

## OPINION

On a thesis submitted for acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of  
DOCTOR

**Topic of the dissertation:** „Entrepreneurship in the context of the concept of sustainable development“

**Professional direction:** 3.8.Economics

**Doctoral Program:** Economics and Management (Industry)

**Author:** Aleksander Tihomirov Lichev

**Member of the scientific jury:** Assoc. prof. Daniel Yordanov Pavlov, PhD.,

field of the higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences;

Professional direction: 3.7. Administration and Management ; Faculty of

Business and Management; University of Ruse “Angel Kanchev”, Ruse.

**Opinion submission ground:** Participation in the composition of the scientific jury according to Order №1058/26.10.2023 issued by the Rector of “D.A.Tsenov” Academy of Economics, Svishtov.

### 1.State of the art

The chosen topic is current, complex, with great practical potential, linked to processes and trends on a national, local and international scale. It is related to the perception and application in practice of the concept of sustainable development in view of the limitation of natural resources.

### 2.Degree of knowledge of the state of the problem and creative interpretation of literary material

The PhD student demonstrates a good degree of knowledge of the researched issues. The topic is of interest to both science and organizations that promote entrepreneurship.

The object of the scientific research is the modern Bulgarian entrepreneurs, carrying out activity in sector "C" - processing industry, and the subject of the research covers the attitudes and behavior of the Bulgarian industrial entrepreneurs in the context of the understanding of sustainable development. The dissertation work has clearly defined: goal, tasks, thesis and hypotheses.

The dissertation has a volume of 238 standard pages. Structurally, it consists of: title page, table of contents, list of abbreviations used, list of tables, list of figures, introduction, three chapters, conclusion, list of sources used - a total of 198 sources, of which 125 Bulgarian, 25 pcs. foreign and 48 pcs. websites and Declaration of originality and authenticity. In support of the above, 7 tables and 66 figures are included. Apart from the main text, 13 appendices have been developed in a volume of 17 pages.

### **3. Compliance of the selected methodology of research with the set goal and tasks of the dissertation**

Methodologically, research methods and approaches are used such as: historical approach, system-structural approach, descriptive approach, basic methods of induction and deduction, analysis and synthesis, method of comparison, modeling, graphic method.

The main goal of the dissertation is to examine the current state and prospects for the development of entrepreneurship in our country through the prism of the concept of sustainable development, based on a thorough study and interpretation of the existing scientific and theoretical statements and the data from an own empirical study. This goal was successfully fulfilled through the six tasks set before the dissertation work.

### **4. Contributions**

I confirm the contributions, outlined in the dissertation:

1. As a result of an in-depth study of literary sources, the genesis of the entrepreneurial institution and its importance in the development of societies has been traced. The essence and scope of the basic concepts "entrepreneur" and "entrepreneurship" are defined.

2. Perceptions and statements in connection with clarifying sustainable development and understanding the new responsibilities towards entrepreneurs have been examined, summarized and critically analyzed. On this basis, the author's position presented in the dissertation and relevant interpretations affecting the possibilities for practical implementation under modern conditions have been upgraded.

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 analysis of the results of the practical study made it possible to identify significant problems, highlight priorities and outline guidelines for positive changes in entrepreneurial practice in our country.

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

### **5. Assessment of publications on the dissertation**

There are four independent publications on the subject of the dissertation work. The total score is 40 with a minimum requirement of 30.

### **6. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no significant remarks that would doubt the quality of the dissertation work.

Questions for the PhD student:

1. Industrial property rights could create some competitive advantages for the entrepreneur even in conditions of limited resources. Where is the place of industrial property rights in the author's model?

2. A significant difficulty for many Bulgarian entrepreneurs is the worship of Bulgarian buyers in front of foreign goods with equal quality to native products. Which of the measures mentioned in paragraph 3.2 would contribute to overcoming this problem?

## 7. Conclusion

The presented dissertation of Alexander Tikhomirov Lichev, PhD student in the doctoral program "Economics and Management (Industry)" at the "D. A. Tsenov" Academy of Economics, Svishtov on the topic "Entrepreneurship in the context of the concept of sustainable development" is a comprehensive, complete and conscientiously conducted scientific study on a significant problem for business practice. It meets the current requirements under the Law on Consumer Protection for acquiring a PhD in the specified scientific specialty.

This gives me grounds for a **definite positive assessment and I recommend to the honorable Scientific Jury to award to PhD student Aleksander Tihimirov Lichev the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" under the doctoral program "Economics and Management (Industry)".**

19.11.2023 г.

Member of the jury:  
/Assoc. Prof. Dr. D

