

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Marinov Pavlov
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professional field 3.8. Economics,
Scientific major 05.02.18. Economics and Management (Industry),
member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. 1184/29.10.2024
of the Rector of the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" Svishtov

on a dissertation on "Innovations in the Educational System in the Context
of the Entrepreneurial Model of Education"
for the acquisition of the degree of Doctor of Education,
PhD program "Economics and Management (Industry)"
by Snezhana Veselinova Naydenova

I. General presentation of the dissertation

The dissertation has a total volume of 227 pages and is structurally shaped into a title page and content (3 pages); lists of tables, figures, applications and terms and abbreviations (7 pages); Introduction (7 pages); three chapters (176 pp.); conclusion (3 pages); Literary sources – 155 (10 pages); 4 annexes (20 pages) and a declaration of originality and reliability (1 page).

The subject of the study is the possibilities for improving the educational system through the introduction/use of innovations based on the entrepreneurial model of education. In our opinion, the subject is relevant because in modern conditions it is the increase in innovation and entrepreneurial thinking in the teaching process, as well as the education of this kind of culture in young people, that could be the basis for a more complete response to the growing needs of society and the highly competitive economy. In that sense, the analyses and proposals made in the dissertation have, on the one hand, the potential for application in the Bulgarian educational system, and on the other hand, their application and development could improve the training and easier adaptation of future personnel for the business and all state, municipal and other structures.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

Innovation and entrepreneurship are some of the opportunities for positive change in the education system. On the one hand, they enrich the learning process, and on the other hand, they prepare students for the real world by encouraging creative thinking and skills to deal with various problems. It is undeniable that innovations can be used to apply new teaching and learning methods, integrate technologies and create interactive learning environments. On the other hand,

entrepreneurship and the creation of an entrepreneurial culture teaches young people to be proactive, to look for solutions and to adapt much more easily to constantly changing conditions.

The combination of the subject and the object of research presupposes the purpose and tasks of the dissertation, which are correctly formulated. Appropriate research methods, approaches and tools are used to prove the research thesis, and the style of presentation of the exposition is at the required scientific level. The author demonstrates a high theoretical background in the topic which is being considered, referring to modern, both Bulgarian and foreign literary sources, which allows him to present his scientific positions in a reasoned manner.

The defined research tasks in the dissertation are implemented by the PhD student within the framework of a logically sound and correctly arranged exposition, structured in three chapters. The entire development is well illustrated with 65 figures and 13 tables.

The first chapter examines in detail the essence, specifics, functions and structure of the Bulgarian educational system. The role of educational innovations in the learning process is discussed in detail. The specifics and integration of educational innovations at national, regional and school level are clarified.

A positive impression in this chapter is made by the ability of the PhD student to systematize the positions of the authors, to analyze various concepts and to derive his own position on the issues under discussion.

The second chapter includes the methodology of the study, paying attention to educational services in the context of the modern entrepreneurial vision, the factors influencing the development of the entrepreneurial spirit in the area of education, as well as the trends and practices for imposing an entrepreneurial vision. At the end of this part, the necessary generalizations and conclusions are made, which show the good expertise of the PhD student in the studied matter.

The third chapter of the dissertation examines the problem areas in the implementation of educational innovations, the expected results of the introduction of innovations in education and the effects of the implementation of the entrepreneurial model of education. Future actions are proposed to increase/accelerate innovation-based transformations.

The dissertation is an original scientific research and it is the personal work of the author. The abstract is 55 pages. and, in our opinion, fully and accurately reflects the content, the results obtained and the contributions to the dissertation. The main points of it find publicity in 6 scientific publications, of which 3 articles and 3 scientific reports. In this way, the PhD student fulfils the minimum national requirements for acquiring the degree of Doctor, collecting 60 points according to the indicators from group G (Γ) and exceeding the required minimum of 30 points.

III. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation

The reference for the contributions presented in the abstract accurately and correctly reflects the main achievements of the PhD student in the overall research, which gives grounds to confirm these contributions. They have a

scientific and scientifically applied character, further developing the theoretical statements in the area of interaction between the educational system, innovations, entrepreneurial culture and the entrepreneurial model of education. An assessment of the opportunities for improving the quality of educational products by integrating the entrepreneurial model of education as a set of educational innovations in the Bulgarian educational system is also made. An important contribution, in our opinion, is the developed Conceptual Scheme of Introduction/Implementation/Application of the Entrepreneurial Model of Education.

IV. Questions and notes on the dissertation

The dissertation is developed at a high scientific level, with a good style of presentation. However, some critical remarks can be addressed to the PhD student, as well as issues that can be discussed:

1. On page 34, the PhD student points out that “the concept of “innovation” has a Latin origin and literally means “in the direction of change”. In our opinion, this is a fairly broad interpretation of the term. In fact, the word “innovation” derives from the Latin word “innovare”, which means “renewal or change”. In turn, “innovare” is derived from “in” and “novus”.

2. On p.79, the author notes “Data from the empirical study covers the period from 2013 to 2022. For some indicators, data after 2010 is presented.” In fact, the data for 2013-2022 is also for the period after 2010.

3. Regarding the distribution of respondents in the survey by geographical localization and more precisely by type of settlement – Fig. 15 on page 88 and the analyses to it – the non-inclusion of representatives from a large city carries a risk of distortion of the result and not entirely correct conclusions, considering that this is not explicitly stated as a restrictive condition.

4. On page 148 there is some inaccuracy. It is said that in the author's opinion, “the three most common innovative teaching methods are: lectures, case studies and group discussions”. Can lectures really be unequivocally attributed to the most innovative methods? Moreover, the next paragraph states that “Traditional teaching methods are passive because they are lecture-based...”

5. In Fig.52, not all of the areas are clearly visible.

V. Summary assessment of the dissertation and conclusion

The dissertation of PhD student Snezhana Veselinova Naydenova is a completed independent scientific research dedicated to a clearly defined, significant and topical problem. The goals and objectives of the research have been successfully fulfilled, and consequently, results of scientific and scientifically applied nature have been achieved.

The dissertation meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Internal Normative Documents of the Academy of

Economics “D. A. Tsenov”, Svishtov, for awarding the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”.

I propose a **positive assessment of the dissertation** on the topic “Innovations in the Educational System in the Context of the Entrepreneurial Model of Education” and recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to award PhD student Snezhana Veselinova Naydenova the degree of “**Doctor**” in the professional field 3.8. Economics, PhD program “Economics and Management (Industry)”.

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Varna

Who prepared the opinion:
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