

STANDPOINT

Prof. Julia Dobрева, PhD – VUZF University

On dissertation thesis for the degree „**doctor of sciences**”

In area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: *Dr. Katerina Volkova*

Topic: *Theory and methodology for the development of the overall financial and economic potential of the organizations in the agro-food sector in the conditions of digitalization*

1. General description of the submitted materials

By order № 262 as of 27.06.2023 issued by the Rector of the Higher institute of insurance and finance prof. 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 of Theory and methodology for the development of the overall financial and economic potential of organizations in the agro-food sector in the conditions of digitalization for the acquisition of a scientific degree "Doctor of the sciences" in the Higher Education Region 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is Dr. Katerina Volkova - candidate at the Department of Finance and Insurance.

The materials submitted by Dr. Katerina Volkova include documents on description presented:

- Dissertation
- Abstract

- Summary of publications
- Certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements
- List of publications on the topic of the dissertation
- Autobiography
- Contribution report

The candidate has attached 11 articles published in refereed and indexed publications; 28 articles published in non-refereed publications; 2 independent monographs.

The publications submitted for review meet the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive and the Implementing Rules and, respectively, the fulfillment of the minimum scientometric criteria is confirmed.

2. Short biographical data of the candidate

Dr. Volkova has been an associate professor since 2016 at the Department of Economics and Organization of Production at Mogilev State University of Food Technologies. She was born in Belarus, where she also completed her higher education, she has a PhD in Economics, which she received at the Mogilev State University of Food Technologies in 2015. He has many years of research experience in researching the international and local markets of agricultural raw materials.

3. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The modern mechanism for forming and evaluating the total financial and economic potential of organizations is of great theoretical, methodological and practical importance for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector. This makes the dissertation work up-to-date both theoretically and methodologically, and with its practical orientation when preparing an evaluation of such organizations.

The main task of the organizational-economic mechanism for improving efficiency is to justify and implement the strategy for the development of processing enterprises from the agricultural sector in modern economic conditions. The models are aimed at models and increasing the efficiency and sustainability of production in the context of digitalization, which also contributes to the relevance of the investigated problemlematics.

The aims, object and subject of the dissertation work are properly defined and justified.

The dissertation has a total volume of 440 pages. It consists of an introduction, five chapters, conclusions, a bibliography, 2 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).

4. Contributions and importance of the dissertation work for science and practice

From the contributions as laid down by the author I accept the following:

Theoretical and methodological contributions:

1. The concept of development of the overall financial and economic potential of organizations in the agricultural sector in modern conditions is substantiated, which is a set of objective and subjective external conditions and factors that significantly influence the process of making managerial decisions regarding the financial support to organizations and the economic growth of the agricultural sector, the national economy and society as a whole.
2. A set of measures and recommendations has been developed, which are aimed at forming, evaluating and increasing the effectiveness of the use of the aggregate financial and economic potential of the organizations in the agricultural sector of the Republic of Belarus; envisages stimulation of identified problems that most significantly affect the organizational-economic mechanism for ensuring sustainable innovative development of the agricultural sector.

3. A methodological approach has been developed for a comprehensive analysis of the formation and development of the aggregate financial and economic potential of organizations in the agricultural sector from the position "resources-maximum opportunities-result-evaluation-monitoring-forecast".

Practical and applied contributions:

1. A methodology is proposed for evaluating the digital development of the aggregate financial and economic potential of organizations from the agricultural sector using the method of fuzzy sets, which is based on four groups of private indicators (digital transformation of the organization, intellectual capital, interaction with customers and business environment), on the basis of which the integral indicator was formed.

2. A methodology is proposed for a comprehensive assessment of the overall financial and economic potential of organizations from the agricultural sector based on the calculation of the index of its development, which makes it possible to make a comparative characteristic, ranking of enterprises according to the state and effectiveness of its use.

3. A mechanism has been developed for sustainable innovative development of the aggregate financial-economic potential of organizations from the agricultural sector based on the cluster approach, which allows establishing efficiency criteria, assumptions and limitations in its creation and effective functioning.

The indicated contributions of the research are significant for science and practice, specifically the assessment of the financial economic potential of organizations in the agricultural sector. The ranking methodology could be applied to evaluate enterprises with project documentation or for other scientific and applied purposes.

5. Assessment of the publications on the dissertation work

The results from the dissertation work are collected in 131 publications (including 2 collective and 2 individual monographs).

6. Assessment of the minimal requirements

According to the submitted reference, the candidate has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the professional direction

3.8. Economy.

7. Abstract

The abstract is made according to the requirements of the relevant regulations and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation work.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have the following remarks:

1. The content of the abstract could be shortened;
2. Research chapters could be grouped into three;
3. Contributions can be summarized by concerting around core contributions of value to science and practice.

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 the Implementation of ZRASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results correspond to the specific requirements of the Regulations of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation shows that the candidate, Dr. Volkova, has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional Direction 3. 8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of 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 Katerina

Volkova in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3.
8. Economics;

14.08.2023

Reviewer:

Prof. Julia Dobрева, PhD