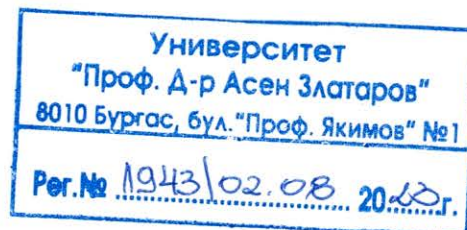


STATEMENT



on dissertation work to obtain an educational and scientific degree "PhD" in professional direction **3.7. "Administration and Management"**, doctoral program "**Organization and Management of Production (Industry)**"

Author of the dissertation: Rusen Zhelev Gigov

Dissertation topic: "**Increasing the competitiveness of the supply chain of Bulgarian enterprises by using Blockchain technology**"

Member of the scientific jury: **Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Tsvetanov Stoyanov**,
University of Telecommunications and Post - Sofia

Reason for presenting the opinion: participation in the composition of the scientific jury for the defense of the dissertation according to Order No. UD-153/23.06.2023 of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Bourgas.

1. Timeliness of the developed problem

The dissertation has a total volume of 231 standard pages, of which 212 pages are the main text, introduction, three chapters, conclusion, contributions and recommendations for future development of the dissertation. 44 tables and 16 figures are presented to the dissertation. The list of used literature has a total number of titles – 261 titles, incl. 203 scientific publications and 58 Internet resources.

The topic of the dissertation and the researched problem are current and particularly significant in the context of increasing the competitiveness of the supply chain of enterprises by using Blockchain technology. A national study with specific results was conducted, which outlines a specific framework for the application of blockchain technology in Bulgarian enterprises.

2. Degree of knowledge of the state of the problem and creative interpretation of literary material

Despite the diversity of scientific and practical developments and a palette of tools for researching processes and trends in the field of supply chain, there are still controversial or unresolved issues. This is a natural phenomenon, considering the pace of development of the world economy, which reflects the enterprises on an international scale. In this regard, the dissertation fills a significant gap in terms of increasing the competitiveness of the supply chain of Bulgarian enterprises through the use of Blockchain technology. In the context of what has been said, it should be noted that the doctoral student handles scientific terminology and subject-specific statements well. Theoretical-methodological problems and applied aspects of the researched problem are skilfully considered. All this shows knowledge, competences, obviously and practical experience of the doctoral student to deal with a complex, but at the same time very interesting and significant problem for the practice of Bulgarian enterprises.

3. Correspondence of the chosen research methodology with the set goal and tasks of the dissertation work

The chosen research methodology in the dissertation fully corresponds to the set goal and tasks. Based on this, it should be established that they have been fulfilled, according to the specifics of the scientific research. The conducted research and analysis of the results show that the methods used derive and structure the main factors influencing the increase in the competitiveness of supply chains by using blockchain technology. The significant factors increasing the competitiveness of supply chains have been reported, and by means of an analysis of good practices in the use of blockchain technology in the supply chain, the factors stimulating their introduction have also been established. The main reasons hindering the application of blockchain technology in the supply chain are summarized. The methods for identifying the influencing factors and good practices in the calculation procedures are established.

4. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

In accordance with the selected thematic area, the dissertation work of postgraduate student Rusen Zhelev Gigov has scientific and applied contributions, which are well defined in the dissertation work and the abstract to it, which we accept as follows:

- The normality of the distribution and the reliability of the data were established through the relevant statistical tests.

- Latent factors influencing the increase in the competitiveness of the supply chains of Bulgarian enterprises through the use of blockchain technology have been identified.
- The leading sublatent influencing factors influencing the use of blockchain technology to increase the competitiveness of supply chains are identified.
- Dependencies were established for the importance of the leading sublatent factors, when forming the assessment reflecting the impact on the competitiveness of the supply chains.
- Regression analysis estimates of the validity of the results supported by logistic analysis are presented.
- The contributions of the research results and methodology are established, and despite its general use, it allows modification according to the constraints of the specific case.
- The possibilities of increasing the competitive advantages of the technology have been established, and the calculations prove the importance of inclusion in a blockchain network.

5. Evaluation of publications on the dissertation work

Main achievements and results of the dissertation work have been published in nine scientific publications in established specialized publications, of which seven are co-authored and two independent. All publications show the content of the individual chapters of the dissertation work and present to a large extent the scientific and applied achievements of the doctoral student.

The abstract has a total volume of 57 pages and corresponds to the structure of the dissertation work and faithfully reflects its content.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

The presented dissertation is an independent and in-depth scientific study of a significant and current problem. I believe that the dissertation work is structured appropriately and shows the doctoral student's personal approach to the problem. I am convinced that all the material is reliable, supported by real data from Bulgarian business practice. I have no critical comments on the material. I would recommend the PhD student in his future research or practical work to continue to explore trends, patterns and processes in the field of supply chains and blockchain technology.

7. Personal impressions

I have no personal impressions of the postgraduate student.

8. Conclusion

The presented dissertation fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff, the Regulations for the Educational Activities of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Bourgas and the criteria for awarding the requested educational and scientific degree.

In connection with everything said so far, I propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award Rusen Zhelev Gigov the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in professional field 3.7. "Administration and management", field of higher education 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences". /

Date 27.07.2023 г.
Sofia

Member of SJ:

Подпис заличен
Чл.2 от ЗЗЛД

/Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Stoyanov/