

EVALUATION REVIEW

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shteryo Stefanov Nozharov,**

scientific secretary of Department of „Economics “-UNWE, assoc. prof. in professional field 3.8. „Economics“, scientific specialty „Political economy (*microeconomics, macroeconomics, economic policy and sustainable development*) at UNWE, Doctor in professional field 3.8. „Economics“, scientific specialty „Political economy“- UNWE

of PhD thesis for awarding the scientific degree “**Doctor of science**”

in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences,

professional field 3.8 Economics

Author: Katsiaryna Volkava

Title of the thesis: „Theory and methodology for the development of the overall financial and economic potential of companies in agricultural sector in the conditions of digitalization”

1. General characteristics of the materials presented.

In accordance with Order № 262/27.06.2023 of the Rector of VUZF – prof. Boris Velchev, DSc. I have been selected as a member of the Scientific Jury in a procedure for awarding scientific degree “Doctor of science” to a thesis, titled: „THEORY AND METHODOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OVERALL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF COMPANIES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE CONDITIONS OF DIGITALIZATION” in higher education field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics. Author of the thesis: Katsiaryna Volkava.

The materials, submitted by Katsiaryna Volkava include the following documents:

A copy of the thesis, abstract of the thesis, a completed card for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for scientific degree “Doctor of Science”, list of contributions of the thesis, list of publications, list of abstracts of the publications, related to the title of the thesis, CV, a declaration for authenticity.

The DSc candidate has attached: one (1) PhD thesis for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, one (1) PhD thesis for awarding the scientific degree “Doctor of Science” (a project, which is not yet defended), one (1) habilitation work – a monograph, one (1) monograph,

which is not presented as a main habilitation work, a claim for 9 (nine) articles and conference papers, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, twenty eight (28) articles and conference papers, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, zero (0) studies, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, zero (0) studies, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, two (2) published chapters of collective monographs and list of citations.

2. Brief biographical reference of the candidate

The DSc candidate Katsiaryna Volkava has the following biographical reference:

- 2005-2010: Accountancy - Mogilev State University of Food Technologies, Mogilev, Belarus;
- 2010-2011: Master's degree in economics - Mogilev State University of Food Technologies, Mogilev, Belarus;
- 2011-2015: PhD in Economics (specialty Economics and Management of National Economy); Mogilev State University of Food Technologies, Mogilev, Belarus;
- 2016: Associate professor in Economics - Mogilev State University of Food Technologies, Mogilev, Belarus;

3. General characteristics and evaluation of the DSc candidate thesis

The DSc candidate thesis “Theory and methodology for development of the overall financial and economic potential of companies in the agricultural sector in the conditions of digitalization” covers a total of 440 pages, including an introduction, five chapters, conclusion, reference list and 2 appendices. They are presented a total of 168 tables and 168 figures. The reference list contains of 475 sources (books, articles, periodical and non-periodical statistical and other publications, reports, and online sources). The results of the research are presented to the wide scientific audience in 131 publications (including 2 collective monographs and 2 individual monographs).

4. Contributions and significance of the DSc candidate thesis for the development of science and practice

The research has scientifically applied contributions to the practice:

- It proposes a set of measures and recommendations which are oriented to the formation, evaluation and development of the efficiency of the used overall financial and economic potential of agricultural companies in Belarus; it is foreseen a stimulation of the identified problems, which most significantly influence the economic mechanism for insurance of sustainable innovative development of the agricultural sector.
- It is proposed to be used the positive foreign practice in Belarus for implementation of business model as a main factor for insurance of sustainable innovative development of the overall financial and economic potential of agricultural companies in the modern times.
- It is presented a methodology for complex evaluation of the overall financial and economic potential of agricultural companies in Belarus.

The contributions achieved are applicable for the economy of Belarus and they are associated with its specifics as a transition economy.

Concerning the theoretical contributions, I believe that first of all they need to be approved in scientific journals, indexed and refereed in world famous data bases with scientific information.

5. Evaluation of the publications in relation to the topic of the PhD thesis candidate

The DSc candidate has attached: one PhD thesis for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, one PhD thesis for awarding the scientific degree “Doctor of Science” (a project, which is not yet defended), one habilitation work – a monograph, one monograph, which is not presented as a main habilitation work, a claim for nine articles and conference papers, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, twenty eight articles and conference papers, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, zero studies, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, zero studies, published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, two published chapters of collective monographs and list of citations.

A significant part of the mentioned publications is related to the topic of the dissertation work, and they are very close in content to individual parts of it. This shows the candidate’s lasting interest in the subject.

6. Evaluation of the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements

Any confirmation about the candidate's scientific publications, which are indexed and refereed in world famous databases with scientific information cannot be found.

The candidate has declared in the card for fulfillment of the minimum requirements for scientific degree "Doctor of Science" that she has seven (7) publications, indexed, and refereed in world famous databases. From the information, listed in the card, one can see that four of these publications are published in the European Research Studies Journal (ISSN: 1108-2976) in the period 2021 – 2022. However, after a check in the SCOPUS indexing system, this journal has been indexed in the system for the period 2008 – 2018. That is, when the articles, presented by the candidate have been published, this journal has not been indexed in SCOPUS.

I am giving a link for proof: <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100216333#tabs=2>

Another three publications are reported as published in the VUZF Review (ISSN: 2534-9228). Any confirmation for the indexation of the journal in the SCOPUS database cannot be found.

Any proof for the citation of two of the publications in journals, cited in Web of Science cannot also be found. I am giving a link for proof: <https://mjl.clarivate.com/search-results>

However, after these publications are transformed in publications, which are published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals in edited collective volumes, the candidate will meet the minimum requirements for scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in professional field 3.8 Economics.

7. Abstract of the DSc candidate thesis

The content and quality of the abstract is good. It is written in accordance with the relevant regulations and presents the main results, achieved in the thesis.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

There could be made some critical remarks and recommendations to the research:

1. In the introduction of the thesis, the candidate has said that:

„The agro-industrial sector and its main unit - agriculture - are the system-forming areas of the national economy that ensure the food and national security of different countries. “

In this relation, I would like to ask the following question – how big is the agro-industrial sector of Luxembourg (the country which has the highest GDP per capita in EU) and why this sector is the system forming one for its economy?

2. For the models in the PhD thesis, they are used the basic one-factor linear regression and correlation, conducted by means of MS Excel. Is this basic level a sufficient one to justify the contributions of the research?
3. The thesis (hypothesis) of the work is missing. This fact makes it difficult to distinguish the main contributions of the author.

CONCLUSION

The DSc candidate's thesis **contains scientifically applied results, which are original scientific contribution** and **they cover** the requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff of Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its implementation. The presented materials and conclusions in the thesis **correspond** to the specific requirements of the Regulation for admission and training of PhD students at VUZF.

The DSc candidate's thesis shows that Katsiaryna Volkava **possesses** in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in professional field 3.8 Economics, as **she demonstrates** qualities and skills to independently conduct scientific research.

Having in mind the abovementioned, I convincingly give a **positive assessment** of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed thesis, abstract, list of contributions and I **suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award scientific degree „Doctor of Science“** to Katsiaryna Volkava in higher education area 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics.

30.8.2023 г.

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shteryo Nozharov