

OPINION

by

Associate Professor Diyana Bankova, PhD in the Higher School of Insurance and Finance (VUZF) - Sofia

of a dissertation for the award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor (PhD)"

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

Professional field": 3.8 "Economics

Author of the dissertation: **Yanka Dimcheva Ayvazova**

Topic: **Disclosure problems in financial statements**

Research supervisor: **Prof. Ali Veysel, PhD, CPA**

General reason for presenting the opinion is participation in the composition of the scientific jury for the defense of the dissertation work. When complying with the provisions of ZRASRB and PPZRASRB, in connection with the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (PhD), the following can be noted:

1. General description of the presented materials

Based on the order No. 167/15.05.2024 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance (VUZF) - Prof. Doctor of Law Boris Velchev, I have been appointed as an internal member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the above-mentioned topic, for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (PhD) in the mentioned scientific specialty and professional direction. The author is a doctoral candidate for the period from 24.03.2022 to 01.03.2023, and is enrolled as a doctoral student of self-study education at the Department of Accounting and Auditing at VUZF for the period from 02.03.2023 to 08.05. 2024.

The presented set of materials are in accordance with the regulatory requirements. It contains all the necessary documents that prove successful training within the doctoral program. In

addition, the doctoral student has attached a list of three publications related to the topic of the dissertation, as well as copies of the publications themselves. The publications are in well-known and prestigious publications related to the specialized and researched topic of the dissertation. The content follows the structure of the dissertation, and the abstract to the dissertation faithfully and accurately presents its content.

2. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Yanka Dimcheva Aivazova was born on 30.07.1976 in the city - Plovdiv, Bulgaria. In 1995, she completed her secondary education at the Model Mathematical High School "Acad. Kiril Popov" in Plovdiv. She continued her higher education at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hillendarski" (PU) and acquired a master's degree in 2001 in the specialty "International Economic Relations", and specialized in the field of "International Trade". Immediately after that, she continued her studies at Veliko Tarnovo University "St.St. Cyril and Methodius", and in 2003 she obtained a master's degree in "Accounting and Control". From 02.03.2023 to 08.05.2024 she was enrolled as a self-study doctoral student at the "High School of Insurance and Finance" (VUZF) – Sofia, in the doctoral program "Accounting, Auditing and Analysis" at the Department of "Accounting and Auditing". Her career development started as an operational accountant in 01.06.2001 - 25.04.2006 in ET "DAR - Dimcho Arnaudov", Plovdiv. For the period 26.04.2006 - 31.12.2013, she worked as a chief accountant in "Arnaudov 7" OOD, Plovdiv. The doctoral student continues to develop her competencies in the field of accounting and financial auditing. This is evidenced by the fact that during the period 10.01.2009, she worked as an assistant auditor in Plovdiv and continues to provide accounting services at "Rödl & Partner" Ltd. since 2014 she is in the position of manager to the accounting company. Also that fact is important to the researched matter in the dissertation to the doctoral student.

3. Relevance of the topic, knowledge of the problem, research methodology

The relevance is determined by the detailed characterization of the topic, it can be summarized that the researched topic related to the disclosures in the financial statements is very essential for accounting. The reason is the constant changes in financial reporting requirements, to which accountants and company owners must adapt very quickly. These changes are being implemented all over the world - United States of America (USA), Germany, France, Great Britain, which are thoroughly researched and presented by the doctoral student. As a result of this, in the international requirements, transformations are required in national regulatory requirements, which reflect on the Bulgarian accounting practice. Accordingly, due to these

circumstances, the doctoral student thoroughly researched the regulatory framework related to the accounting disclosures in the financial statements. The actuality is determined by the detailed characterization of the current state of the researched issue related to disclosures, and the need to solve the problem in this context.

The presented topic develops, expands and enriches scientific knowledge in the field of disclosures in the financial statements of companies. In addition, problems that have occurred are identified and ways to solve them are proposed.

From the exposition in the dissertation work, it is clear that the doctoral student knows very well the issues related to the specifics of the information that must be disclosed in the financial statements. Analytical statements based on freely available documents and materials are presented, which are related to modern concepts of the structure and content, components, accounting policies of information in financial statements.

