

## **REVIEW**

*by Prof. Valentina Ilieva Staneva. PhD,*

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Faculty of "Transport Management"; Professional direction 3.8. "Economy",  
Scientific specialty "Accounting, control and analysis of economic activity"*

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**" in Higher Education Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy, doctoral program "*Accounting. Auditing and Analysis*".

Author: *Yanka Dimcheva Ayvazova.*

Topic: "*Problems with disclosures in the financial statements* "

Scientific supervisor: *Prof. Ali Veysel, PhD*

### **1. General description of the presented materials**

By order No. 167 of 15.05.2024 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and finance Prof. Boris Velchev, Doctor of Law, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for insurance of a procedure for the defense of dissertation work on the topic "*Problems with disclosures in the financial statements*" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in Area of Higher Education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics, Doctoral program "*Accounting, Auditing and Analysis*".

The author of the dissertation is *Yanka Dimcheva Ayvazova* - a doctoral student in an independent form of study at the Department of "Accounting and Auditing" with scientific supervisor *Prof. Ali Veysel, PhD*, from the Higher School of Insurance and Finance – Sofia (HSIF-Sofia).

### **2. Brief biographical data for the doctoral student**

The author of the dissertation work is *Yanka Dimcheva Ayvazova*, a doctoral student in an independent form of study at the Department of "Accounting and Auditing" of HSIF - Sofia, with

a supervisor Prof. Ali Veisel, PhD, enrolled by order No. 114/02 March 2023 and dismissed by order 162/08 May 2024.

The doctoral student completed a master's degree in "International Economic wear" at Plovdiv University " Paysiy Hilendarski" and a master's degree in "Accounting management and control" at University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". She has experience as an accountant, chief accountant, assistant auditor and is currently the manager of a specialized accounting company.

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

The topic of the dissertation is interesting and relevant from the point of view of offer-ny approach to solving the problems related to the disclosure of financial statements under National Accounting Standards (NAS). The relevance of the research is determined by the PhD student with the processes of globalization in the world economy, which set the new challenges to the compilers of financial statements, require more and more disclosures and increase the administrative burden.

The subject of this dissertation is the disclosures in the financial statements, according to NAS.

The subject of the study is the problems with the disclosures in the financial reports, in compliance with the requirements of the NAS.

The purpose of this dissertation is to investigate the disclosure requirements under the NAS and their practical application to define problem areas while proposing solutions and guidelines for improvements.

The tasks that the doctoral student set herself at the beginning of the research have been fulfilled, with conclusions drawn in each chapter.

The main thesis of the doctoral student is that "the requirements for disclosures in the financial statements of small enterprises, according to the Bulgarian accounting legislation and the NAS, are not suitable for the compilation of relevant financial statements. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the current standards by regulating the important disclosures, while maintaining the balance between the benefits and the costs of presenting the information."

The main purpose and tasks of the research are clearly and precisely formulated, in accordance with the defined problem related to the disclosure of the financial statements, selected successfully in terms of scope and content. The choice of the object and the subject of research are

correctly selected in view of the appropriately chosen ratio between the concreteness of the research and the abstraction of the conclusions.

#### **4. Knowing the problem**

It is clear from the presented dissertation that the doctoral student knows the studied matter very well both from a theoretical and a practical point of view. The presentation is enriched with numerous tables that visually supports the author's analysis. The author's position is evident everywhere in the text, which speaks of her competence in the area of the considered problem.

#### **5. Research methodology**

The methodology used includes a historical and normative approach, scientific research of bibliographic sources, comparison, analysis and synthesis, supplemented with the results of an empirical study conducted on the basis of a representative statistical sample of enterprises from the "small" and "medium" category. I believe that the chosen methodology is suitable for the purposes of the research and allows achieving the set goal and obtaining results from the tasks defined in the dissertation work.

#### **6. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work**

The dissertation is structured logically and in accordance with the content in an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography, with a total volume of 154 standard computer pages, of which 119 pages are main text, in which 25 tables are included, a total of 127 sources (of which 63 are in Bulgarian, 53 in English and 11 from websites). The presentation of the dissertation work is composed of three chapters, relatively proportionate in volume, which meet the requirements for a dissertation work.

The introduction introduces the research topic through all the requisites of an introduction to a dissertation - thesis, object, subject, goal, tasks, methodology, restrictive conditions.

