

REVIEW

by Candidate of Economic Sciences,
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on the dissertation of Igor Rivilis on the topic “Global waste management and corporate social responsibility”, submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of knowledge 07 “Management and Administration” in the specialty 073 “Management”

Relevance of the research topic

The problem of waste management is one of the most critical environmental challenges of our time, as the rapid population growth, urbanization, and industrial development lead to a significant increase in waste volumes. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, approximately 2 billion tons of solid household waste are generated worldwide annually, and this figure is expected to grow in the coming decades. Insufficient or ineffective waste management has serious consequences for the environment, human health, and the economy. The need to improve systems for waste collection, recycling, and disposal is becoming urgent, especially in developing countries where waste management infrastructure is often underdeveloped. Environmental pollution caused by improper waste management leads to the contamination of water resources, soils, and air, which in turn affects biodiversity and human health.

In the context of global environmental challenges, the role of business is becoming increasingly important. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a concept that involves the voluntary integration of social and environmental aspects into business operations and interactions with stakeholders. Companies that implement corporate social responsibility not only contribute to reducing their negative environmental impact but also create added value for their shareholders and society as a whole. Global waste management and corporate social responsibility are closely related. Integrating corporate social responsibility principles into waste management strategies enables companies to develop innovative approaches to waste reduction,

reuse, and recycling. This includes the use of environmentally friendly technologies, the implementation of waste separation and recycling systems, and the development of projects aimed at increasing environmental awareness among the population.

The study of this topic is relevant given the growing interest in sustainable development and the need to implement effective environmental practices. The results of such research can contribute to the development of new policies aimed at improving waste management systems and encourage businesses to adopt corporate social responsibility as an integral part of their strategy. Thus, the relevance of the research topic is determined by the need to address environmental problems related to waste and the importance of the business sector's role in shaping a sustainable future. Studying and implementing best practices in this area can have a significant positive impact on the environment, human health, and economic development.

In light of the above, the dissertation by Igor Rivilis on the topic "Global waste management and corporate social responsibility" is relevant and timely.

Connection of the dissertation with scientific programs, plans, and themes

The research was conducted within the framework of the scientific research activities of the West Ukrainian National University, specifically: fundamental state budget funding researches "National concept of eco-security of society and inclusion of the circular economy in the conditions of the pandemic" (state registration number 0121U109485); "Concept of recovery and green reconstruction of Ukraine" (state registration number 0124U000003); implementation of the international project (Erasmus+ Module Jean Monnet) "European inclusive circular economy: post-war and post-pandemic module for Ukraine (EICEPPMU)" 2022-2024, registration number 101085640); business funding research on the topic "Transformation of business in conditions of sustainable development of the global economy" (Contract No. MEV-33-2023 dated 05/10/2023); business funding research on the topic "Scientific and professional consulting of the enterprise on issues of social responsibility and organization of recycling" (Contract No. MEV-81-2021 dated 01/10/2021); business funding research on the topic "Formation of the company's ecological brand in foreign

markets” (Contract No. MEV-37-2024 dated 25/04/2024), which include the author’s proposals for improving the theoretical and methodological foundations of waste management and corporate social responsibility.

Personal contribution of the researcher to the obtained scientific results

The qualification thesis is an independently conducted scientific research, in which the author personally developed an applied model for implementing environmental strategic priorities for business based on waste management and corporate social responsibility. All scientific ideas, theoretical developments, generalizations, research methodology, conclusions, and recommendations presented in the thesis belong to the author. The author’s contribution to collectively published papers is specified in the list of publications; only those ideas that belong personally to the author are used in the dissertation. The level of the author’s personal contribution is sufficient.

Degree of justification of scientific provisions, conclusions, and recommendations

A review of the content of Igor Rivilis’s qualification thesis indicates a proper level of research and the presence of scientific novelty. The justification of the scientific provisions, conclusions, and recommendations is based on the use of modern theories and concepts of management, as well as studies on the topic by researchers from different countries.

To substantiate the research results, the author utilized a set of general scientific and specialized methods, including theoretical generalization, historical method, dialectical cognition, analogy and comparative analysis, induction and deduction, analysis, synthesis and data processing, monitoring, data visualization, and the main provisions and results of the study. The author processed a sufficient number of literary and statistical sources, as well as analytical information on global waste management and corporate social responsibility.

The dissertation reveals the theoretical and methodological foundations of the research the waste management and corporate social responsibility. In particular, it

addresses the genesis of theoretical approaches to studying the concept of waste management (pp. 10-23), provides theoretical identification of the theory of corporate social responsibility (pp. 24-38), and explores the concept of environmental management in the waste management system (pp. 39-52). The author's approach to environmental management, which involves improving the physical, social, and economic aspects of an enterprise or project (pp. 42-43), is noteworthy. As a result, it was established that environmental management focuses on technological progress and minimizing its impact on the natural environment (pp. 48-49).

