

OPINION
on a dissertation
for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor"

The opinion was prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Iskra Markova Nencheva – Ivanova, PhD

Trakia University – Stara Zagora, Faculty of Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (by branches)", professional direction 3.8. "Economics", Field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, determined according to Order No. 231/March 29, 2024 of the Rector of Academy of economics "D. A. Tsenov" as a member of the scientific jury.

Author of the dissertation: PhD student Elena Valerieva Valcheva

Academy of economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov, Faculty of "Manufacturing and Commercial Business", Department of "Commercial Business"; doctoral program "Economics and management (trade)", professional direction 3.8. "Economics", Field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences.

Dissertation topic: "Investigating opportunities for improving logistics transport services in trade"

I. General presentation of the dissertation work

The dissertation submitted for evaluation by PhD student Elena Valerieva Valcheva on the topic "Investigating the possibilities for improving logistics transport services in trade" is a logically bound and in-depth study developed in a total volume of 216 standard typewritten pages.

The main text of the dissertation includes an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of used tables, figures and a list of used literary sources. The dissertation is illustrated and contains 14 tables and 38 figures.

The research is well balanced in terms of structure. The dissertation work is properly constructed, which allows with the necessary logical sequence to explore the possibilities for improving logistics transport services in trade.

The used literature, which was studied by the doctoral student in the research process, consists of 133 titles, in Cyrillic and Latin. A successful attempt has been made to demonstrate the author's awareness of the research on the subject, both by Bulgarian and foreign authors. The sources correspond to the thematic focus, and no fraudulent use of foreign texts has been found.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

The in-depth analysis of the dissertation allows us to conclude that research on a similar topic is relevant in time. The chosen topic is dissertable and allows to make reasoned conclusions, proposals and to formulate contributing aspects.

The object is focused on Bulgarian commercial enterprises, carrying out their activities through means of transport. The subject of the dissertation research is logistics transport services in trade.

The research thesis is well formulated, based on the claim that the application of a suitable system of indicators, integrated in a model for analyzing and evaluating logistics transport services at the micro-, meso- and macro level, determines decisions of Bulgarian enterprises to improve the chain for supplies in trade.

The main objective is adequate to the subject and object of research. On the basis of the object, subject and thesis defined in this way, the dissertation work aims to analyze and synthesize theoretical-methodical and empirical resources, to adapt and approve a model for researching the possibilities for improving logistics transport services in trade.

The purpose and tasks of the research are precisely formulated, which is a prerequisite for in-depth conclusions and recommendations regarding the object under consideration.

The language and style of presentation in the dissertation work are at a good level. There are no repetitions or deviations in the presentation. The work is properly structured. There is a proportionality of its individual parts. The scientific toolkit is suitable for the specific problem and allows to draw reasoned conclusions.

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

The presented abstract, in the amount of 49 pages, fully and accurately presents the content of the dissertation work. It is written in a clear, comprehensible and scientifically sound style, reflecting the main points of the dissertation and giving a clear idea of what the PhD student has achieved.

The publications related to the dissertation were developed independently, and their total number is three (one study and two reports).

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

The dissertation contains the positive aspects and achievements of the author, which can be characterized as contributions to theory and practice. The author's scientific achievements stand out for their originality and practical applicability. The more significant of the scientific and applied contributions are well formulated:

- Author definitions in the field of economics and supply chain management in trade are derived. Indicators for analyzing and researching transport services at the micro-, meso- and macro level are highlighted.

- A model is proposed for the practical study of logistics transport services in trade.
- The research model was tested in Bulgarian commercial enterprises and recommendations were formulated to improve their activities.

VI. Criticisms, opinions, questions and recommendations

A bolder, clear, strong and reasoned author's presence in subsequent developments would be a prerequisite for a higher quality research output.

In conclusion, in the future scientific activity of the author, it is good to publish his research in specialized, refereed and indexed scientific publications. I take the liberty of posing a question, thinking that the answer will be interesting to the audience:

- Can the author's proposed practical research model be applied regardless of the size of the commercial enterprise?

The mentioned remarks should be perceived as recommendations in the future development of the doctoral student.

V. Summary evaluation of the dissertation work and conclusion

Based on the in-depth analysis of the developed dissertation work, it can be confidently asserted that it is a scientific development with significant achievements. The contributing moments, scientific merits and content of the dissertation present the author and his results in a positive light.

The research tasks have been successfully completed, and the set main goal has been achieved. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the dissertation enrich scientific knowledge and support practice.

The materials presented to me for the preparation of the present opinion comply with the Regulations and law for its application in the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov.

Therefore, I allow myself, completely convinced and objective, to give my positive assessment and I propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to doctoral student Elena Valerieva Valcheva.

10.05.2024

Stara Zagora

Prepared the opinion:

(Assoc. prof. Iskra Nencheva)