

## S T A T E M E N T

on a dissertation for acquisition of Doctor's Educational and Scientific Degree in the professional field: 3.8. Economics, Doctoral Program in Economics and Management (Industry), at Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov

**Prepared the opinion:** Assoc. Prof. Emil Borislavov Nikolov, PhD, Department of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship, Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, scientific specialty 05.02.18 Economics and Management (Industry).

**Author of the dissertation:** Snezhana Veselinova Naydenova, PhD student in part-time at the Department of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship, Doctoral Program Economics and Management (Industry)

**Thesis topic:** "Innovations within the education system in the context of the entrepreneurial model of training "

**Reason for preparing the opinion:** Order No 1184 of 29 October 2024 on the opening of a procedure for public defense of a dissertation and approval of the composition of the scientific jury, as well as a decision of the scientific jury at the first meeting held on 30 October 2024.

### I. General presentation of the thesis

The dissertation is 227 pages. Structurally, it consists of a title page, a table of contents, a list of tables (13 in number), a list of figures (65 in number), a list of appendices (4 in number), a list of abbreviation, an introduction (7 pages), three main chapters (176 pages), a conclusion (3 pages), a list of used literature (a total of 145 references in total, of which 119 in Cyrillic and 36 in Latin) and 4 appendices. A declaration of originality and reliability is also attached.

The **object** of the research is innovation in the educational system of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the **subject** of the research – the possibilities for improving the educational system through the introduction/use of innovations based on the entrepreneurial model of education. In line with these, the **aim** of the dissertation is to explore the possibilities of improving the educational system through the introduction/use of innovations based on the

entrepreneurial model of learning. In order to achieve the main research objective thus set. Five research **tasks** are defined. The research **thesis** defended by the author states that the integration of the entrepreneurial model of learning as a set of educational innovation at school, regional and national level provides real benefits from the formation and use of the entrepreneurial vision in the spirit of entrepreneurial thinking and behaviour in the Bulgarian education system. To prove it, three **hypotheses** are tested. The main research approaches and methods, the sources of information and the limitations within which the research was conducted are clearly outlined.

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

The prosperity of any modern society, and also of any business organization, depends on the presence and development of three key factors, namely the ability to generate innovation, the entrepreneurial spirit, and the quality of the educational system. In a knowledge-based society, and having artificial intelligence, to enrich traditional learning methods, which as read today do not give the results they gave in the past. In this new environment the education system needs innovation and a new – entrepreneurial model of learning. In this sense, the dissertation work examining innovation in the educational system in the contest of the entrepreneurial model of learning has a marked relevance and practical applied significance. It develops the existing theory, but also suggests possible solutions. The dissertation work is well structured, logically sound and in line with good research practices.

The **introduction** of the dissertation justifies its topical and significance, present some of the authors with scientific contributions in this area, defines the subject, the object, the research goals, and objectives, the thesis, the methodology, the information support of the study, as well as the perceived limitations.

**Chapter One** is mainly theoretical in nature. In it, the author discuss and elaborates on the main issues related to the Bulgarian education system, as well as the specifics and possibilities for integrating innovation in education. The author defines the basic concepts and presents the nature, functions, and structure of the Bulgarian education system. Innovations are qualified and classified, as well as the innovation process in the educational sphere. The chapter ends with well-articulated summaries and conclusions.

**Chapter Two** presents the methodological foundations of the study. Within the four sections, the author presents the methodology and scope of the study, educational services in the context of the contemporary entrepreneurial vision, factors influencing the entrepreneurial spirit in education and trends as well as practices to enforce this vision. The chapter ends with summarizes and conclusions.

Chapter Three is structured in four main sections and concludes with an evaluation of the hypothesis, summaries, and conclusions. The first section discusses the problem areas in the implementation of educational innovations, and the second section discusses the expected outcomes of introducing innovations in education. The third section is devoted to the effects of the implementation of the entrepreneurial learning model. In the fourth point, possible future actions to increase accelerate innovation-based transformations are proposed.

In the conclusion, 5 main questions and generalization are formulated, and 9 recommendations are proposed for a constructive dialogue regarding the limiting conditions and the creation of an appropriate environment for the introduction and dissemination of the entrepreneurial learning model.

The abstract correctly reflects the tests. It has a total length of 55 pages and contains a general description of the dissertation, the main content of the dissertation, a synthesized statement of the dissertation, a reference to the and contribution of the dissertation, a list of publication on the topic of the dissertation, a referenced to the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements in connection with the procedure for the obtaining the PhD, a list of publication in national and international scientific conferences and forums, a statement of originality and credibility. The presented scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation include 3 independent articles and 3 independent reports. All of them have been published in non-referred peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes. From the submitted reference it is evident that the minimum national requirements for obtaining the PhD degree have been met, according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

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

The scientific and applied research contributions presented in the abstract correctly reflect the achievements of the author in the dissertation. I accept the 4 contributions defined in the abstract. Specifically, there are:

1. The theoretical knowledge about the interaction between educational system, innovation, entrepreneurial culture, and entrepreneurial model of learning is enriched. Taxonomy of types of innovations in the educational system and content-stage scope of the innovation process from the point of view of the educational system are presented by the author.

2. A methodology for analysis and evaluation of the possibilities for increasing the quality of educational products/services through the introduction of the entrepreneurial model of training as a type of innovation in the educational system has been developed approved.

3. Based on an empirical study, the opportunities for improving the quality of educational products/services through the integration of the entrepreneurial learning model are assessed.

4. The author's conceptual scheme of introduction/implementation/application of the entrepreneurial model of training is developed.

#### **IV. Dissertation Questions**

1. The sample used to generate data in the empirical study comprises 1.500 individuals, with questionnaires completed by 1.168 respondents, or approximately 78% response rate. This raises two main issues. What approach was used to define the sample and is it representative? How was this high response rate achieved?

2. Can you point to positive foreign experiences or examples of countries that have achieved positive results in the education sector based on innovation in education in the context of the entrepreneurial model?

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

The dissertation work of Snezhana Veselinova Naydenova presented for evaluation is a comprehensive, up-to-date, and original scientific study with achievements of scientific and scientifically applied nature. It meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics. All this gives me reason to declare my **positive opinion** and to propose to the honourable members of the scientific jury to support the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Snezhana Veselinova Naydenova in professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Industry)".

Date: 04.11.2024

Svishtov

Prepared the opinion: .....

(Assoc. Prof. Emil Nikolov, PhD)