

OPINION

of a dissertation thesis for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" at Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"

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Author of the dissertation: Sylwia Dorota Skrzypek-Ahmed, PhD.

Dissertation title: "Economic determinants of international entrepreneurship: models, conditions and ways of future development".

I. General characteristics and assessment of the dissertation

The dissertation provided to me for review and opinion offers a structured and in-depth overview of the economic determinants of international entrepreneurship, with an emphasis on the models, conditions and directions for future development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the context of globalization and digital transformation. The study examines key aspects of entrepreneurial activity, influencing factors and measurement methods related to the internationalization of business processes.

The dissertation comprises 463 pages and consists of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and appendices. The content of each chapter is divided into separate subsections. The main text contains 17 figures and 19 tables. An extensive range of literary sources has been studied, including monographs, scientific articles, legal acts, as well as scientific and other reports and analyses, totaling 303 items.

The introduction substantiates the relevance, objective, tasks, object, subject and scientific hypotheses of the research. The topic is significant, because in contemporary economies there is an increasing role of international entrepreneurship, accompanied by changes in business models, digitalization and global market conditions, which implies a reorientation towards new forms of internationalization and threatens the competitiveness of enterprises that do not adapt to these changes. In addition, international entrepreneurship remains insufficiently studied due to conceptual ambiguities, methodological limitations and data constraints, justifying the need for more comprehensive analytical frameworks that reflect the complexity of entrepreneurial processes.

Chapter One outlines the theoretical foundations of international entrepreneurship in the context of globalization and international trade. Chapter Two examines internationalization as a change in the enterprise environment, the forms of SME participation and their strategies. Chapters Three, Four and Five analyze respectively innovation and competitiveness, taxation in international business, as well as contemporary factors such as digitalization, corporate social responsibility and human resources. Chapter Six presents the empirical research, including the methodology, synthesis of results and practical conclusions from the application of structural equation modeling.

The conclusion formulates the main findings and results of the conducted scientific research and presents the scientific contributions.

The presented work is logically coherent. The style of exposition is at the required level. The research has a completed character and is of a volume optimal for the requirements of this type of scientific work. The topic of international entrepreneurship, digitalization and internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises in the context of globalization is sufficiently relevant. The research emphasizes a shift in the economy towards sustainable and inclusive growth, placing emphasis on innovation, human capital, network cooperation and the institutional environment as key factors for the competitiveness of contemporary enterprises. Well-founded conclusions are drawn regarding the role of digital transformation and cooperative mechanisms in internationalization processes. In addition, the study presents detailed empirical data from surveys of 300 enterprises and 100 interviews with managers from Polish and foreign companies, aimed at analyzing the internal and external determinants of entrepreneurial success. Therefore, I consider that the research has its positive aspects. The citation is correct.

II. Assessment of the results and contributions

The contributions of Dr. Skrzypek-Ahmed are multifaceted and significant, and can be categorized into theoretical, methodological and practical contributions. The more important among them are:

Theoretical contributions: The dissertation develops a new understanding of international entrepreneurship, viewing it as a complex and dynamic phenomenon, rather than solely as a function of internationalization or innovation capacity. The research expands the existing theoretical frameworks in the field of international entrepreneurship, demonstrating that entrepreneurial activity depends on a combination of financial, institutional and socio-economic factors and manifests itself differently across different types of enterprises. Particularly significant is the contribution related to the conceptualization of digital maturity as an endogenous determinant of innovation effectiveness and internationalization processes, as well as the expansion of entrepreneurial orientation theory through the

introduction of cooperation as a fourth structural dimension, alongside innovation, proactivity and risk-taking.

Scientific-applied contributions: A practically applicable model for assessing the determinants of international entrepreneurship has been developed, which enables comprehensive analysis, comparison and monitoring of its development over time. The obtained results provide a basis for improving entrepreneurial monitoring systems and for formulating more effective public policies and mechanisms for supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in their international activities. These results would be of practical benefit to entrepreneurs and business support institutions.

Methodological contributions: An integrated methodological framework has been proposed that combines various quantitative and qualitative approaches for researching international entrepreneurship within a unified analytical model. The methodology allows for the simultaneous assessment of both the differences between individual enterprises and the dynamics of changes over time, while providing the possibility for identifying and measuring the factors that determine the level of entrepreneurial activity. I assess this contribution as original and essential for scientific practice in the field of international entrepreneurship.

My overall assessment is that Dr. Skrzypek-Ahmed's research provides new and in-depth understandings of the dimensions and possibilities for maintaining entrepreneurial activity in the context of globalization and digital transformation. Therefore, I can define them as contributions of a scientific-applied nature, which further develop and supplement already existing knowledge.

III. Assessment of publications on the dissertation

The author presents a list of scientific publications directly related to the topic of the dissertation. This includes 6 monographs, 4 chapters in monographs, 4 scientific editorships of monographs, articles in peer-reviewed international journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, as well as publications in non-refereed journals and conference proceedings. The publications reflect the consistent development of the research topic and demonstrate active and recognized scientific activity. The number, quality and visibility of the publications not only meet but significantly exceed the requirements for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

IV. Assessment of the abstract

The abstract provides a comprehensive, accurate and clear overview of the entire dissertation. The text is well-structured and fully fulfills its purpose of informing the scientific community about the achievements of the research. The

contributions are systematized in a clear and logical manner, with theoretical contributions separated from methodological and practical contributions.

V. Critical notes and recommendations

In the dissertation, more attention could be paid to the comparative analysis between Polish and foreign enterprises, especially regarding the differences in entrepreneurial practices and success factors in different economic systems.

VI. Conclusion

The presented dissertation meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation, as well as the provisions of the normative acts of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar". Dr. Sylwia Dorota Skrzypek-Ahmed's dissertation represents a serious, original and scientifically sound study with significant theoretical, methodological and practical contributions in the field of economics.

This gives me grounds to give a positive assessment of the dissertation on the topic "Economic determinants of international entrepreneurship: models, conditions and ways of future development" and to propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote **for the award** of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the professional field 3.8. "Economics" to Dr. Sylwia Dorota Skrzypek-Ahmed.

Varna, 14.07.2026

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(Assoc. prof. Nikolina Grozeva, PhD)