

Scientific opinion

By: Assoc. Dr. Veneta Hristova Mateeva

VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", Department of "Economic Management"

Scientific specialty 05.02.18 Economics and management (industry).

Regarding: dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in a scientific field: 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", professional direction: 3.8. "Economics", scientific speciality: "Economics and Management (Industry)"

Dissertation topic: „Entrepreneurship in the context of the concept of sustainable development”

Author of the dissertation: Alexander Tihomirov Lichev

Reason for presenting the opinion: participation in the composition of the scientific jury for the defense of the dissertation according to Order No. 1058 of 26.10.2023 of the Rector of the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov.

1. General presentation of the dissertation work

The developed work has a volume of 238 pages. It consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a list of 198 sources used, of which 125 are in Bulgarian, 25 foreign sources and 48 nos. internet pages. A Declaration of Originality and Authenticity is also attached. There are 13 appendices in the development, and the analyses are illustrated with 7 tables and 66 figures.

The selected dissertation topic is highly relevant and significant, with a focus on the challenging interests of entrepreneurship and society. The

dissertation emphasizes the importance of the new reality, which prompts entrepreneurs to commit to much more than achieving only high economic results by demonstrating care for an ecological, social and other nature, to soon perceived as side activities. The doctoral student successfully identifies and analyzes the connections between entrepreneurship and sustainable development, outlining perspectives and revealing opportunities for future research. The purpose and tasks of the proposed dissertation correspond to the growing needs of the present, and their consistent implementation outlines guidelines for stimulating the entrepreneurial initiative with a substantiated proposal of a model adequate to modern realities for achieving sustainable entrepreneurship in Bulgaria. The object and subject of the research are well-defined, and the methods include adequate tools to reach the essence of the studied matter. The research thesis is correctly formulated consistently developed and proven in the exposition. The limiting conditions of the study are clearly stated.

The presentation of the dissertation work is smooth, well-structured and logically correctly constructed to achieve the goal and prove the thesis and the accompanying hypotheses it.

Theoretical proofs of modern points of entrepreneurship and the factors affecting it and sustainable development are examined in the first chapter. The author studies and skillfully analyzes a lot of different views in this direction and taking into consideration them he gives his interpretation of what entrepreneurship is. The focus of the study is entrepreneurship through the prism of Bulgarian conditions and most clearly this is shown in the second chapter. Also, the creation, evolution and influence on the formation of entrepreneurial culture, the relation between national specificity and global trends for sustainable development in the evolution of entrepreneurship in our country are analyzed. The logical conclusion of this part of the work is the derivation of a conceptual framework and sectoral methodology for conducting an empirical study of the attitudes and behavior of the opinion of Bulgarian entrepreneurs with "C" -

Processing industry. The third chapter is practical-applied, visualized with appropriate graphic images of the obtained empirical results and rich analytics, allowing the doctoral student to arrive at the confirmation of the hypotheses in the thesis. On this basis, a model of sustainable development of entrepreneurship is reasonably proposed, the main moments of the process of realization of sustainable entrepreneurship in Bulgaria are highlighted, and a generalized starting model of a process aimed at sustainable development is proposed. For each separate part of the dissertation, conclusions are drawn, serving as a basis for the next part.

I believe that the abstract correctly reflects the dissertation work. It has a total volume of 49 pages and contains the required information regarding author contributions, a list of publications on the subject of the dissertation work, and participation in scientific forums.

The attached dissertation publications are 4, of which 2 are articles in publications available in the National Reference List, and 2 are reports presented at scientific-practical national and international conferences in the period 2021-2022. They fully treat problems subsequently developed in the dissertation or are the results of theoretical-practical research in the field of the dissertation. According to the national and intra-university scientometric indicators, the doctoral student fully meets the requirements for publications.

2. Scientific and practical contributions of the dissertation work

The scientific contributions indicated in the abstract correctly reflect the work of the doctoral student and the achievements in the dissertation. I accept the following contributions, namely:

1. Based on the traced genesis of the entrepreneurial institution and its importance in the development of society, the essence and scope of the concepts "entrepreneur" and "entrepreneurship" are defined, as they are tied to the evolution of the phenomena in our country, outlining historically determined features, manifesting against the background of the unfolding world global trends.

2. Perceptions and statements related to clarification of sustainable development and understanding of new responsibilities towards entrepreneurs have been examined, summarized and critically analyzed. The author's position and relevant interpretations affecting the possibilities for practical implementation under modern conditions are highlighted.

3. A methodological toolkit was developed and an empirical study was conducted on modern Bulgarian entrepreneurship in connection with considering the possibilities for a transition to sustainable development. The practical study identified significant problems, highlighted priorities and outlined guidelines for positive changes in entrepreneurial practice in our country.

4. Taking into consideration the requirements of the concept of sustainable development as well as the specifics of current situation, an author's model was developed and proved, aimed at stimulating the development of responsible and sustainable entrepreneurship in Bulgaria.

3. Notes and recommendations for the dissertation work

I believe that part of the dissertation work should be the basis of an article prepared for publication in primary scientific databases and I strongly recommend the PhD student to realize this. In my opinion, such a publication would be a source of subsequent research with a focus on sustainability in entrepreneurship and outside of Bulgaria.

4. Summary evaluation of the dissertation work

Summarizing what has been said so far, it can be concluded that the proposed dissertation meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and indisputably enriches theory and practice. In this regard, it should be rated positively. I propose to the members of the scientific jury to award the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Alexander Tihomirov Lichev in the field of higher education 3.

"Social, economic and legal sciences", professional direction 3.8. "Economics", scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Industry)".

01.12.2023 г.

Veliko Tarnovo

Member of the scientific jury:

Prof. Dr. ...istova