

STATEMENT



By Assoc, prof. Velika Bineva
Prof. Dr Assen Zlatarov University, Burgas
Professional direction: 3.7 Administration and Management
Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Regarding: Order No. UD - 165/06.07.2023 of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr Assen Zlatarov" in connection with the obtain of doctoral student Rusen Zhelev Gigov's thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the doctoral program "Organization and management of production (industry)" in professional direction: 3.7 Administration and management.

Dissertation topic: Increasing the Competitiveness of the Supply Chain of Bulgarian Enterprises by Applying Blockchain Technology.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov

General characteristics of the dissertation work

The dissertation has 231 printed pages. The text of the dissertation includes 44 tables and 16 figures. 261 literary sources are cited. The dissertation is properly structured and contains all the necessary elements presented in a logical sequence. Technical malfunctions are observed in the cited literary sources.

The literature review shows a good knowledge of the subject. Contemporary data on the topicality of the problem are presented. The significance of blockchain technologies for increasing the competitiveness of enterprises when operating in the field of supply chains is emphasized.

The goal and the tasks set are defined relatively precisely, although they could be rounded up. The applied approach and the used modern research methods enable the achievement of the described goals and objectives.

The exhibition meets the standards for this type of scientific development. The **first chapter** presents and analyzes the competitiveness of supply chains, the essence of blockchain technology and its application in supply chains. An overview of the models for evaluating the influencing factors in making management decisions has been made. Unsolved theoretical problems in the field of the dissertation are also brought out. The presentation shows that the doctoral student knows the main theoretical propositions of the scope of the discussed issues. The **second chapter** builds a methodological framework for the study of the influencing factors for planning the use of blockchain technology to increase the competitiveness of the supply chains of Bulgarian enterprises. The **third chapter** examines in detail the applied computational procedures, the interpretation of the results, the proof of the hypotheses, as well as general conclusions and conclusions.

The above gives me the reason to confirm that the dissertation work of doctoral student Rusen Gigov is presented in a form and volume corresponding to the requirements.

The contributions are of an original and scientific-practical nature.

The dissertation focuses on a current problem, insufficiently developed in the Bulgarian scientific space, which is a prerequisite for achieving contributions. It fully reflects the need for research and development in the field of the chosen topic, given the role of high technologies, blockchain and artificial intelligence in supply chains.

The fulfillment of the tasks set leads to the following contributions:

- The normality of the distribution and the reliability of the data were established through statistical tests.
- The latent and sub-latent factors, as well as dependencies of the importance of the leading sub-latent factors in forming the assessment reflecting the impact on the competitiveness of supply chains, were established.
- A research methodology and model for evaluating the impact of blockchain technology on the competitiveness of supply chains is proposed.
- Contributions from the results, the research methodology and the opportunities to increase the competitive advantages of the supply chains from the inclusion of a blockchain network have been identified.

A comprehensive review of the scientific literature was made, fully corresponding to the subject of the dissertation work. The literature reference is compiled from 261 literary sources, of which 203 are scientific publications, and 58 are Internet resources. The majority were published in the last ten years. Technical malfunctions are observed in the cited literary sources.

A 57-page abstract is attached, which correctly reflects the content of the doctoral student's work, contributions to the scientific field and publications. Nine publications in scientific journals are reported, two of which were independent, and the rest are co-authored. Full-text content of the publications is presented.

No evidence of plagiarism was found in the dissertation. The work confirms the doctoral student's theoretical knowledge in the scientific field of the study, applied scientific results and ability to conduct independent scientific research.

The review of the materials gives me a reason to conclude that the scientific production of the candidate fulfils the minimum requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor", as the criteria for the individual groups of indicators are covered.

Recommendations

The material presented for review is meaningful, modern, scientifically based, conforming to the regulatory requirements, therefore I have no critical remarks.

I would make the following recommendation: to look for ways and opportunities to popularize the results of the dissertation research, which are up-to-date and practically applicable.

Conclusion

The dissertation work "Increasing the Competitiveness of the Supply Chain of Bulgarian Enterprises by Applying Blockchain Technology" presents an up-to-date and objective scientific applied research and, in terms of volume, structure, and content, meets the requirements of the relevant regulations. The above, the achieved contributions in the scientific field, as well as the overall work put in by the doctoral student, give me the reason **to grant a positive assessment** of the dissertation and to express my opinion that the educational and scientific degree "doctor" should be awarded in the professional direction 3.7 Administration and management, specialty "Organization and management of production (industry)" by Rusen Zhelev Gigov.

01.08.2023 г.
Burgas

Signature:

/Assoc. prof. Velika Bineva/

Подпис заличен
Чл.2 от ЗЗЛД