

OPINION
on the dissertation
for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of "doctor"
Scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences;
in the professional field 3.8. Economics; scientific specialty
"Finance, monetary circulation, credit and insurance (finance)" at the "D. A. Tsenov"
Academic University - Svishtov

Prepared by: Associate Professor Dr. Nikolay Penev Ivanov, Thracian University, Faculty of Economics, Stara Zagora, scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; in the professional field: 3.8. Economics; scientific specialty: "Accounting, control and analysis of economic activity".

Grounds for writing the opinion: Order of the Rector of the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov", Svishtov 477/12.07.2025 for inclusion in the composition of the scientific jury and Regulations for the implementation of the ZRAS of the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov.

Author of the dissertation: Vasil Plamenov Vassilev, D010221237, doctoral student from the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov, Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences; Professional Direction 3.8 "Economics"; Doctoral Program "Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Finance)".

Topic of the dissertation: "Business Behavior of Transport Companies in Conditions of Market Anomaly".

1. General presentation of the dissertation, assessment of its form and content

The dissertation submitted for evaluation by doctoral student Vasil Plamenov Vassilev on the topic "Business behavior of transport companies in conditions of market anomaly" is a logically connected, in-depth and wide-ranging scientific research, developed in a total volume of 153 standard pages and consists of: introduction, three chapters, conclusion, used literature and appendices. The dissertation is illustrated and contains 24 tables and 27 figures. Through them, the doctoral student has correctly systematized and objectively presented the results of the dissertation research.

The chosen topic is dissertable and allows for reasoned conclusions, proposals and to formulate contributing aspects. The topic has both theoretical and practical application. The doctoral student sufficiently substantiates the relevance and significance of the scientific research, supporting his thesis with results from specific studies.

The research tools used, encompassing various methods and approaches, are appropriate for the purpose and objectives of the study, and have been applied correctly. The scientific tools are appropriate for the specific issue and allow for reasoned conclusions to be drawn. The research methods are appropriately selected. The adopted restrictive conditions refine the research framework.

The research methods are appropriately selected. The adopted restrictive conditions refine the research framework. The sources of information are contemporary. They are also supported by the author's own research.

The introduction contains all the necessary elements. The object and subject, the research goal and tasks are correctly defined. The research is well balanced in terms of structure. The dissertation is properly constructed, which allows the necessary logical sequence to study the business behavior of transport companies in conditions of market anomaly.

The researched problem, with its goal, object, subject, tasks, thesis and the achieved results, the formulated conclusions and recommendations, are a request for easy practical applicability in a real business environment of the strategies and tactics for management and development of transport companies in conditions of market anomaly approved by the author.

The goal and tasks of the dissertation are related to the research thesis and are the basis of the well-composed structure and content of the dissertation. The tasks clearly define the directions in which the development is developed. The doctoral candidate sufficiently substantiates the relevance and significance of the scientific research, supporting his thesis with results from specific studies. The object and subject of the dissertation are clearly formulated, which implies the disclosure of good practices and solutions that would be useful for business.

The bibliography includes 135 sources. The literature used, which was studied by the doctoral student in the research process, consists of titles in Cyrillic and Latin. A very good attempt has been made to demonstrate the author's awareness of research on the topic, both by Bulgarian and foreign authors. The sources correspond to the thematic focus, and no unscrupulous use of foreign texts has been established.

The appendices, which include the questionnaire in their most essential part, support and illustrate the author's findings, and are a prerequisite for the formulation of significant conclusions and recommendations for improving the business behavior of transport companies.

I believe that the doctoral student categorically presents his scientific positions, which makes it possible to outline the contributing moments of a theoretical and practical nature in the dissertation work.

2. General scientific and substantive assessment of the work

The subject of the study is the transport sector in Bulgaria and its development in different economic conditions.

The subject of the dissertation research is focused on the transport sector, which is a strategic center of economic activity. The impact of the transport sector and transport infrastructure on economic growth in the conditions of market anomalies caused by unannounced economic crises is analyzed.

The research thesis is well formulated, as the author defends in the dissertation work that the indisputable interdependence between transport and sustainable economic growth necessitates the need to overcome emerging challenges facing transport business units in the conditions of market anomalies, anticipate changes, rethink the established model of market behavior and discover opportunities for innovative approaches in the transport services market.

The main goal is adequate to the subject and object of research, as it is related to analyzing the main forms of manifestation and mechanisms of impact of transport and transport infrastructure on the development of the economic system, assessing the development of the transport sector in Bulgaria and assessing the behavior of companies in the transport sector in conditions of market anomaly.

