

REVIEW

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Author of dissertation work: Rustam Aslanzade, PhD student in unsupervised
mode of study, paid mode, D04042133

Doctoral programme "Economics and Management (Industry)" at the Department
of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship of the Tsenov Academy of
Economics, Svishtov

Topic of the dissertation: Socially responsible supply chain management

Author of the dissertation: Rustam Aslanzade

1. General description of the presented materials

By order № 574 of 30.07.2021 of the Rector of the Tsenov academy of
Economics Prof. Dr. Maryana Bozhinova I was appointed as a member of the
scientific jury for providing a procedure for defense of a dissertation on the topic
of **Socially responsible supply chain management** for obtaining the educational
and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic
and legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics, PhD program "Economics
and Management (Industry)".

1. Data on doctoral candidate and doctoral studies

By order № 407/30.06.2021 r. of the Rector of the Tsenov academy of
Economics **Rustam Aslanzade** was enrolled as a doctoral student of a self-paying
unsupervised (individual) training in the scientific field 3. Social, economic and
legal sciences, Professional field 3.8. Economics, PhD program "Economics and
Management (Industry)" for the development of a dissertation on the topic
"**Socially responsible supply chain management**".

During the period of 30.06.2021 – 26.07.2021 the unsupervised PhD student
Rustam Aslanzade has followed the pre-approved Individual PhD Programme
Curriculum.

Rustam Aslanzade has completed the training activities and he has
successfully passed the exams and the compulsory seminars, defined in the
Individual Ph.D. Programme Curriculum for the entire period of PhD study. He
has completed the assigned activities.

PhD student Rustam Aslanzade has publications and he has met the
minimum national requirements for obtaining the PhD in Economics.

Rustam Aslanzade has presented the full version of dissertation at the Department council at the Department of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship of the Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov.

By order of the Rector of the Tsenov academy of Economics, a procedure for public defense of the dissertation work of **Rustam Aslanzade** was opened. No violations were made in the implementation of the dissertation and all legal requirements are met.

2. General presentation of dissertation work

The development has a volume of 176 pages, the exhibition includes 20 figures and 21 tables.

The dissertation consists of an introduction (5 pages), three chapters (162 pages), conclusion (5 pages), references (12 pages) and applications list of the abbreviations (1 page), a list of tables (1 page) and application (1 page).

For the writing of the dissertation the PhD student has indicated 130 sources.

The attached applied classical structure of the dissertation has allowed in a certain logical sequence and purposefulness to address the main issues related to the socially responsible supply chain management.

Chapter one presents the theoretical and methodological foundations of corporate social responsibility in supply management. The essential characteristics of corporate social responsibility are considered. It is emphasized on socially responsible supply chain management. Attention is paid to the methodological approaches for assessing the level of social responsibility in managing the supply chain.

Chapter two is entirely empirical. It assesses the level of social responsibility in managing supply chains in individual companies. For this purpose, the external environment for formation of corporate social responsibility is defined in global supply chains, emphasizing the need to achieve a balance between the activities of corporations, profit, the environment and society. Systematization of the forms of social responsibility in corporations has been carried out. A comparative assessment of the forms of the socially responsible activity of the enterprise is also presented.

In **Chapter three**, the applied aspects of socially responsible supply chain management in companies are presented. The emphasis falls on providing the necessary conceptual framework for building and implementing a mechanism of socially responsible supply chain. A balanced system of indicators for the implementation of the development strategy has been constructed, based on the principles of social responsibility. The main groups in it are: finance, customers, staff, domestic business processes.

In **the conclusion** the necessary main conclusions and summaries are formulated.

The total volume of the dissertation project is corresponding to the accepted requirements for scientific developments of this type. In structural terms, there is a balance in the volume between the chapters.

The proposed illustrative material in the exhibition covers 20 Figures and 21 tables. In the dissertation, 1 application has been developed. All this has allowed the achievement of a good balance between the text and illustrative part and helps to build a comprehensive vision of the studied issues.

The depth of the conclusions accompanying each chapter is impressive, as well as the substantiation of the general conclusions and the proposals made, which proves the scientific thesis.

The list of used literature contains 130 literary and Internet sources in English and Russian.

3. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

The topic is appropriately chosen and is of interest to both science and business practice. Its actuality is clearly, correctly and sufficiently defended. The correct formulation of the main goal of the study has allowed not only an in-depth analysis and assessment of corporate social responsibility in supply chain management, but also justification of proposals for specific steps to expand corporate social responsibility in the study area.

The purpose of the thesis research is to substantiate the theoretical and practical foundations relevant to the study of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) diffusion process in the frameworks of the supply chain management.

The **subject** and **object** are defined correctly. The introduced restrictions are well-founded and allow for in-depth scientific research.

The main hypothesis: building an effective supply chain in a company (including but not limiting to one based on the social responsibility) is possible only due to use of a comprehensive integrated approach to management.

The research thesis finds its verification in the obtained results.

