

OPINION
for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
in „D. A. Tsenov“ Academy of Economics - Svishtov

Prepared the statement: Assoc. Prof. Teodora Georgieva Filipova, PhD, Department of "Commercial Business" at "D. A. Tsenov", scientific specialty "Economics and management (trade)"

Reason for writing the opinion: Order No. 231/29.03.2024 of the Rector of "D. A. Tsenov" Academy of Economics

Author of the dissertation: Elena Valerieva Valcheva, PhD student in full-time studies, Doctoral Program "Economics and Management (trade)", department "Commercial Business", d010421249

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

I. General presentation of the dissertation:

Object, subject, purpose, tasks, thesis: The object of the research are Bulgarian enterprises, carrying out commercial activity, offering and/or using transport services. The subject of research is logistics transport services in trade. The main goal of the dissertation is, by analyzing and synthesizing theoretical-methodical and empirical resources, to adapt and approve a model for researching the possibilities for improving logistics transport services in trade, and on this basis, conclusions and recommendations are formulated. Tasks: First. Clarifying the essential characteristics of logistic transport services and classifying the types of transport in trade. Second. Conceptually defining the importance of supply chain management in trade. Third. Adaptation of a model for the study of opportunities for improvement of logistics transport services in trade at the micro-, meso- and macro-level on the basis of the knowledge existing in the economic literature. Fourth. Approbation of the proposed model for the study of the possibilities for improving logistics transport services in trade. Fifth. Derivation of specific recommendations for the improvement of logistics transport services in trade, observing the obtained research results. The main research thesis is that the application of an appropriate system of indicators, integrated in a model for analyzing and evaluating logistics transport services at the micro-, meso- and macro-level, determines the decisions of Bulgarian enterprises to improve the management of the supply chain in trade.

Volume: the dissertation is spread over 216 pages, of which title page, table of contents, introduction – 5 pages, main text – 165 pages, conclusion – 4 pages, sources used – 11 pages. It can be stated that by volume meets the requirements for dissertation research.

Structure: the dissertation consists of three logically connected and volume-balanced chapters dedicated to the theoretical, methodological and applied aspects of the researched problem.

Literature: the dissertation research is based on a considerable number of literary sources, namely: 133 titles. Sufficient volume and thematic orientation of literature in Cyrillic and Latin alphabets is used.

Appendices: the exposition in the dissertation work is adequately supplemented by the form of eight appendices related to a questionnaire, figurative and tabular toolkit from the practical study.

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

The dissertation contains scientific and practical results that enrich the theoretical knowledge and business practice related to logistics transport services in trade. The author of

the manuscript has demonstrated abilities for independent research, interpretation of results, and formulation of relevant conclusions and recommendations. The dissertation is developed with the necessary elements, namely: title page; content; introduction; exposition; conclusion; bibliography. A statement of originality has also been filed.

In terms of content, the separate chapters and paragraphs to them are fully subordinated to the title of the work. In the introductory part, the object, subject, purpose, tasks, thesis are indicated, which I define as precisely and accurately defined. Actuality is emphasized and supported by factual material.

A study devoted to logistics transport services applied in trade can be defined as current in content, dissertable in meaning, with a need for research in every temporal aspect. Today, when the buying and selling (physical or electronic) of material products and services is developing at a significant pace, an important part of the supply chain is transportation. The integration of different types of means of transport; the correct determination of routes; the effectiveness of fleet investment decisions or recourse to leases; adequate service timing are only some of the research areas. The manuscript compiles a number of issues for discussion in a specific sector, namely: Trade.

The first chapter has a theoretical character. In it, the views of leading authors are synthesized and basic concepts related to the study are determined - logistics, logistics system, logistics sector, logistics services, transport logistics. Emphasis is placed on the importance of logistics transport services in the supply chain and their impact on trade.

The second chapter is devoted to the methodological side of the researched problem. As a result of a study of a suitable measuring apparatus, an author's model was adapted, which compiles indicators at the micro-, meso- and macro-level.

The third chapter is extremely important for business practice. As a result of the theoretical summaries, the adapted model, the accumulated database, conclusions are highlighted and recommendations for innovative, sustainable and responsible development are proposed.

The conclusion integrates the most important summaries, findings, results and conclusions of the entire dissertation work.

The abstract is prepared precisely and fully reflects the most important results of the dissertation research. In a synthesized form, one gets an idea of what has been achieved in scientific and practical terms.

The dissertation and the Abstract are presented at a very good stylistic, grammatical and technical level.

Part of the doctoral student's scientific ideas are publicly presented through one study and two reports in specialized publications and forums. The total number of points is 35, which covers the minimum national requirements for acquiring the ONS "doctor".

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

I accept the contributions defined by the PhD student. My vision of what has been achieved through the dissertation work can be presented as follows:

- *In a theoretical aspect* - on the basis of a critical-constructive analysis of existing theoretical statements and a generalization of foreign opinions, the essential characteristics of logistics transport services are outlined, and related concepts are distinguished.

- *In a theoretical-methodical aspect* - by applying appropriate tools and compiling specialized indicators, an author's algorithm was adapted to measure the possibilities for improving logistics transport services.

- *In a practical aspect* – as a result of empirical studies of primary and secondary databases, an information resource has been accumulated for measuring the improvement of logistic transport services.

- *In a practical-applied aspect* - based on the results of the research, a SWOT analysis was carried out and specific recommendations were outlined to improve and ensure the sustainable development of logistics transport services in trade.

IV. Dissertation questions.

I have no critical remarks towards the doctoral student, due to the fact that I made them during internal discussions in the department. My recommendation is that Elena Valcheva continues her research and enriches theory and practice through scientific and scientific-applied studies.

Question: As part of the doctoral student's proposals is the implementation of dual training. Can you provide examples of commercial enterprises that have implemented dual training and what are the economic effects of it?

V. Summary evaluation of the dissertation work and conclusion.

I can summarize that the presented dissertation work on the topic: "**Investigating the possibilities for improving logistics transport services in trade**" is a finished scientific-applied product that meets the requirements for a similar type of research. It contains the necessary theoretical, methodical and practical summaries, analyzes and conclusions. The submitted accompanying documents complement the possibility of preparing an opinion on the application for an educational and scientific degree. **My overall assessment is positive and I support with "YES" the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" by PhD student Elena Valerieva Valcheva in the doctoral program "Economics and Management (Trade)".**

Date: 14/05/2024

Prepared the opinion: _____
(Assoc. Prof. Teodora Filipova, PhD)