

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

1. Title of the dissertation: Public financial support in the internationalisation process of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Poland
2. Author: Celestyna Miłoś
3. Supervisor: prof. UEK dr hab. Tomasz Rachwał
Assistant Supervisor: prof. UEK dr hab. Paweł Ulman
4. Summary (min. 1 800 characters with spaces):

The doctoral dissertation addresses the impact of state intervention, implemented through public funds, on the dynamics and scope of foreign expansion of the Polish micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector. In the face of advancing globalization and the rapid geopolitical phenomena of the 2020s, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the armed conflict in Ukraine, internationalization has become a key factor for development, but also a challenge for companies with limited capital resources. The main objective of the thesis is to determine the impact of public financial support on the internationalization process of Polish SMEs. The research focuses on programs implemented under the EU 2014-2020 financial perspective, including competitions such as "SME Internationalization", "Go to Brand", and "Polish Technological Bridges". The need to address this topic arose from an identified research gap regarding the current effectiveness of public support in the context of modern economic conditions. The applied research methodology is based on a comparison of two groups of entities: a research sample (240 beneficiaries of support) and a control sample (240 companies financing their expansion from their own resources). The empirical analysis, using CAWI survey techniques and statistical tests (Pearson's chi-square, Cramér's V), allowed for the verification of four specific hypotheses. The research results confirmed the main hypothesis: public support instruments positively influence the internationalization process by stimulating company development. A statistically significant impact was demonstrated on increasing the geographic scope of expansion (H1), increasing the share of foreign sales (H3), and the propensity to make further international strategic decisions (H4). At the same time, the thesis revealed a negative impact of procedural rigors on the speed of internationalization (H2), providing evidence of a "time brake" effect resulting from bureaucracy. The dissertation concludes with recommendations for public institutions regarding the flexibilization of procedures and for entrepreneurs in the area of strategic grant management.