

Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”
Faculty of Social, Economic and Computer Sciences
Department of Economics

REVIEW

By Professor, PhD Iskra Bogdanova Christova-Balkanska

"World Economy and IER" (International Economic Relations), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS).

Regarding: Acquisition of the scientific degree "**Doctor of Sciences**" in professional field 3.8 "Economics".

Theme of the dissertation thesis: "**Economic determinants of international entrepreneurship: models, conditions and ways of future development**".

Author of the dissertation thesis: Dr. Sylwia Dorota Skrzypek-Ahmed

Reasons for submitting the review: Participation in the scientific jury for the defense of a dissertation thesis pursuant to Order No. 317 dated 18/06/2026 of the Rector of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar", in accordance with Art. 4 of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the Regulations for Application of the DASRBA, Art. 2 of Ordinance No. 12 on the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar".

Assessment of the Professional Preparation and Activity of the Candidate

Dr. Sylwia Skrzypek possesses rich scientific and administrative experience. She is a proven author in the field of entrepreneurship, management, innovation, and public relations. She obtained a Master's degree in Management (1994–1999) from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland.

She defended a doctorate in social sciences with an honorary diploma at the Catholic University in Ružomberok, Slovakia (2013–2018). She also completed a Master's degree in Business Administration (2018–2019). Subsequently, the candidate completed post-doctoral courses in public relations in scientific research, internal audit and control, human resource management, etc. Since 2024, Dr. Sylwia Skrzypek has been the Dean of the Faculty of Administration and Public Sciences at the University of Lublin.

She was awarded a medal by the Commission of National Education and a medal by the Mayor of Lublin for outstanding scientific and social activities. Dr. Skrzypek is an organizer and participant in national and international conferences. Regarding the minimum national requirements for the recognition of the "Doctor of Sciences" degree under the relevant indicators (A-B-D-E), the candidate has achieved a total of **1036.7 points** – an impressive result for the candidate's scientific activity.

Essence of the Dissertation Thesis

The dissertation thesis of Dr. Sylwia Skrzypek reveals the changes in the theoretical and empirical essence of entrepreneurship under the conditions of globalized economic relations. The structure of the dissertation thesis spans 218 pages, consisting of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, and an appendix. The bibliography contains 104 works, 128 scientific articles, legal documents, scientific reports, and others. The study covers the years 2017–2024, which are marked by a series of significant changes in the world economy.

The aim of this dissertation thesis is to analyze the factors that determine the essence of international entrepreneurship. The emphasis is placed on those factors that affect the behavior and economic development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is well known that SMEs are the backbone of the social market economy and a guarantee for sustainable economic growth. The subject of the research is the theory, statistical, and empirical measurement of the financial stability of SMEs.

Chapter One: Systematizes the main theories and models of the internationalization of international entrepreneurial relations. These are viewed as part of globalization, which has enabled multiculturalism.

Chapter Two: Dedicated to changes in the business environment in which firms operate, particularly SMEs. This section clarifies the strategic behavior of the firm and its dependence on the development of scientific and technological progress (STP), alongside new requirements for international entrepreneurial activity, including the integration of artificial intelligence across all spheres of life.

Chapter Three: Logically clarifies the theoretical link between STP and the competitiveness of the firm, emphasizing that without implementing scientific innovations, a company cannot integrate into the international entrepreneurial process.

Chapter Four: Focuses on corporate taxation. Making correct managerial decisions and regulations is highlighted as key to improving firm competitiveness.

Chapter Five: Dedicated to the primary factors determining international entrepreneurship: digitalization, corporate social responsibility (CSR), human capital, and internationalization strategies. Formulating modern business models and improving competitiveness are directly dependent on adapting corporate policies to these contemporary factors.

Chapter Six: Focuses on empirics, testing, and proving the primary assertions of the dissertation thesis. The research methodology, data analysis, and the implementation of modern methods like Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) contribute to the formulation of final conclusions regarding the research theses.

Assessment of the Scientific Results and Contributions of the Candidate

➤ The theories revealing the role of entrepreneurship in trade relations and as an integral part of globalization represent a useful synthesis and contribution to international economic, financial, and entrepreneurial fields. The main factors

governing the interaction processes of companies on the international market are clarified, highlighting the role of flexible organizational structures.

➤ Business internationalization. determining the behavior of international companies is clarified, focusing on the impact of SMEs and their strategic penetration into international trade. Export alliances and the expansion of subcontracting networks form an essential part of this entrepreneurial activity.

➤ Innovation is shown to be essential for improving firm competitiveness. The use of export marketing strategies and alliances expands access to new markets. Effective innovation management in organizational and production processes supports successful goal realization.

➤ The significance of taxation on economic processes is analyzed. The thesis argues that improving the organization and production of SMEs directly depends on tax liabilities and incentives aimed at facilitating their penetration into international business networks.

➤ The significance of the digital economy and the acquisition of new skills and competencies have been clarified. It addresses issues critical to SMEs, such as corporate social responsibility, ethical labor, and behavioral standards, outlining key factors for competitiveness in highly competitive and uncertain markets.

➤ A valuable analysis of internal conditions for entrepreneurship is provided, with an emphasis on external factors. SWOT and PEST analyses are applied to evaluate the macroeconomic environment, market penetration strategies, and other financial dimensions.

➤ The methodology, based on public statistics, allows for the evaluation of national, regional, and international factors shaping SME entrepreneurial opportunities. The empirically verified model utilizes Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to identify specific regional and local drivers.

➤ The metrics developed within the research project serve as useful tools for

monitoring cohesion policy goals within EU national and regional strategic documents. They allow for the assessment of public policies aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and bolstering the SME sector.

➤ The dissertation is multi-layered and multi-faceted, utilizing a broad array of national and international determinants to thoroughly identify the core characteristics of international entrepreneurship.

Assessment of the Abstract of the Dissertation thesis

The abstract provides a comprehensive overview of the essence of the dissertation thesis. The list of contributions is detailed and clearly structured according to the corresponding sections of the dissertation.

Critical Assessments, Comments, and Recommendations

I have no critical remarks. I would like to pose one question to the candidate:

It is a known fact that the diasporas of various immigrant groups in developed EU economies orient themselves toward entrepreneurial activities, which integrates them into the labor market. Are there known policies and methods through which this process is stimulated, using the example of Germany?

Conclusion

The highlighted contributions and the competently written dissertation thesis outlined in this review allow me to formulate the following conclusion:

I recommend that the Honorable Scientific Jury award **Dr. Sylwia Dorota Skrzypek-Ahmed** the scientific degree "**Doctor of Sciences**" in professional field 3.8 "Economics" at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar", Faculty of Social, Economic and Computer Sciences, Department of Economics.

16.01.2026

Sofia

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Iskra Christova-Balkanska