

OPINION

by **James Borislavov Jolovski**,

Associate Professor at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, PhD in Economics

of a dissertation work for the award of a scientific degree "**Doctor of Sciences**"

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

Professional direction 3.8. Economy

Author : Dr. Ivona Dudzik

Topic : "Challenges of the Eurozone and forecasts for the introduction of the new currency in Poland"

((Вызовы еврозоны и прогнозы введения новой валюты в Польше))

1. General description of the presented materials

By order No. 815 of 12.12. 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 participate in a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic "Challenges of the Eurozone and forecasts for the introduction of the new currency in Poland" for the degree "Doctor of Sciences" in Field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is Dr. Ivona Dudzik - candidate at the Department of Finance and Insurance.

The materials submitted by Dr. Ivona Dudzik include the following documents: curriculum vitae, diploma for the degree "doctor (PhD)", dissertation, abstract in Bulgarian and in Russian, declaration of authenticity, report on compliance with the minimum requirements, list and summaries of publications, a list of citations and a reference to the contributions in the dissertation work. According to the list, Dr. Dudzik has indicated that she has attached 105 publications, of which 11 articles , 1 monograph and 5 chapters of collective monographs are related with the subject of study.

2. Brief biographical details of the applicant

I do not know the candidate personally. Impressions of the biographical data are obtained from the attached curriculum vitae and from the list of publications, which shows Dr. Dudzik's interests and professional experience. The attached curriculum vitae shows that Ivona Dudzik obtained her PhD from the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland. She has over 20 years of teaching experience at the State High School of Technology and Economics in Jaroslaw, Poland.

3. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work

To prepare the current opinion, I received a dissertation thesis with a volume of 327 pages in Russian and an abstract in Bulgarian with a volume of 40 pages (of which 35 pages are the main text), entitled "**Challenges of the Eurozone and forecasts for the introduction of the new currency in Poland**" (Вызовы еврозоны и прогнозы введения новой валюты в Польше) .

The topic of the dissertation is undoubtedly up-to-date and of scientific and applied value. These circumstances are conditioned by the tendency to expand the Eurozone - the accession of Croatia at the beginning of 2023, and the discussion on the accession of other countries, among them Bulgaria and also Poland. Similar processes are inevitably accompanied by a wide discussion - in society, in state administration and in academic circles.

That is why the proposed dissertation has applied value - as a contribution to this discussion about the positives, negatives, potential risks and consequences of the adoption of the euro in Poland. From such point of view, the formulated (detailed) hypotheses and the posed questions, with their accompanying tasks, fulfil the main purpose of the work.

In my opinion, Dr. Ivona Dudzik 's point of view on the subject of the adoption of the single European currency in Poland emphasizes to a higher degree on philosophical, political and social aspects than on strictly economic ones. I believe, this circumstance is determined by the candidate's education and professional experience. However, Ivona Dudzik undeniably demonstrates knowledge of the problem, since the dissertation presents a number of statistical data that provide an opportunity to apply different research methods. It should be emphasized that the proposed work is for the acquisition of a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences", not the ONS "Doctor". That is why I believe that the view on the problem from the position of different scientific fields is not only permissible, but also positive for the overall work. At the same time, the candidate could emphasize

her own critical view of the considered trends and present her personal opinion and assessment in a reasoned manner.

The methodology applied in the development of the dissertation is related to the evaluation and commentary of statistical data from multiple sources. Comparative and descriptive content analysis occupy a leading place among the methods used. Ivona Dudzik thoroughly and comprehensively reviews numerous publications on the subject. In my opinion, the sources used – more than 520, can even be considered too vast compared to the volume of the dissertation work. Each of these sources influenced to a different degree the construction of Dr. Dudzik 's position. Self-citations are also useful in tracking the scholarly activity of the candidate. However, I believe that the list of literature should include only those sources that stand out and have had the strongest impact on the development of the work. A more critical approach can be applied to the analysis of the sources.

The research methodology manages to protect one of the main hypotheses formulated by Ivona Dudzik . However, in order to achieve the same result for the others, empirical data are needed after Poland's accession to the Eurozone. Of the hypotheses, one remains unconfirmed, and two are only partially confirmed. This circumstance leaves room for discussion as to whether the hypotheses are optimally formulated.

The total volume of the proposed dissertation is 327 pages. It contains traditional structural elements: an introduction, a list of abbreviations, five chapters, a conclusion in the form of a discussion, a bibliography that also includes normative acts and online resources , lists on tables, charts, graphs and diagrams.