The exhibition is smooth. The introduced terms are directly related to the analyzed issues. A set of approaches and methods is used to carry out the research. The known research methods are applied such as: retrospective analysis, inductive and deductive method, statistical method etc.

The introduced restrictions correspond directly to the research thesis and support its implementation. The boundaries of the study are limited to the study of conceptual features, as well as scientific and practical problems of implementing the concept of socially responsible supply chains in HVAC market (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning systems), on the example of the Azkond corporation.

The used literature is directly related to the developed issues. It is cited correctly and the rules of scientific ethics are respected.

The dissertation work of Rustam Aslanzade "Socially responsible supply chain management" is an in-depth independent study of a topical issue for both theory and business practice.

It meets the basic requirements and criteria for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

6. Contributions and significance of development for science and practice

The acquaintance with the dissertation allows to assess that the goal of the research has been achieved, and the tasks arising from it have received adequate solutions. As a consequence, I am getting the belief that there is enough evidence in the dissertation for scientific and applied contributions.

I accept the practical and scientific-applied results formulated by the author:

A. Scientific results

1. The mechanism of introducing the concept of social responsibility into supply chain management through the solution of the following tasks has been substantiated:

- improvement of management practice, taking into account the principles of social responsibility;
- development of a mechanism for the implementation of the principles of "sustainability" in supply chain management;
- improving the methodology for assessing the level of social responsibility in individual companies.

2. A comprehensive assessment and analysis of modern trends in the development of socially responsible supply chain management in global business has been made.

B. Scientific and applied results.

1. Proposed methodological approaches to assessing the level of social responsibility in the management of supply chains of a company, which involves assessing socially responsible supply chain management (SR SCM) based on an integral assessment of the system of indicators within the formed supply chains: the index of compliance of supplied raw materials, materials, components, environmental standards; the environmental friendliness index of transport support for the supply chain; index of conformity of products to international quality standards.

2. A methodology for assessing the success of the company's social responsibility policy and its supply chains has been developed on the basis of the Balanced Scorecard (BSC), which can be adapted by each company for its own characteristics and specific goals. The use of this system involves the allocation of Key Performance Indicators in the following main areas: finance, customers, personnel, internal business processes.

5. Evaluation of dissertation publications

The results of the research on the topic of the dissertation are correctly presented to the scientific community with 13 scientific publications, independently and in co-authorship. They are an indicator of the deep scientific interests of the doctoral student, as well as that the scientific contributions to the dissertation are the personal work of the doctoral student.

7 articles in peer-reviewed and referenced journals are presented, 2 of which indexed in WoS, with 1 citation, $H = 1$.

6 conference papers are also presented, one of which is in the Tsenov Academy of Economics, awaiting to be published.

The publications are characterized by purposefulness and analyticalness, well-argued author's position, reflect the achievements of the dissertation obtained in the course of research. The reference made shows the following reflected citations:

6. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

Attached is a Certificate for fulfillment by the doctoral student of the minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 3.8. Economics. The total number of points multiply exceeds the required amount, in the manner that from the required 30 points 120 points are acquired.

7. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

The presented dissertation on the topic "Socially responsible supply chain management " is a conscientious scientific and applied research.

I have no doubt about the personal contribution of the doctoral student, expressed in in-depth research, creative thinking and further development of the theory and the problem solved in the work, namely substantiate the theoretical and practical foundations relevant to the study of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) diffusion process in the frameworks of the supply chain management.

8. Autoreferate

The autoreferate, consisting of 46 pages (in English) and 54 pages (in Bulgarian), has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of LDAS and RILDAS. It is structurally correct and properly reflects the logic and consistency and contributions of the dissertation. It demonstrates the skills of **Rustam Aslanzade** to synthesize and summarize to present his most important ideas and conclusions.

9. Critical comments and recommendations

I have no remarks on the research merits of the presented work.

It is recommended that the further research on the presented topic of the doctoral student to continue in the future and his results to be published in indexed and peer-reviewed international scientific journals, for which the doctoral student has extensive practical experience and scientific potential. The presentation of the results in other specialized international publications with IF / IR will allow higher visibility of the scientific results and will create conditions for more intensive citation.

The doctoral student should consider publishing the dissertation research as a monographic edition in order to reach a wider audience, as the research problems go beyond national borders.

The answers to the following questions will be of interest:

1. What is the difference between "Supply Chain" and the more common term "Supply"?
2. The concepts of "social responsibility", "sustainability", "greening" are relevant to the modern World. Please explain how they relate to each other.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of LDASRB and RILDASRB. The presented materials and dissertation results correspond to the specific requirements of the Regulations for admission and training of doctoral students at the Tsenov Academy of Economics.

The dissertation shows that **Rustam Aslanzade** has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional field 3.8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to the above, I give my positive assessment of the research presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, autoreferate, results and contributions, and I invite the scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to **Rustam Aslanzade** in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3. 8. Economics; PhD program "Economics and Management (Industry)".

14.08.2021
Svishtov

Reviewer:
/Mariana Petrova/