

## REVIEW

by a member of a Scientific Jury,  
determining by Order № 304/01.06.2021  
of Rector of Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov",  
for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

**Reviewer:** Prof. Dsc. Tanya Gorcheva, Department "International Economic Relations", Faculty of Management and Marketing, Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov"

**Author of the dissertation:** Rositsa Atanasova Prodanova, Doctoral Program "World Economy and International Economic Relations"

**Topic of the dissertation:** EVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

### I. General presentation of the dissertation:

The proposed manuscript is 218 pages long, incl. its applications, is a complete and well-structured scientific work from the point of view of the main points of reference: European financial institutions; models of interaction between the EU institutions and the relationship between the European Central Bank (ECB) and the European Monetary System. Visually, some of the productions in the above are presented through 14 tables and 24 figures.

The content is structured in three chapters, introduction and conclusion, which are built according to the prescriptions for formatting this type of research. The accessible and understandable language of the exhibition makes a good impression.

Most of the content presents the processes and phenomena related to the evolution of financial institutions in the European Union and its monetary integration, but at the same time priority is given to the cognitive nature of the issues under consideration, identifying a number of problems and obstructions caused by the historical development of the European financial institutions and their current functional and management structure. A methodology is proposed to test the coordination between fiscal and monetary policy within the EU Monetary Union.

The research is characterized by a rich list of used literature sources (205 issues), incl. in Bulgarian, English and Russian, as well as a long list of documentary sources, mostly up-to-date and modern, which is an indisputable advantage.



The object (namely - the financial institutions of the European Union and the Monetary Union of the EU), the subject (the evolution of financial institutions in the European Union and the monetary integration from the point of view of normative basis, policies, real actions, as well as new perspectives and opportunities) are precisely formulated and the general objective of the study - (to tracking the evolutionary and functional-organizational terms the financial institutions of the European Union, with the leading role of the ECB, in order to reveal possible sources and reasons for possible suboptimal results of their activities), which the author decomposes into specific directions.

The very research thesis is formulated correctly reflecting how the functioning of EU financial institutions, with the leading role of the ECB, achieved some positive results, but also a number of problems and obstructions, conditioned by their historical development and their current functional and management structure.

## **II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation**

### **A) Relevance of the topic**

The proposed manuscript is characterized by contemporary look of the topic. The monetary policy of the European Union is an important point in the overall philosophy of integration processes, so its implementation is an essential part of the effort to improve the economic and banking stability of the monetary union, but also of the EU member states as a whole. This makes the successful functioning of the monetary union a major task for the national financial and banking institutions, including our candidate country. Following the content of the study, it is clear that along with the purely theoretical statements, there are a number of pragmatic problems for the applicability of the principles of transparency and accountability in the ECB, and this is assessed as a positive point.

### **B) Notes on the content of the dissertation**

The dissertation is structured according to the principles established in practice for building research. That is why the first chapter contains the theoretical foundations describing the emergence and development of international financial institutions. The theoretical foundation in the construction of the main formulation of the dissertation is positively assessed. Opinions, definitions, aspects and approaches of various authors working in the field of European monetary policy are presented.

An indisputable positive quality is the fact that a broad theoretical statement on the development of European policy in the monetary and monetary-financial field is considered. A positive point is the analysis of the role of international financial institutions in the development of international economic relations. The second chapter



focuses on European financial institutions as an institutional reflection of European integration. The third chapter presents analyze and assessments, as well as the author's empirical research related to the development of financial institutions in the EU and the current challenges facing them, incl. under COVID-19.

Analyzing the degree of elaboration of the researched issues by other scientists, we come to the conclusion that one of the positive qualities is the fact that a broad theoretical statement is considered on the topic of institutional system of the European Union and models of interaction between its financial institutions and other management structures. in the integration system. Another positive point in the development of these theoretical problems is the application of a critical approach and reflection of the author's own attitude to the topic. According to the previously made by SA "D. A. Tsenov" reference for plagiarism, the candidate has observed the rules of scientific ethics, including correct citation of literary sources and author's opinions.

### **C) Methodological construction and tools**

In the first chapter, general scientific methods of logical verification are used in the elaboration of the theoretical formulations necessary as a foundation for the research further; causal dependencies, etc. The clarification of the basic concepts and the refinement of the main categories makes a good impression. The second chapter clarifies the models of interaction between financial institutions in the EU and other governance structures in the union. The relationship between the ECB and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) in the overall monetary system in the EU is clarified through a number of verbal-graphic models.

In the third chapter of the study, the analysis focuses on the current challenges facing European financial institutions. The above methods contribute to an adequate analysis of the empirical data used, as well as in their statistical processing. The abstract accurately and completely reflects the content and spirit of the dissertation. In the course of preparation of the dissertation the author has published a scientific study and scientific article related to the dissertation in the editions of the Academy of Economics and three scientific papers, one of which in a foreign edition, which exceeds the minimum requirements of NACID. In addition, during this period of preparation the author has participated in two international scientific-practical conferences and two student scientific-practical conferences, as well as in one of the editions of the doctoral scientific session, traditionally held by the Academy of Economics.

### **III. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation**

Based on the above, I come to the conclusion that in the content of the dissertation there is a development of existing scientific ideas and concepts relevant to modern scientific thought, which allows me to bring the following points of contribution, namely:



- The dissertation builds a theoretical foundation for clarifying the functioning and role of global financial organizations and institutions in the current international financial and economic order, which in turn allows the systematization and analysis of research on the origin, nature and development of European financial organizations and institutions, and in particular the ECB.

- A framework is set for analyzing the evolution of European financial institutions, both in functional and system-organizational terms, as a result of which challenges are presented to European financial institutions, and in particular to the ECB.

- On the basis of the derived structural, normative and functional aspects of the activity of the European financial institutions the coordination between the monetary and fiscal policy of the EU is tested empirically.

- An operational analysis is carried out to illustrate the scale of activity of the EU financial institutions and the ECB in particular, on the basis of which asymmetric dynamics in the balance sheet positions of the ECB and low correlation with GDP movements are established.

#### **IV. Critical notes, questions and recommendations on the dissertation**

In general, the idea of the dissertation is subordinated to making proposals for optimizing the activities of European financial institutions. In this regard, I believe that the aim of the study has been achieved, although some weaknesses are noted, namely:

1. The evolution of the European financial institutions would be more transparent if it were tabulated, fixing the individual stages.

2. The theoretical foundation does not clearly reveal the link between the European financial institutions and the evolutionary development of the whole EU, and this connection is indisputable.

3. Too much space and attention is given to international financial organizations, which diverts the presentation from the main topic. In addition, the statement in this section is emphatically descriptive.

4. The introduction declares that the enlargement of the Eurozone and the accession of new countries, incl. and Bulgaria, and in my opinion this is an important perspective, which is not only relevant but also important for the development of the Bulgarian economy.

Despite the in-depth analysis of the models of interaction between financial institutions in the EU and its other management structures, the question remains unclear how European financial institutions and their functioning contribute to the security of European citizens entering the role of small investors, incl. regarding the functioning of the European investment and pension funds, which the author can shed further light on.

## **V. Summarized conclusion and opinion**

Based on the presented information and regardless of the notes made, which do not reduce the significance of the proposed research, I conclude that the presented dissertation meets the formal requirements for the established criteria for awarding educational qualification and scientific degree "Doctor" in "World Economy and International Economic Relations" (05.02.10) in the professional field 3.8. "Economy". For this reason, I propose that the scientific jury give a positive vote.

Date: 05.07.2021

Reviewer .  
(Prof. Dsc. Tanya Gorcheva)