The dissertation investigates global waste management and corporate social responsibility, focusing on waste management in the circular transformation system (pp. 55-68); evaluating the features of corporate social responsibility in conditions of instability (pp. 69-81); and analyzing emission levels in the context of global transnationalization (pp. 82-95). The thesis argues that regulatory barriers and the lack of standardized waste management methods hinder the fulfillment of corporate responsibility in the field of waste management (pp. 78-80).

The author has developed perspectives on the development of the waste management system and the improvement of corporate social responsibility. Emphasis is placed on key directions for improving the waste management system (pp. 99-108); ways to implement a corporate social responsibility management strategy (pp. 109-121); and a waste management model within the corporate social responsibility system (pp. 122-135). The thesis argues that the successful implementation of environmentally responsible practices by transnational companies will enhance business resilience by improving stakeholder relationships, reducing environmental risks, and increasing product competitiveness (pp. 131-133).

The research purpose corresponds to the dissertation topic. The object and subject of the study are adequately covered in the structure and content of the dissertation. The obtained scientific research, conclusions, and recommendations are reliable and justified, as confirmed by a sufficient number of publications on the dissertation topic in professional journals, as well as discussions of the main results at international scientific and practical conferences. Thus, the content and structure of the

work fully correlate with its topic, purpose, and research objectives. The scientific provisions are presented consistently and logically, and the conclusions and recommendations are based on the research results, which have been sufficiently tested.

The structure and design of the thesis meet the modern requirements for dissertation formatting, as approved by the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated January 12, 2017, No. 40 “On Approval of the Requirements for Dissertation Design”. The set of scientific provisions, conclusions, and recommendations presented in the qualification thesis and its practical significance allow for the conclusion about the completeness, integrity, and structuredness of Igor Rivilis’s qualification thesis.

Scientific novelty of the provisions, conclusions, and recommendations formulated in the dissertation

The most significant results that characterize the scientific novelty of the study include:

– a model for waste management within the corporate social responsibility system has been proposed. This model is based on methods of implementing environmental management and directions of corporate social responsibility and includes tools for improving the waste management system by accounting for approaches to the corporate social responsibility development process as a management strategy. It also defines the components of corporate social responsibility implementation strategies and the directions of CSR in crisis conditions.

– the concept of environmental management within the waste management system has been improved by analyzing the environmental management system, substantiating the advantages of implementing environmental management, and developing environmental management tools.

– the essential characteristics of waste management have been detailed, and the concept of waste has been substantiated. The term “waste hierarchy” has been introduced, with justification for options ranked in order of preference for waste minimization.

– the features of corporate social responsibility in conditions of instability have been assessed, and the stages and approaches to business social responsibility have been identified, outlining its problems and threats.

– the main properties and characteristics of corporate social responsibility theories have been determined, influenced by key components such as the strength of the theory, the advantages of applying the theory, and the challenges in applying the theory.

– characteristics of corporate social responsibility types have been proposed by distinguishing between external and internal corporate social responsibility focus. A theoretical identification of corporate social responsibility theories has been carried out by classifying the evolution of CSR theories into three main stages.

– waste management in the system of circular transformation and the level of emissions in conditions of global transnationalization have been analyzed, allowing for the delineation of circularity levels, the development of cooperation options for municipalities in waste collection, and the concept of transitioning from linear waste management to circular resource management.

Thus, it can be stated that the main scientific provisions, results, and conclusions of Igor Rivilis's qualification thesis possess scientific novelty and are sufficiently substantiated.

Theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation

The theoretical results of the conducted research consist in the formulation of the key areas of waste management system improvement, ways of implementation of corporate social responsibility management strategy, and the development of model of waste management in the system of corporate social responsibility.

The research results have an applied nature, and the main theoretical provisions on improving the waste management system and implementing the corporate social responsibility management strategy can be used in the practical activities of business entities and further scientific developments.

The scientific results of the research, developed to the level of practical findings and recommendations, are confirmed by a certificate of implementation provided by West Ukrainian National University (certificate No. 21/69.2024 dated 28.06.2024) for participation in scientific and research works.

Completeness of the presentation of the main scientific results of the dissertation in published papers

The results of the qualification thesis are published in 11 scientific publications, including independently published papers and co-authored papers, with 3.2 academic sheets personally attributed to the author. This includes 3 articles published in international scientometric databases (Scopus), 3 articles published in Ukrainian professional scientific editions, and 1 article in a foreign scientific periodical edition. Additionally, 4 articles were published based on materials from international and national scientific-practical conferences. Igor Rivilis personally contributed the scientific ideas, theoretical developments, generalizations, conclusions, and recommendations presented for defense and included in his publications.