The risk of the occurrence of asymmetric information, which could distort the financial result, has been identified. The National Accounting Standards (NAS) as well as the International Accounting Standards (IAS) have been thoroughly known, including and the Accounting Act and all related legislation. Importance is also given to the requirement for the disclosure of non-financial information to the annual financial reports, in accordance with the regulatory requirements. These in-depth studies give confidence in the good knowledge of the issues in the researched area.

To reach the fundamental conclusions in the research, a diverse methodology (induction, deduction, historical approach, normative approach, scientific research of bibliographic sources, empirical research, comparison, analysis and synthesis) was used in the dissertation work, which allowed the successful solution of the set scientific goal - an analysis of the requirements for disclosures under the NAS, and of their practical-applied character, was carried out in order to identify the problem areas. As a result of these actions, solutions and guidelines for improvements have been proposed.

4. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions

The dissertation has a volume of 154 pages. The content is structured by: introduction, main text divided into three chapters, conclusions, conclusion, list of used literature and appendices. The exposition in each chapter is divided into separate points, which are correctly titled and interconnected. The tables supporting the individual parts of the research are numerous and provide valuable information, and the bibliographic list presented at the end of the used sources of various natures totals 127 sources (Bulgarian, foreign and from the Internet).

The main working hypothesis in the dissertation work is that the requirements for disclosures in the financial statements of small enterprises, according to the Bulgarian accounting legislation and NAS, are not suitable for the compilation of adequate financial statements. Due to these circumstances, a proposal is made to improve the current standards by regulating the more important disclosures needed for financial reporting.

The introduction includes: topicality of the topic and significance of the researched problem; object, subject, purpose and tasks of scientific research; thesis; research methods used; limitations of the study. In the introduction of the dissertation, the object and subject of the research are correctly formulated. The disclosures in the financial statements, according to the NAS, are indicated as the object of research. The subject of the dissertation is the problems with the disclosures in the financial statements, according to the requirements of the NAS.

The presented tables makes a good impression that have been implemented within the content, which monitor the presented information and support the doctoral student's presentation. A positive point in the dissertation research is that, before the final part, general conclusions are formulated, based on the analyzes made and the practically-applied and scientifically-applied tasks solved. In the conclusion of the dissertation, summaries are made of the overall work for its development, as well as an analysis of the results of the scientific research and their practical application. Directions for future research and action on the topic are outlined, and recommendations are made to specific institutions. The dissertation is logically structured in terms of volume and structure. Judging from the title of the topic and the exposition within its content, it is established that there is the necessary correspondence between them. There is a balance regarding the volume of the individual parts of the presented dissertation work. The proposed structure of the scientific study reflects both the theoretical and applied questions on the researched topic. As for the contributions, it should be noted that the dissertation contains contributions and moments of contribution that are quite different in nature and significance. The empirical research presented contributes to these findings to date. I accept the scientific-applied and practical-applied contributions to which the doctoral student has claims.

4. Recommendations and questions

Based on my positive assessment of PhD student Yanka Dimcheva Aivazova's dissertation work, I would like to make a recommendation for deepening her research pursuits in the future: to focus also on issues related to sustainability reporting, which will obliged small and medium-sized enterprises to disclose it in their annual financial statements.

Questions to the doctoral student:

- 1. Is the digitization of the documentation also essential for the disclosures in the annual financial statements, regardless of the type and size of the companies ?
- 2. What methods and approaches can be applied to improve cyber-security in accounting firms, as well as in public bodies that have a similar type of documentation ?

5. Conclusion

Based on the practice of many years of professional experience in the field of accounting, and the fulfillment of all legally established requirements for the development and defense of a dissertation work for the award of a doctorate, in accordance with 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 in " Higher School of Insurance and Finance" VUZF -Sofia, and in view of the overall analysis of the presented scientific research, I give a positive assessment of the dissertation work and I **give positive assessment of the dissertation work and vote positively "for" the awarding of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Yanka Dimcheva Aivazova** in the Department of Higher Education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field: 3.8. Economics; Doctoral Program "Accounting, Auditing and Analysis".

22.05.2024
Sofia

.....
/Assoc. prof. Diyana Bankova, PhD/