

OPINION

written by a member of Scientific Jury for acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (Doctor of Philosophy) in Doctoral Programme "Economics and Management (Industry)" at D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov

Opinion prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Iskra Marinova Panteleeva, PhD, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3.8. Economics, Scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Industry)

Author of the dissertation: Aslanzade Rustam

Topic of the dissertation: Socially responsible supply chain management

Grounds: Order No 574/30.07.2021 of the Rector of the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, for formation of a Scientific Jury for public defense of a dissertation and Decision of the Scientific Jury from 30.07.2021 for a preparation of a opinion.

I. General presentation of the dissertation

The dissertation has a total volume of 176 pages. Structurally, it consists of: introduction (5 pages), exposition in three chapters (144 pages), conclusion (5 pages), reference (10 pages) and appendices (1 page). Included are: list of abbreviations (1 page), list of tables (1 page) and list of figures (1 page). In the main text are presented 21 tables and 20 figures. One table is included in the appendix. 130 literary and Internet sources were used, of which 16 in Cyrillic (in Russian) and 114 in Latin.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

Within the introduction are presented some of the main methodological aspects of the dissertation project. The topic of the development is up-to-date, with the respective justification for its significance. The **object** of study is the system of managerial relations for organizing supply chains in a company. The **subject** of research is the provision of socially responsible supply chain management in the companies, which are engaged in manufacturing and distributing ventilation and climate control equipment. 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. To achieve this aim, six **tasks** have been formulated. The main **hypothesis** that the PhD student seeks to prove is that 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 approach, the methodology and the methods used in the development are presented. The main sources for the

information provision of the survey are indicated. The results of the research and their practical significance are formulated.

The formulated purpose has been achieved with the help of well-constructed and consistently implemented research tasks. The PhD student has managed to prove the hypothesis he is defending.

The structure of the main text is logical and balanced, facilitates the development of work in the direction from theory to practice.

The first chapter is *theoretical*. It clarifies the theoretical and methodological foundations for the study of social responsibility in supply management. The starting point is corporate social responsibility as a modern concept for doing business. On this basis one goes into the depth of the topic by discussing the socially responsible management of the supply chain in corporate social responsibility. The chapter concludes with the methodological approaches for assessing the level of social responsibility in the field of supply chain management.

The second chapter has an *empirical character*. The level of social responsibility in the management of supply chains is assessed. The general picture is presented by defining the external environment for the formation of corporate social responsibility in global supply chains. The forms and types of manifestation of social responsibility in the companies are systematized. A comparative assessment of supply management from the point of view of social responsibility in companies is performed.

The third chapter is the *creative part of the dissertation*. It defines the main guidelines for the formation of mechanisms for socially responsible management of the supply chain in companies. The focus is on providing the conceptual basis for the formation of mechanisms of socially responsible supply chain management in companies. The author's contribution is aimed at constructing a balanced scorecard as a foundation for the formation of socially responsible supply chain management in companies.

The **conclusion** summarizes the relevant summaries and conclusions. They are synthesized sequentially the focus of the theoretical foundations of socially responsible supply chain management, the methodological framework for assessing the level of social responsibility in supply chain management, the conceptual principles for forming the mechanism of socially responsible supply chain management in the companies and upgrades (based on a balanced scorecard) related to the identification of key aspects for the formation of socially responsible supply chain management from the positions of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (ACE).

The **total volume** of the dissertation corresponds to the requirements for a scientific work of this type. In **structural terms**, there is a balance in volume between the individual chapters.

The **figures** and the **tables** contribute to the good illustration of the different author positions. A variety of **research methods** are used, suitable for the theoretical and empirical development of the research views of the dissertation.

The issues addressed in the dissertation have been studied in depth. There is a large reference, as well as empirical facts, to which the dissertation has referred and has built its statements.

The **style** of the dissertation is scientific. The **terminological apparatus** is appropriately used and presupposed the achievement of a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the issue in theoretical and practical aspects.

Scientific ethics are respected. The **reference** to the literature is made correctly.

The abstract is 45 pages total volume. In terms of structure, content and style, it is well formed and reliably reflects in a synthesized form the main points of the dissertation: purpose, tasks, object, subject, thesis and hypothesis, methodological tools, theoretical and empirical research, achieved results, conclusions and suggestions. The abstract includes a reference to the contributions, in which the most important achievements are correctly formulated, a list of publications on the topic of the dissertation and a declaration of originality.

13 publications on the topic of the dissertation are presented, 9 of them – stand-alone and 4 – co-authored. Their content is in accordance with the issues discussed in the scientific work. The author's views have been tested and disseminated on the basis of 7 articles in peer-reviewed and refereed publications - 2 of them in Web of Science, and 6 papers, 5 of which have been published in conference proceedings, and one is in print. In qualitative and quantitative terms, the publications presented to the scientific community meet the minimum requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

III. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions to the dissertation

The dissertation can be considered as an enriched scientific research. The author declares the achievement of the following scientific and scientific-applied scientific results with a contributing character:

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.

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

I believe that the results formulated in the dissertation have a contributing character and represent enriched and further developed moments in the field of social responsibility in the management of the supply chain.

IV. Questions on the dissertation

Regarding the content of the dissertation I have no remarks and serious recommendations.

I would like the PhD student to answer the following question: What are the main innovation changes that companies strive for in the implementation of socially responsible supply chain management, given the intensive trends for digitalization of business and operations in a pandemic environment (COVID-19)?

V. Summarized evaluation of the dissertation and conclusion

The dissertation on "**Socially responsible supply chain management**" has the qualities of a scientific work in its final form and shows that the PhD student has theoretical knowledge and practical skills for conducting independent scientific research. The dissertation fully meets the requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" under the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for Application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Regulations for Application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov.

I give my **positive evaluation** of the submitted dissertation and I **recommend** to the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order 574/30.07.2021 of the Rector of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, unanimously to award **Rustam Aslanzade the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (Doctor of Philosophy) in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional field 3.8 Economics, Doctoral Programme "Economics and Management (Industry)".**

10.08.2021
Svishtov

Prepared the opinion:
(Assoc. Prof. Iskra Panteleeva, PhD)