The profile of the journals and the content of the scientific papers meet the established requirements for the completeness of the coverage of the obtained results of the qualification thesis for obtaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of knowledge 07 “Management and Administration” in specialty 073 “Management”.

Evaluation of the structure of the dissertation

The structure of Igor Rivilis’s qualification thesis is coherent, logical, and comprehensive. The formatting of the thesis fully complies with the requirements set by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine for qualification scientific thesis for obtaining the Doctor of Philosophy degree, as per the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated 12.01.2017, No. 40 “On Approval of Requirements for the Dissertation Design”. The qualification work consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions, a list of references, and annexes. The total volume of the thesis is 179 pages. The work includes 2 tables, 35 figures, and 4 annexes by 19 pages. The list of references includes 177 items. The conclusions, proposals, and

recommendations formulated by the author based on the dissertation's results contain elements of scientific novelty and hold value for the development of theoretical and methodological foundations as well as the practice of management, including the analysis of waste management processes and the formation of corporate social responsibility.

Language and style of presentation

Igor Rivilis's qualification thesis is written in English. The style of the text is scientific, characterized by a logical sequence in revealing the content of the dissertation's paragraphs and chapters, unambiguous interpretation of definitions and categories, and meaningful interconnection between the tasks, scientific novelty, final provisions, and conclusions. The presentation is objective in comparing conducted scientific research and forming the author's position in the fields of management, waste management, and corporate social responsibility.

Compliance of the qualification thesis with the specialization passport for submission for defense

In terms of content and formatting, the qualification thesis by Igor Rivilis on the topic "Global Waste Management and Corporate Social Responsibility" fully complies with the established requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, particularly: the passport of specialization 073 – "Management", field of knowledge 07 – "Management and Administration"; the requirements set by the "On the Approval of the Procedure for Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and the Cancellation of the Decision of a One-time Specialized Academic Council of a Higher Education Institution, Research Institution on Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy" approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated January 12, 2022, No. 44; and the requirements for the design of qualification thesis.

Absence (presence) of academic integrity violations

The text of Igor Rivilis's qualification thesis, according to the results of the plagiarism verification, does not contain any similarities without proper citation and

complies with the principles of academic integrity. All references to sources in the thesis are made in accordance with the norms of copyright and related rights legislation.

Discussion points and remarks on the content of the dissertation

Alongside significant scientific achievements and positive evaluations of the content and design of the qualification thesis, it is important to note certain remarks and discussion points, including:

1) The qualification thesis explores the genesis of theoretical approaches to studying the concept of waste management. The research results show that waste management services are key services in the system that should be available in all communities. It would be beneficial to provide more specific examples to substantiate the theoretical approaches and their development or application in real conditions.

2) The author clearly formulates the key principles of various corporate social responsibility theories, providing a solid foundation for the research. However, it would be useful to consider more deeply the peculiarity of the application of these theories in the process of waste management.

3) The thesis examines the concept of environmental management in the waste management system by analyzing the environmental management system, justifying the advantages of implementing environmental management, and developing environmental management tools. It would be valuable to provide a more detailed analysis of the practical implementation of environmental management principles in the waste management system.

4) The author investigates waste management within the system of circular transformation and evaluates the features of corporate social responsibility under conditions of instability. However, it would be beneficial to use more examples of changes by companies in their CSR strategies in cases of instability.

5) Outlining the prospects for the development of the waste management system and the improvement of corporate social responsibility, it would be useful to add examples of companies that have successfully integrated waste management based on CSR principles.

Overall, the above-mentioned discussion points and remarks do not diminish the overall positive evaluated results of the dissertation, the importance of the obtained conclusions, and the practical recommendations.

General conclusion

The qualification thesis of Igor Rivilis on the topic “Global Waste Management and Corporate Social Responsibility”, submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the specialty 073 “Management”, is completed independent research that meets established requirements. The thesis is provided at an appropriate theoretical level and has practical significance. The dissertation topic is fully disclosed.

The conducted analysis of the dissertation allows concluding that the presented dissertation complies with the requirements of the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 40 dated January 12, 2017, “On Approval of the Requirements for the Dissertation design” (with amendments) and the “On the Approval of the Procedure for Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and the Cancellation of the Decision of a One-time Specialized Academic Council of a Higher Education Institution, Research Institution on Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy” approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated January 12, 2022, No. 44, and its author – Igor Rivilis, deserves to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of knowledge 07 “Management and Administration” in specialty 073 “Management”.

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