It is easily observable that the work is full of different visualizations of the data – both from other's work and some own. They undoubtedly contribute to the presentation of more information in less volume and make it easier to perceive the main trends and messages.

The first chapter is entitled "The single European currency in the light of monetary history and theory". It is mostly theoretical in nature. As an introduction to the essence of the work, the historical development of money, its essence and its functions are briefly presented. The second chapter continues the theme by focusing on the history of the euro. The various aspects of the single European monetary unit are presented in separate structural elements.

The third chapter examines practical dimensions related to the various legal aspects of Poland's accession to the Eurozone. The role and importance of the euro for the Polish economy are also presented.

The fourth chapter is entitled "Challenges of the Eurozone". It explores various challenges – for example managing the level of the public debt. The chapter also presents empirical data on the attitudes of the population in Poland regarding the introduction of the single European currency. The results show overwhelming support.

The last chapter has the most pronounced scientific-empirical character. Through the performed analysis, the confirmation of the research hypotheses is argued.

The last part of the dissertation is not traditionally titled as a conclusion. Instead, it is called by Ivona Dudzik "Discussion". Various positions and points of view are presented in detail in the paper, with a critical analysis of all potential positive and negative effects. It is for this reason that the topic remains open. My personal opinion, however, is that based on the detailed research, the candidate should express her position more clearly and categorically.

Some individual views of the author do not fully correspond to my personal understanding. However, I find them sufficiently and thoroughly argued in the dissertation work. For this reason, I could not accept that this circumstance has any bearing on the merits of the proposed scientific study.

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

The practical orientation of the work is indisputable. It can serve as a valuable source of information regarding Poland's accession to the Eurozone - both for the population and for public authorities.

A number of studies on the subject are presented in a synthesis, which have been subjected to a critical analysis and have been evaluated. However, it should be emphasized that two of the hypotheses remain only partially confirmed and one is unconfirmed. It is also necessary that the contributions are clearly expressed and distinguished, both in the dissertation and in the abstract.

I have no doubts that the dissertation presented for consideration is a personal work of Ivona Dudzik. I believe that the sources used are cited correctly. During my review of the work, I have not found any plagiarism through the established law procedures. The candidate's personal involvement can be emphasized by presenting her personal position on the problem under study - the accession of Poland to the Eurozone.

5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

Ivona Dudzik has presented a list of publications on the topic, which includes one monograph, 11 articles and reports and 5 chapters in collective monographs. Their summaries are also included in the set of documents. In terms of content, they correspond to the topic of the dissertation work, and in terms of quantity, they exceed the minimum national requirements.

6. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

From the attached report by Dr. Ivona Dudzik, it is observed that the minimum national requirements, regulated in LDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation, for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" have been met. After familiarizing myself with the complete set of documents, I confirm that, in terms of quality and quantity, the dissertation, the abstract, the publications on the subject and the citations comply with the minimum national requirements.

7. Abstract

A 40-page abstract is attached to the dissertation. It presents the structure and content of the work, the main issues, the research methodology and the publications on the topic. The main exposition is 36 pages long, which in my opinion is not quite enough to present the entire work (with a volume of nearly 300 pages) in a synthesized entirety.

The abstract presents a kind of scientific metric reference, which includes the candidate's publications and achievements. A declaration of authorship is included, emphasizing that the work does not repeat the topic and content of the doctoral dissertation defended in 2006. In general, the abstract is prepared in accordance with the requirements and established practices for such works.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

Some of the critical comments and recommendations are also presented in the relevant structural elements of this opinion. Ivona Dudzik partially noted some of the recommendations she received during the internal discussion of the work in the Department of Finance and Insurance. As

the most essential recommendations, I consider three to be underlined. First, in my opinion, Dr. Dudzik should emphasize her own opinion on the issues under consideration, built on the basis of the analyzes carried out. Second, hypotheses should be reformulated since they remain only partially confirmed. From this point of view, the subject, object, goals and tasks of the research should be reconsidered. Third, in my opinion, a clearer distinction between scientific and applied contributions is needed.

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 (LDASRB) and the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results correspond to the specific requirements of the Rules for the terms and conditions for acquiring the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation shows that the candidate Dr. Ivona Dudzik **has** theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional direction 3.8. Economics, **demonstrating** qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to the above, I give *a positive assessment* of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and *suggest to the honorable scientific jury to award the scientific degree "Doctor of Science"* to Dr. Ivona Dudzik in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3.8. Economics .

11.01.24

Reviewer:

(Assoc. Prof. James Jolovski, PhD)