The purpose and objectives of the study are precisely formulated, which is a prerequisite for in-depth conclusions and recommendations. The language and style of the presentation in the dissertation work are at a good level. No repetitions and deviations are identified in the presentation. The work is properly structured. There is a proportionality of its individual parts. The scientific tools are appropriate for the specific issue and allow for reasoned conclusions to be drawn. In methodological terms, the study is based on the use and application of comparative analysis, methods of deduction and induction, seasonal projection, graphical method, statistical methods of analysis, descriptive statistics, regression and correlation analysis, etc. I believe that the approaches and methods used are appropriate. They

have provided means for systematizing experience, knowledge and ideas, and are easily applied in the study.

The literary sources used are accurately cited in accordance with the requirements. No significant deviations from the norms of scientific and professional ethics have been identified.

3. Contents of the dissertation

In chapter one, the author examines the socio-economic dimensions of transport.

Issues concerning the specifics of the impact of transport on economic development in historical terms, the mechanisms for the impact of transport on economic development and the specifics of transport services are examined. Based on a literature review, an assessment of the impact and spheres of influence of transport infrastructure on economic growth has been carried out. Views on the indicators of the dimensions of sustainable development of the transport sector and indicators for sustainable transport have been analyzed.

In chapter two, the emphasis is on establishing the socio-economic parameters of the transport sector in Bulgaria. The environment and trends in the development of the transport sector in Bulgaria are characterized based on the established dynamics of the main economic indicators and transported goods by modes of transport for the period 2012 - 2023. A comparative analysis of the development of road freight transport within the EU (2012 - 2022) has been carried out.

The third chapter contains a practical and applied aspect of the scientific research in the dissertation. The disparities in the development and challenges facing the transport sector worldwide, as a result of the restrictions introduced for the transport sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, are studied. The degree of impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the sustainable development of transport business units in Bulgaria is "measured" on the basis of a survey. The barriers and opportunities for the development of transport companies in Bulgaria in the post-pandemic period are deduced.

My general conclusion is that a dissertation is a comprehensive, complete, well-structured study with significant scientific and scientific-applied results on a current and significant problem, which shows that the doctoral student is capable of independently conducting scientific research.

4. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

2 reports and 1 study are presented. The publications are related to the dissertation, ensuring the necessary publicity of the author's achievements. The publications are mainly independent. A reference for citations is not presented.

5. Contributions of the dissertation work – scientific and applied science

I accept the main results and contributions formulated by doctoral student Vasil Vassilev, contained in the dissertation work. The contributions in the dissertation work can be divided into scientific and applied science. I accept the contributions as real, reliable and proven in the course of the dissertation research.

6. Evaluation of the abstract

The submitted abstract, which is 31 pages long, presents the complete and accurate content of the dissertation. The abstract is presented in a synthesized form that meets the requirements. It is written in a clear, understandable and scientifically sound style, reflecting the main points of the dissertation and giving a clear idea of what the doctoral student has achieved. The abstract contains the necessary logical sequence. It includes the general characteristics of the development, structure and content, a brief presentation of the dissertation, main conclusions and recommendations, contributions and publications on the topic.

7. Opinions, recommendations and notes

Regarding the dissertation work, I have no significant critical remarks and

recommendations. I would like to make a recommendation to the doctoral student - after further deepening and expanding the research on the topic, the work should be published in the form of a monograph in order to reach a wider circle of interested experts and a wider circle of readers in our country on transport problems. In conclusion, in the future scientific activity of the author it is good to publish his research in specialized, refereed and indexed scientific publications.

The above remarks, recommendations, as well as the assessments presented in this opinion do not reduce the value of the analyzed materials, but should be perceived as recommendations in the future development.

8. Summary conclusion and assessment

The dissertation of doctoral student Vasil Plamenov Vassilev on the topic: "Business behavior of transport companies in conditions of market anomaly" is a completed independent scientific study. The scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the dissertation enrich scientific knowledge and support practice.

The indicated results and scientific contributions contained in the dissertation give grounds for the conclusion that it fully meets the requirements of the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the SA "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov regarding the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

The materials presented to me for the preparation of this opinion comply with the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations for its application at the SA "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov.

Based on the above, I positively evaluate the thesis and propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to make a decision to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Vasil Plamenov Vassilev in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences"; professional field 3.8 "Economics"; Doctoral program "Finance, Money Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Finance)".

25.08.2025

Stara Zagora

Prepared an opinion

(Assoc.prof. Nikolay Ivanov, PhD)