personally. My impressions of her are only from the dissertation, the abstract and the presented publications. They show that Ludmila Zhdanova skilfully combines the accumulated professional experience with the scientific work on the development of the dissertation work and publications.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific and scientific-applied contributions and meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

The dissertation work shows that the doctoral student Ludmila Zhdanova possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and skills in professional field 3.8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

Due to the above, I 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 Ludmila Zhdanova in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional field 3.8. Economics; PhD program “Finance, Insurance and Assurance”.

18.08.2023 г.

Reviewer: (s)
(Assoc. Prof. Victoria Gatzova, PhD)