

REVIEW / OPINION

By

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Member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. № 317/18.06.2026
for the defence of a dissertation thesis for the award of the scientific degree
"Doctor of Sciences" (D.Sc.)

in Professional Field 3.8 Economics

Author: Dr. Sylwia Dorota Skrzypek-Ahmed

Dissertation Topic: *"ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF
INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: MODELS, CONDITIONS AND
WAYS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT"*

I. General Characteristics and Evaluation of the Dissertation Thesis

The presented dissertation thesis deserves a positive evaluation as an independent scientific research project developed on a highly topical and significant problem for contemporary economic science. The topic is directly linked to the processes of globalisation, digitalisation, and the transformation of the international business environment, which impose new demands on the study of factors determining the development of international entrepreneurship. In this sense, the choice of the research problem is fully justified and aligns with contemporary scientific inquiries in the field of international business and entrepreneurship.

One of the undeniable merits of the work is that the author does not limit herself to analyzing isolated aspects of international entrepreneurship but instead offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary reading of the problem. The study integrates achievements from economic theory, strategic management, institutional economics, innovation studies, and entrepreneurial theories, which enables the construction of a coherent analytical framework to explain the complex interdependencies among organisational, institutional, and economic factors. It is precisely this integrative approach that I evaluate as one of the strongest aspects of the dissertation.

The structure of the work is logically sound and corresponds to the set scientific goals. The individual chapters are constructed sequentially and ensure a natural

transition from the critical analysis of existing scientific propositions to the development of the author's own conceptual model and its empirical verification. This demonstrates good methodological training and the ability to organise complex scientific material within a unified research logic.

Of particular importance is the fact that Dr Skrzypek-Ahmed does not uncritically adopt existing scientific concepts, but instead performs a thorough comparative analysis of various theoretical directions and argues for the necessity of their integration. It is this critical stance that allows the formulation of an original conceptual framework and distinguishes the work from studies of a predominantly review nature.

The dissertation thesis demonstrates that the candidate possesses deep knowledge of the researched issues, skills for critical interpretation of scientific literature, and the ability to develop original methodological solutions. This gives me reason to accept that the presented research is the result of independent scientific work and reflects a mature scientific profile characteristic of a candidate for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".

II. Evaluation of the Scientific Results

The main scientific goal of the dissertation thesis is clearly formulated and consistently realized. The presented results show that the research tasks have been fulfilled in their entirety, and the conclusions drawn are well-argued and follow logically from the conducted analysis.

I evaluate particularly positively the author's strive to substantiate her own scientific solutions by combining theoretical analysis with empirical verification. The methodological toolkit used is adequate to the subject of the research and creates the necessary prerequisites for a reliable verification of the formulated research hypotheses. The combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as the application of structural equation modeling, increase the analytical value of the obtained results and allow for a deeper study of the complex interrelationships among the analyzed factors.

The obtained results go beyond the framework of traditional studies that view international entrepreneurship predominantly as a function of the external economic environment. Dr. Skrzypek-Ahmed convincingly demonstrates that successful internationalization is the result of the interaction between institutional, organizational,

managerial, and technological factors, which expands the possibilities for interpreting the processes determining the international competitiveness of enterprises.

A positive impression is also made by the effort to interpret the obtained results not only within the context of the specific empirical study but also through the prism of existing scientific concepts. This imparts a higher degree of scientific validity to the conclusions drawn and increases the value of the work as a contribution to the development of international entrepreneurship as an independent branch of economic science.

III. Evaluation of the Scientific and Scientific-Applied Contributions

Following a thorough analysis of the dissertation thesis, I consider that the work contains clearly expressed scientific and scientific-applied contributions, which can be systematized as follows:

1. Scientific Contributions

- I accept as a primary scientific contribution the development of a conceptual framework through which international entrepreneurship is interpreted as a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem formed by the interaction between institutional, organisational, technological, and resource factors. The proposed approach builds upon traditional models of internationalisation and expands the possibilities for analysing international entrepreneurial activity. In this way, international entrepreneurship is presented as an ecosystem shaped by the interaction between internal organisational factors and the external institutional environment.

- A substantial scientific contribution is represented by the development of the author's original model for analysing the economic determinants of success in international entrepreneurship. Through the application of the Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) method, integrated models of the interrelationships between managerial practices, human resources, institutional support, organisational growth, and enterprise development have been constructed. This allows for the identification of complex causal relationships that are difficult to derive using traditional statistical approaches. I consider that the proposed model represents a methodological development of existing approaches to the analysis of international entrepreneurship and can be used as a basis for future comparative studies.

- The scientific novelty of the work is expressed in the construction of an integrated analytical model that combines the achievements of several theoretical directions and offers a new reading of the factors determining the development of international entrepreneurship. The novelty stems not from the use of individual methods, but from the way they are integrated into a single conceptual and analytical framework.

2. Scientific-Applied Contributions

The dissertation thesis possesses a clearly defined practical orientation.

- The developed models and the obtained results can be utilised in the formulation of national and regional policies to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, stimulate international entrepreneurial activity, and enhance the competitiveness of firms in the context of globalisation and digitalisation.

- The developed models and the proposed approaches for evaluating the factors that determine the successful internationalisation of enterprises can find application in the formulation of entrepreneurial strategies, digital transformation programs, mechanisms for institutional business support, and systems for strategic enterprise management.

- Particularly valuable is the proposed model, which creates the opportunity for its use both in the formation of policies to encourage international entrepreneurship and as a tool for the strategic management of enterprises and the evaluation of factors determining their competitiveness.

My overall assessment is that the dissertation thesis goes beyond the framework of traditional research on international entrepreneurship by offering an integrated analytical approach that combines conceptual development, methodological soundness, and empirical verification. It is precisely the combination of these three elements that determines the scientific value of the work and distinguishes it among contemporary research on the issues under consideration.

IV. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

Despite the undeniable merits of the work, some recommendations can be made towards its future development:

First, the dissertation is of a significant volume, which in some places leads to a certain descriptiveness and repetitiveness of the text. A more concentrated presentation of individual literature reviews would improve the overall compactness of the work.

Second, despite the convincing empirical testing, it would be of interest to verify the proposed model on enterprises from countries with different institutional and economic characteristics. Such a comparative study would allow for a more definitive evaluation of its universal applicability.

Third, in future research, it would be beneficial to incorporate more deeply factors related to artificial intelligence, digital platforms, sustainable entrepreneurship, and the green transformation, which increasingly influence international business.

The stated remarks are predominantly advisory in nature and do not significantly affect the scientific value, the reliability of the results, or the significance of the scientific contributions.

Conclusion

The presented dissertation thesis represents a complete, independent, and scientifically significant study developed at a high academic level. The author demonstrates profound theoretical knowledge, excellent methodological training, and the capacity for independently conducting complex scientific research.

The obtained results contain clearly formulated scientific and scientific-applied contributions that enrich the theory and practice of international entrepreneurship. The developed models and the conclusions drawn have the potential for wide application both in academic circles and in the formation of economic policies and managerial decisions.

The presented dissertation thesis meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for its implementation, and the corresponding regulations of the Varna Free University.

In view of the above, I propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award Dr. Sylwia Dorota Skrzypek-Ahmed the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in Professional Field 3.8 "Economics".

12.07.2026

Blagoevgrad

Assoc. Prof. Elena Stavrova, PhD