

HIGH SCHOOL OF INSURANCE AND FINANCE

STANDPOINT

by Prof. Atanas Georgiev Lyondev, PhD
from the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv

of a dissertation work for the award of a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the Higher Education Region 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy

Author: Katerina Volkova, PhD

Topic: "Theory and methodology for the development of the overall financial and economic potential of organizations in the agrofood sector in the conditions of digitalization"

1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 262 of 27.06.2023 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 for the provision of a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic "Theory and methodology for the development of the overall financial and economic potential of organizations in the agrofood sector in the conditions of digitalization" for acquisition of a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in Higher Education Department 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is Katerina Volkova, PhD., a candidate for the Department of Finance at HSIF.

The materials submitted by Dr. Eng. Volkova include documents according to the presented inventory: resume, copy of the diploma for the acquired educational and scientific degree "PhD", etc.

The PhD of Sciences candidate submitted a total of 2 independent monographs, 39 publications, of which 11 articles and 28 reports and published chapters in 2 collective monographs. The breakdown of publications is as follows: (1) the two monographs are a habilitation thesis and a published monograph that is not a major habilitation thesis; (2) Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information are 11; (3) Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes are 28 and (4) Published chapter of a collective monograph - 2. All situations in the dissertation research presented for defense have scientific novelty, practical, economic and social significance and belong to the author. Of the scientific articles and reports published in co-

authorship, only those that are the result of personal scientific research are used in the dissertation. The author's contribution to the collective scientific work is indicated in the list of publications.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Candidate under the Doctor of Science procedure is Katerina Volkova, PhD., born on March 9, 1988 in the Republic of Belarus. She received her doctoral degree in 2015 at the Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies, Mogilev, Republic of Belarus. Fluent in written and spoken English. He is an Associate professor in the Department of Economics and Organization of Production at the Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies, Mogilev.

Eng. Volkova, PhD has extensive experience in applied and fundamental research in the field of economics and in analytical work related to the analysis of the implementation of government programs, the development of agribusiness, food and competition policy, food safety monitoring and agricultural markets, raw materials and food. He participated in the study of the methodological, theoretical and methodical foundations of the economic mechanism for the formation and development of the economic potential of the processing organizations of the agrarian-industrial complex of the Republic of Belarus.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation on the topic: "Theory and methodology for the development of the overall financial and economic potential of organizations in the agrifood sector in the conditions of digitalization" consists of 440 pages, incl. of an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and two appendices, 168 tables and 168 figures are presented. The bibliography contains 475 sources (including books, articles, periodical and non-periodical statistical and other publications, reports and online sources). The research results are presented in 131 publications (including 2 collective and 2 independent monographs).

The relevance of the chosen topic justifies the fully conducted research to increase the efficiency, use and development of the aggregate financial and economic potential of the agro-food sector and agriculture as a whole, as part of the national economy, which ensure the food and national security of the Republic of Belarus. The introduction covers the formulation of the purpose and tasks of the research, defines the personal contribution of the candidate and provides data for the approval of the obtained scientific results. The connection between the subject of the dissertation and the conducted scientific research and the obtained theoretical and practical results under two of the state scientific research programs, which are an integral part of the scientific research activity of the department in which he works, makes a good impression.

The first chapter of the dissertation presents the theoretical and methodological foundations for the development of the total financial and economic potential of organizations by studying the genesis of economic categories such as "potential" and "ability" and "total financial and economic potential" and their manifestation and types in the economy of the enterprise from the agro-production sector, by using a complex systematic approach. The emphasis is placed on the way of managing the overall financial and economic potential of the enterprises in the agrofood sector, taking into account the reaction of the management of the organizations to changes in the external environment, the composition and the level of development of the elements of this potential.

In **the second chapter**, the methodological tools for evaluating and developing a business model for the digital development of the potential of enterprises from the agrifood sector are given, by developing a theoretical-methodological approach and basic guidelines for the development of the digital economy in the agrifood sector, having a direct impact on innovative activity. A system of private indicators was used, on the basis of which an integral indicator was derived, formalized in subsequent stages, with data proving that the agro-food sector requires the development of appropriate measures for its dynamic and innovative development.

In **the third chapter**, a complex economic analysis of the overall financial and economic potential of the agrofood sector of the Republic of Belarus in relation to agribusiness and processing industry was carried out, with an assessment of development trends, conditions and factors for ensuring the growth of the potential of agro-food sector, to meet the food needs of the population and increase their export. The research developed an assessment methodology based on the index of development of the overall financial and economic potential in the agrofood sector and a system of quantitative and qualitative indicators for the level of development of organizations from this segment of agriculture, allowing the expansion of tools for monitoring the level of the total financial and economic potential of the organizations and developing forecasts, taking into account the trends of the world food market.

In **the fourth chapter** of the dissertation, a forecast is made for the development of the overall financial and economic potential of organizations in the agrofood sector, for example, the production of meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, production of vegetables, fruits, potatoes, taking into account the trends in the world production of these foods and the balanced functioning of the food markets is proven, with the aim of ensuring the country's food security. The main guidelines for the development of world production and the main players in the world market in the domestic and foreign markets for the export of these types of food are justified.

