



## OPINION

on a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in 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:** RUSTAM NAMIK OGLU ASLANZADE, PhD student in free form of education at the Department of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship at the Academy of Economics "D.A.Tsenov" - Svishtov.

**Topic of the dissertation:** „SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT”

**Reviewer:** PROF. VALENTINA LYUBENOVA NIKOLOVA-ALEXIEVA, PHD from University of Food Technologies-Plovdiv, field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management, appointed as a member of the scientific jury with order № 574 / 30.07.2021 by the Rector of the Academy of Economics „D.A. Tsenov" - Svishtov.

### 1. Relevance of the problem.

One of the big topics for modern business is that of sustainable development. It is invariably on the agenda of the World Economic Forum in Davos, where leaders around the world seek effective solutions to achieve a stable balance between economic, social and environmental goals, the balanced trinity of which underpins the concept of sustainable development. This process quite naturally leads to a modification of the behavior of market participants. On the one hand, companies strive to "produce sustainably" and maintain the behavior of good corporate citizens - companies that do well and at the same time strive to do good. On the other hand, socially responsible supply chain management is extremely important, as it represents the company's network and its suppliers for the production and distribution of specific products. The practical approach to achieve this is related to the integration of the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the overall corporate strategy of business organizations.

There are scientific publications in the field, but in general the applicability of CSR, specifically in the supply chain, as well as its effects on business, have not been sufficiently studied. In this sense, the author of this dissertation tries to add value by exploring the possibilities for integrating CSR into corporate strategy and to use it as a tool for building social, economic and environmental justice in the supply chain.

In this regard, it can be concluded that the topic of the dissertation *was successfully chosen. It is extremely up-to-date, dissertable and has great practical significance.*

### 2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

In the introduction of the dissertation the main goal and six logically connected tasks for its achievement are formulated. The object and subject of the research are correctly defined, as well as the author's hypothesis, according to which the construction of an effective supply chain in a company (including, but not limited to, a chain based on social responsibility) is possible only through the use of complex integrated approach to



management. The tasks were completed in the course of the research, and the formulated research thesis was proved.

The dissertation research is based on the use of the principles of dialectics, the unity of theory and practice, scientific abstraction. The following methodological tools are used to prove the hypothesis: system-structural analysis, methods for comparative, quantitative and qualitative analysis, analysis and synthesis, expert evaluations, etc.

In interpreting the data, the doctoral student is based on data from monographic studies and articles by world-renowned scientists and economists; materials and analytical reports of international companies, including Azkond; official publications of state bodies of Latvia and Azerbaijan, EU, UN; results of ISMA research; various internet resources.

*The methodological tools are appropriately selected, in accordance with the set goals and objectives.*

### **3. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results.**

The presented dissertation is **176 pages long**. Structurally, it includes **an introduction, 3 chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and an appendix**. The results were obtained using modern tools and are illustrated with appropriately selected **20 figures and 21 tables**. The application presents the number of organizations in the world by region and their reports on social responsibility for the period 2013-2017.

The results of the dissertation research are presented in international indexed journals: Management Theory and Studies for Rural Business and Infrastructure Development (WoS), Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan (WoS), Economics and Education (Riga, Latvia), Transactions of the National Academy of Sciences of economic series (Baku, Azerbaijan), International Economic Policy (Kiev, Ukraine), as well as in collections of international conferences and forums.

*The structure of the dissertation research is logically constructed and corresponds to the set goal and tasks. The paper contains concrete results and empirical evidence that objectively reflect the real achievements of the research.*

### **4. Discussion of the results and used literature.**

The dissertation analyzes the current scientific achievements in the field of socially responsible supply chain management to achieve sustainable development, increase competitiveness and effective integration in the European and global business space. The bibliographic reference includes a total of **198 sources**, of which **32 in Latin, 49 in Cyrillic and 117 Internet resources**. The indicated literature sources are directly related to the topic of the dissertation.

The systematizations and summaries made show in-depth and conscientious work with the literature, skills for application of analytical and deductive techniques for information processing with different research methods. The presented dissertation is a completed study on a topical and significant socio-economic problem. In the course of the research the most significant theoretical and practical problems related to the application of the concept of socially responsible supply chains in companies for production and installation of ventilation and climate control equipment, following the example of Azkond Corporation, were raised and discussed.

Rustam Aslanzade has in-depth theoretical and methodological training, skills for independent research and the results of the dissertation research prove my assessment. *I highly appreciate the concrete results obtained, on the basis of which scientifically*



*substantiated conclusions and recommendations have been made for increasing social responsibility in the management of the supply chain.* The key tasks of the development of socially responsible supply chain management in companies for production and sale of ventilation and air conditioning equipment in the context of the peculiarities of national markets, increasing competitiveness and effective integration in the European and global business space are identified. A methodology for assessing the socially responsible supply chain has been proposed.

Stakeholders in the research can be educational and training organizations for the purposes of vocational training, business organizations with different industrial profiles, organizations from the non-governmental sector, state and regional authorities.

#### **5. Contributions in the dissertation.**

Contributions can be divided into scientific and scientific-applied..

**Scientific contributions** include the enrichment of knowledge in the field of management and sustainable development through the proposed conceptual framework for assessing socially responsible supply chain management and systematizing current trends for the development of socially responsible management of global business.

**The scientific-applied** ones include:

- recommendations for improving sustainable development and the level of social responsibility in supply chain management (SR SCM);
- the proposed methodology for assessing the success of the company's social responsibility policy and its supply chains.

*I accept the contributions as real, reliable and proven in the course of the dissertation research.*

#### **6. Critical remarks and questions.**

The presented dissertation is a completed study, with indisputable contributions and qualities, to which I have no serious critical remarks, but I allow myself to give one recommendation:

- It is necessary to emphasize more clearly and categorically one's own opinion on the considered theoretical problems.

*The recommendation made in no way diminishes the value of the results achieved and the situation of the doctoral student's work.*

At the same time I have a question for the doctoral student:

- **Question:** How will the resilience of the supply chain take on the impact of COVID-19 and how can companies modify their services to respond to the ever-changing dynamics of market supply and demand curves?

#### **7. Published articles and citations.**

A total of 13 publications for the period 2020-2021 are presented, dedicated to the dissertation, of which four co-authored and nine independent. Two of them are referenced and indexed in the Web of Science, five of them are published in secondary international databases and six of them are reports from national and international forums.

*These publications largely reflect the main achievements of the dissertation. In terms of volume and quality, they meet the requirements for obtaining an Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor".*



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The abstract is presented in the established form and content. It reflects in a generalized form the main results of the research and gives the necessary idea of the theoretical and applied achievements of the author.

### CONCLUSION

Given the merits of the dissertation, the relevance and complexity of the researched problems, the need to find effective solutions for them in practice, the good theoretical level of the researched and analyzed problems, it can be summarized that the presented dissertation meets the criteria for awarding the scientific and educational degree "**Doctor**" / ZRASRB and the Regulations of the Academy of Economics "DA Tsenov" - Svishtov for its application /.

These results of the study dedicated to "Socially responsible supply chain management" provide sufficient grounds for **HIGH EVALUATION** of the scientific potential and research activities of the doctoral student.

All this allows me to confidently vote **POSITIVE** for the award of **Rustam Aslanzade** the Educational and Scientific degree "**Doctor**" in the professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Industry).

Date: 08.08.2021 r  
Plovdiv

PRODUCED BY:

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( *Prof. Valentina Nikolova-Alexieva, PhD* )