The first chapter has an introductory, theoretical character. In it, the doctoral student explores the conceptual foundations of financial reporting, traces the evolution of accounting (from its origin and development to the establishment of its theoretical foundations), analyzes standardization processes and examines the purpose and elements of financial statements.

In the second chapter, the author analyzes the importance of the disclosures in the financial statements, examines the requirements for compiling the "appendix" component to the financial statement, performs a critical analysis of the mandatory disclosures according to the NAS. Based on this, the main problems of the regulations are identified. In conclusion, it is summarized that inaccuracies and gaps in the field of disclosure of financial statements are found in the NAS.

In chapter three, the author presents the conducted empirical research on the quality of the annual financial statements, analyzing the disclosures to them and their publication. Based on the analysis of the results, guidelines for improvements and facilitation of the business are offered, as well as conclusions and recommendations for improving the current state. I consider as a very good approach the analysis of the practice in other countries, in connection with the requirements for the compilation and publication of the financial statements.

In the conclusion, the main conclusions of the research are presented correctly, with a clear, logical and consistent style of presentation, without stylistic and spelling errors, with the correct citation of the bibliographic sources according to the Bulgarian state standard. I am not aware of any reports of plagiarism and I have not detected any.

## **7. Contributions and significance of the development for science and practice**

I accept the scientific and scientific-applied contributions proposed by the doctoral student in the dissertation work, as they are formulated in the abstract to the work (p. 30). In a synthesized form, the following contributions to the work can be summarized:

- ❖ A theoretical study of the origin, development, purpose and elements of financial reporting was carried out.

- ❖ The requirements for compiling the "appendix" component to the financial statement have been studied. A critical analysis of the disclosure provisions under the NAS was carried out, with recommendations for improvements proposed.

- ❖ Empirical research was done on the gaps in the publication of the annual financial statements and the quality of the disclosures to them. Guidelines for financial reporting improvements and business relief are proposed.

- ❖ Practices in other countries have been studied in relation to the requirements for the compilation and publication of financial statements. The good practices that can be used when changing the accounting legislation in Bulgaria are presented.

The contributions correspond to the content of the dissertation work and the results of the research.

#### **8. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work**

The doctoral student has presented 3 (three) independent publications on the topic of the dissertation, in Bulgarian, which are related to various aspects of it, published in 2023 in peer-reviewed scientific journals (magazine "Management in Business and the Public Sector" and electronic magazine IDES), as well as in a collection of reports from the International Scientific Conference "Economy of the Future", held in 2023.

#### **9. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements**

All three academic publications presented for review in connection with the present procedure are from the subject area of the dissertation work. They supplement the scientific results in it and support their popularization. They are fully sufficient to fulfill the national minimum requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the rules for its implementation for awarding the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor".

#### **10. Personal participation of the doctoral student**

There is no information that casts doubt on the authorship of the presented dissertation work. The text shows the commitment of the doctoral student Ayvazova to the subject, as well as her very good knowledge.

#### **11. Abstract**

The abstract for the dissertation is 30 pages long, clearly structured and prepared in accordance with generally accepted requirements. Corresponds to the content of the dissertation.

#### **12. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical comments regarding the dissertation work of PhD student Yanka Ayvazova.

#### **13. Personal impressions**

I do not know PhD student Yanka Ayvazova personally and I have no personal impressions of her.

#### **14. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results**

My recommendation to the PhD student is to publish her dissertation work as a book and continue her research in the subject area, with a focus on the theoretical and practical significance of the general provisions of the National Accounting Standards, as a parallel to the Conceptual Framework of the International Accounting Standards. The benefit will be to the audience interested in the issues of preparation and disclosure of financial statements.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation **contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all 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 **fully** comply with the specific requirements of the Regulations for admission and training of doctoral students in the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

The dissertation work shows that the doctoral student Yanka Dimcheva Ayvazova **possesses** in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional direction 3. 8. Economics, **demonstrating** qualities and skills for independent conducting of academic 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 educational and scientific degree "Doctor"** to Yanka Dimcheva Ayvazova in Field of Higher Education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3. 8. Economy; Doctoral program "Accounting, Auditing and Analysis".

05/27/2024

Reviewer: .....

Prof. Valentina Staneva, PhD