In **the fifth chapter**, conceptual guidelines for innovative development are given, with recommendations for sustainable development of the overall financial and economic potential of or-

ganizations in the agrofood sector at the global and national level, for food production: bread and bakery products, rapeseed oil (in third place after palm and soy) with a forecast until 2025. As the main direction to ensure complete processing of agricultural raw materials, the applicant considers the development of regional cluster structures, through organizational and management measures to form a single chain of added value and promotion of finished products, through a regional integrated structure consisting of several processing organizations, with selected performance criteria and constraints.

The exposition in the five chapters of the dissertation work and the conclusions drawn are a good basis for extracting the candidate's contributing and significant points.

The effects of the candidate's accumulated research experience, knowledge, contributions and expertise in the thematic direction of the doctoral dissertation are directly related to the teaching-learning activity, the work with students, the promotion of the issue in the public space, incl. through active participation in various scientific forums and scientific-practical conferences.

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

Scientific, scientific and applied achievements of the author can be indicated in the dissertation work.

Scientific contributions:

- A new scientific problem was formulated - a concept for development in modern conditions when making management decisions, regarding the financial provision and economic growth of the overall financial and economic potential and organizations in the agri-food sector;
- A new advanced approach to the understanding of the category "potential of the organization", to the place of the total financial and economic potential of the organizations in the management system, implementation of the positive foreign experience, presented as a business model for sustainable innovative development, is justified. that is, with a developed methodological toolkit for a comprehensive assessment of digital development and construction, using trend models, which determine development trends, dynamics and forecasting of economic growth in the agrifood sector;
- Essential aspects of existing scientific problems have been proven with new means, and the previously existing categorical and conceptual apparatus has been further developed in relation to research in the dissertation, a problem related to the development of potential in organizations, in the context of digitalization and methods- Czech approach to perform a

complex analysis and assessment, through a mechanism for sustainable innovative development of the overall financial and economic potential in the agrifood sector.

Scientific and applied contributions:

- The obtained results and practical recommendations from the dissertation, related to the improvement of the mechanism for sustainable development, have been taken into account, being implemented in practice, and are aimed at solving the problems for the effective functioning of the food industry, as a priority development equation for the period 2021-2025 of the Republic of Belarus.

The evaluation of the scientific results and contributions of Eng. Volkova's PhD developments shows that they have scientific and applied significance and refer to the enrichment of existing knowledge and the further development of theory in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economy.

5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

The publications with which the candidate Katerina Volkova, PhD participates in the procedure for the Doctor of Sciences can be classified according to different signs.

The list of publications presented in the Reference for the minimum national requirements for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in Professional field 3.8 Economics are:

- Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 11.
- Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – 28.
- Published chapter of a collective monograph - 2 Monographs.

All publications of Eng. Volkova, after acquiring the PhD in 2015, are dedicated to research in the field of agriculture and the agro-food sector of the Republic of Belarus, and especially in the Mogilev region. From the in-depth analysis of the candidate's presented publications, it makes a pleasant impression the demonstration of rich professional and academic experience in presenting and deriving his scientific theses. The general analysis of the scientific production shows that it includes a variety of scientific and scientific-applied developments and achievements, evaluated as a whole. In their unity, they objectively reflect the candidate's research abilities and capacity, meeting the requirements of PPZRASRB, which gives me grounds to confirm the conclusion that Eng. Volkova, PhD has fulfilled the condition for a doctor of sciences in professional direction 3.8 "Economics".

The candidate submits a Reference for the minimum national requirements for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in Professional field 3.8 Economics with a total of 20 citations:

1. Citations in published scientific works, monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes - 7
2. Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 13

6. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

The submitted Certificate of fulfillment by the candidate of the minimum requirements for acquiring a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in professional direction 3.8 Economics fully meets the requirements for application of the ZRASRB

7. Abstract

The content and quality of the Abstract have been made according to the requirements of the relevant regulations and reflect the main results achieved in the dissertation work.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical comments on the candidacy of Eng. Katerina Volkova, PhD. My recommendation is to continue working in the areas of scientific interest - creating new scientific knowledge and improving the environment for the implementation of the practice of organizations and enterprises from the agricultural, food and processing industries, due to their essential role in the stability and development of the economy of the country. I believe that as a candidate with extensive practical-applied experience, it is extremely valuable to convey it in the form of examples, assignments and tasks in educational and pedagogical activity. Therefore, I encourage Eng. Volkova, PhD to focus her attention in the future on publishing textbooks and study aids for the disciplines she leads at the University.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its Implementation (PPZRASRB).

The dissertation shows that the candidate, Eng. Katerina Volkova, PhD has indepth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional Direction 3. 8. Economics, possesses the qualities and skills to independently conduct scientific 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 Eng. Katerina Volkova, PhD in the Department of Higher Education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3. 8. Economics.

28.08.2023

Reviewer:

(Prof. Atanas Lyondev, PhD)