

STANDPOINT

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the
doctoral program "Economics and Management (Industry)" in
Business Academy "D. A. Tsenov" – Svishtov

Prepared by: Prof Penka Shishmanova, PhD, Department "General Theory of
Economics", Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov"

Dissertation topic: "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL
ENTERPRISES"

Author of the dissertation: Ayten Bayryam Sabri

Scientific leader: Prof. Aneta Deneva, PhD

Basis: An Order No. 463/26.05.2023 of the Rector of the Economic Academy
"D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov

I. General presentation of the dissertation work

The dissertation submitted for review is 178 pages long and consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, references and appendices. The bibliographic reference contains 110 sources in Bulgarian, English, German, Russian and Turkish languages. 17 figures, 2 tables and 4 appendices are included in the exhibition to illustrate the individual aspects of the researched problem.

The "active non-financial enterprises from sector C - "Processing industry", section 10.4 "Production of vegetable and animal oils and fats", item 10.41, were defined as the object of the study. - "Production of vegetable and animal oils and fats, without margarine", according to NKID-2008". The subject of the research is "good practices for sustainable development of enterprises from the vegetable-oil industry. The emphasis is placed on the developed and implemented programs and initiatives with a view not only to achieving sustainable development, but also to

ensuring it in a long-term aspect". **The purpose** of the development is "on the basis of a study and analysis of the existing policies and mechanisms for sustainable development and by means of research, analysis and summarization of the practical dimensions of the sustainable development of vegetable-oil production, to establish its status and outline the main guidelines of the policy for sustainability'. To achieve this goal, the author sets himself six main tasks. **The main thesis** defended in the dissertation is the following: "sustainable development is the modern concept of business development. Its application provides opportunities to increase the value of the brand and increase the competitiveness of enterprises".

Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

In terms of structure, the development follows the deductive approach. First, the idea of sustainable development and some basic theoretical aspects are examined, then a methodology for its assessment is presented with a focus on industrial enterprises in Bulgaria, and finally the researched problem is specified for a real sub-sector of the processing industry in the national economy.

The introduction contains the main structural elements that present the author's idea and the concrete ways for its realization. The chosen issue is well-founded, the place and role of the present study are argued, the methodology used is clarified, the limitations of the research process are correctly indicated.

The first chapter examines the emergence and evolution of the idea of sustainable development and presents the creation of various institutions and initiatives in detail, incl. and at the European level, related to sustainability and challenges to the implementation of the SDGs. Further, the scope of the study is narrowed down to sustainable production and sustainable production process, some of their main characteristics are derived and the main structural elements (sub-processes) are examined. A systematization has been made and the most important

sustainable development indicators have been analyzed and different approaches for assessing sustainability have been explored.

The second chapter is aimed at the assessment of sustainable development in industrial enterprises in Bulgaria. As the basis of the study, the national strategic and institutional framework of sustainable development was examined and three main directions were identified. A methodology for assessing the sustainable development of industrial enterprises is presented, to be applied to companies producing sunflower oil.

In the third chapter, a detailed analysis of the conditions for development and the real state and trends in the vegetable-oil industry in the country is carried out. The results of an in-house study on the sustainable development of enterprises in the sector are presented. In order to increase the objectivity and enrich the empirical base of the study, the traditional method of gathering information through survey cards has been successfully combined with direct interviews of representatives of companies in the industry. After the analysis of the obtained results, recommendations for using the existing opportunities and stimulating the sustainable development of the companies logically follow.

The presented abstract is of the necessary volume and adequately reflects the structure and content of the dissertation work. In a synthesized form, it presents the main statements of the research, the results achieved and the conclusions drawn. Contains information about the main author contributions and a list of publications on the topic of the dissertation. From the presented reference it is clear that the doctoral student has one participation in a collective study and four independent publications - 1 article and 3 scientific reports, with which he not only fulfills, but also exceeds the minimum national requirements for acquiring the ONS "doctor" according to PPZRASRB.

Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation work

The scientific contributions identified in the abstract correctly reflect the doctoral student's work and his achievements in the dissertation research. I can point out the following as more significant::

1. Detailed numerous literary sources have been studied, on the basis of which the main theoretical propositions, ideas and approaches for the study of sustainable development have been elaborated and analyzed.
2. The state of the vegetable-oil industry is presented in detail and comprehensively, with an emphasis on the factors determining its development and sustainability. As a result of an independent study of various aspects of sustainable development in a practical environment, some of the most important problems of companies in the sector in the considered context have been revealed and systematized.
3. In several main areas, specific recommendations have been formulated for the better implementation of the concept of sustainable development in the activities of the companies in the sector.

II. Critical notes and questions

Critical remarks can be made regarding the presentation of the survey results, which could be further described and analyzed.

Question: According to the results of the survey, with the current state and trends in the sustainable development of enterprises, what are the chances to overcome the weaknesses and realize the potential opportunities before the vegetable oil industry?

III. Summary evaluation of the dissertation work and conclusion

The presented dissertation work is a self-completed study devoted to an issue of importance at both the micro- and macro-level. Through it, the author shows a good awareness of the subject under consideration and a serious attitude to the research work. The results achieved, the summaries made, the conclusions and recommendations formulated represent scientific contributions and enrich the scientific knowledge in the researched area.

In conclusion, I believe that the dissertation work of PhD student Ayten Sabri on the topic: "Sustainable development of industrial enterprises" has the necessary qualities and meets the established normative requirements, which gives me the reason to state my **positive assessment** and recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to award Ayten Bayram Sabri, the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

Svishtov.

31.07.2023

Prepared the opinion:

/Prof. Penka Sishmanova, PhD/