

## POSITION PAPER

for an opening of a procedure for defense of a dissertation for the award of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Industry)" in D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov

**From: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Marchev Blagoev** scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Industry)", University of National and World Economy, Sofia.

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**Dissertation topic: SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

### **I. General characteristics of the presented dissertation**

The dissertation on the topic: "Socially responsible management of the supply chain" is developed in a total volume of 174 pages, of which 162 pages, main text and 12 pages of used literature sources. It is structured: introduction; three chapters; conclusion; literature sources, applications and list of abbreviations, tables, figures. The text of the dissertation has 21 tables and 20 figures. The used literature and information sources are 126 - books, conference reports, previous research, and information databases. The topic is well defined and is of interest from a theoretical and applied point of view. Its topicality is clearly and correctly presented by the doctoral student. The dissertation is structured in three chapters. The idea of the dissertation and the set goals and objectives for the object and the subject of research can be easily traced. It has good structure and precise formatting.

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

**The introduction** substantiates the relevance of the topic of the dissertation. The reasons for choosing a topic are given. It is specified that in the development of the dissertation the links between the value chain, the supply chain and social responsibility will be sought. The research on the topic of the dissertation has been studied so far. Aspects have been revealed in which research is still insufficient and work can be done in this direction. (including the nature of the dissertation). There are relatively well and precisely formulated - object, subject, purpose and tasks; research hypothesis. Appropriate methods for conducting the research have been determined in advance - comparative analysis, quantitative and qualitative analysis, expert evaluations, etc.

**In the first chapter** a literature review of theoretical and methodological issues related to basic concepts and scientific concepts on the topic of the dissertation is made. Scientific information on corporate social responsibility is systematized (in connection with sustainable development); socially responsible supply chain management and the supply chain itself. These are key concepts and main elements of the dissertation. The place of corporate social responsibility in the whole process of supply chain management in the enterprise is very well

indicated. Emphasis is placed on its role in the context of modern economic, social and environmental conditions.

The methodological issues of the forthcoming practical research are developed in item 3 of Chapter I. The doctoral student develops and adapts a methodology with which he will make his practical research on the basis of already developed and tested in practice methodologies (used for the purposes of other research). The methodology is substantiated and based on specific mathematical tools. Of interest are the proposed integrated CSR index and the classification of companies into separate categories, according to the value of the index. 3 additional sub-indices are proposed, which more fully reflect the specific components of social responsibility in the elements of the supply chain.

**Chapter Two** - examines the CSR of the company's supply chain in terms of the environment in which it operates. Global, production, economic, technological factors are presented as being of interest for the topic of the dissertation. The internal factors for the company, which influence its potential and possibility for realization of CSR activities, are also considered. The forms of manifestation of the company's social responsibility are determined on the basis of previous researches and data from them.

**Chapter Three** - is an applied study. Mechanisms for socially responsible management of the supply chain in companies have been formed. A scheme (with the respective stages, sub-stages, activities) for formation of a mechanism for management of the corporate social responsibility is proposed. It can be positively assessed that each of the three separate chapters of the dissertation ends in summary with specific conclusions from the scientific issues discussed in the chapter.

In summary, the dissertation is characterized by good balance in terms of its individual parts and interdependence.

The abstract is 45 pages long. The content of the dissertation is reliably reproduced in it. It consists of six parts. They are: the general characteristic, main content, synthesized exposition, reference for the contribution moments, publications on the dissertation work and declaration for originality and authenticity of the dissertation research. Its content, in synthesized form, presents the most important moments of the dissertation. But the methodological issues, which are one of the main contributions of the dissertation, could be presented in more detail.

Many publications have been made on the topic of the dissertation - a total of 13. Of these - 7 co-authored articles, 6 conference papers. The articles are published in journals indexed in global scientific databases. This is a guarantee for the quality of the publications. Thus, the main parts of the dissertation have found wide publicity among the scientific audience.

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

The developed dissertation contains certain contributions that reflect the main achievements and results of the practical research. I accept the wording of the contributions (made by the doctoral student and his supervisor) with one clarification. I believe that the first contribution (mechanism for the introduction of the concept of SR in SCM) is applied rather than purely scientific.

#### **IV. Questions on the dissertation.**

PhD student **Rustam Aslanzade** did his research in good faith. Without underestimating the quality of the dissertation, it can be noted that:

1. On page 21 there is a diagram of a CSR system in supply chain management. Previously, the term "supply chain" was not defined, except briefly in the introduction to the dissertation. It is good to first define the basic concepts and then summarize them in the presented scheme.
2. In places in the literature review there are no citations or references to literary sources, and authors and works are indicated in the text (e.g. p. 27 - Adam Smith, Alfred Marshall; p. 38 - Patrick Byer, etc.).
3. In some parts of the dissertation there is a reference or citation to only one source. The doctoral student had to enrich and support specific statements with additional literature and information sources.
4. In what else can CSR be expressed except in the ecology of the supply chain emphasized in the dissertation?
5. How can environmental decisions, in relation to CSR, have a positive impact on the company's financial performance and profitability?

#### **V. Summary evaluation of the dissertation and conclusion.**

The dissertation of PhD student **Rustam Aslanzade** is an independent study of scientific and applied nature and meets the requirements of LDASRB, RALDASRB and the internal regulations of D.A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

I recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to award the PhD student **Rustam Aslanzade** with the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Date: 05.08.2021

Sofia

Prepared the position: .....

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar **Blagoev** /