



THE CONCEPT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MECHANISM OF REPUTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A NEW MODEL OF SCIENTIFIC ATTESTATION

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Article info

Received –
2022 March 15
Accepted –
2023 June 20
Available online –
2023 September 20

Keywords

Scientific attestation, academic degree, dissertation council, reputation, ethics

The subject of the study is the concept of developing a mechanism for the reputational responsibility of organizations endowed with the rights provided for in paragraph 3.1 of Article 4 of the Federal Law from August 23, 1996 No. 127-FZ "On Science and State Scientific and Technical Policy".

The purpose of the article is to propose specific tools for the implementation of the mechanism of reputational responsibility of organizations with the right to independently award academic degrees. The article examines the method of self-examination of the certification model of the organization, indicators of its effectiveness, and also provides proposals for the development of indicators for monitoring the activities of dissertation councils of organizations with the right to independently award academic degrees.

The use of general logical research methods, including analysis and synthesis, the formal legal and comparative legal methods, allowed the authors to come to the following conclusions: (1) for the effective conduct of self-examination in each organization, it is advisable to adopt local regulations that approve the regulation on the procedure for conducting self-examination and the report on the conduct of self-examination; (2) the list of information and data given in the article to be assessed during self-examination is exemplary, and can be expanded taking into account the characteristics of a scientific or educational organization; (3) organizations can be recommended to distribute digests about the dissertations

defended, their real contribution to the development of science to leading educational and scientific organizations, and post them in free access on the official website of the organization. They may also contain information about self-examination and monitoring of dissertation councils, scientific attestation processes, other information that contributes to the formation of a stable positive image of the organization, the scientific community's trust in its certification model. It is substantiated that, within the framework of the new model of scientific attestation, the development of the institution of reputational responsibility of organizations with the right to independently award scientific degrees is the key to ensuring the quality of reproducible scientific personnel.

1. Introduction

Business reputation is currently the most important intangible asset of educational and scientific organizations, which accumulates over the years and can be destroyed as a result of dishonest behavior of participants in the scientific attestation process.

The reputation of an organization is usually understood as the prevailing general opinion about its advantages and disadvantages, that is, their public assessment. The concept of "reputation" until the middle of the XX century was perceived as a synonym for the concepts of "honor", "dignity" and was used to characterize an individual.

In recent decades, the concept of "reputation" began to be interpreted broadly, applying not only to a person, but also to an organization. The reputation of any organizational system is called corporate reputation. Today, the definition of "business reputation" is increasingly moving closer to the concepts of "image", "social responsibility" and "social mission". It is impossible to form a good reputation without showing social responsibility. Business reputation is the "good name" of an organization, which is formed under the influence of many factors and is evaluated according to various parameters. Thus, the issues of reputational responsibility of the university are set out in the article [1], and in the field of scientific attestation – [2–5]. In the article by Matskevich I.M., Shengelia G.A. [6] noted that even a minor oversight in the work of the dissertation council can directly affect the image of the organization and thus the image and reputation of the head of the organization.

With regard to the system of scientific attestation, the mechanisms that form the image and reputation include:

- attitude towards the applicant, members of the dissertation council and opponents;
- sustainable, stable certification policy of the organization (including ethical standards);
- the quality of dissertations, their relevance and significance for solving scientific problems that have important political, socio-economic, cultural or economic significance for the

development of the country;

- positioning of the organization, that is, determining its competitive position in the labor markets, educational services, intellectual property, scientific products and technologies, etc.;

- intellectual and scientific potential of the organization;

- participation in solving research problems in order to realize and develop the intellectual potential of Russian science;

- the degree of professionalism, credibility and experience of the teaching staff;

- stability of the organization (financial, legal, organizational);

- popularization of the achievements of the organization in the field of scientific attestation.

Since the reputation is considered as the main competitive advantage of the organization and is based on the state's trust in scientific and educational organizations of higher education that have achieved high results in scientific and (or) scientific and technical activities, have authority in the preparation of scientific and scientific and pedagogical personnel of the highest qualification, The following factors influence its formation:

- a) the quality of dissertations, the openness and legality of attestation procedures, the level of exactingness to the participants in scientific attestation;

- b) socially significant ideas underlying the functioning of the certification model of the organization;

- c) assessment of the organization in the media, the attitude of the leaders of the scientific community and government agencies towards it.

Good business reputation of an organization endowed with the rights provided for in paragraph 3.1 of Art. 4 of the Federal Law "On Science and State Science and Technology Policy" (hereinafter – the Federal Law on Science), increases the chances for its effective development, makes the organization more attractive to applicants, opponents, and other participants in the certification processes, improves the overall image of the organization, provides stronger positions in the scientific community, support for the scientific

community and the state.

At the same time, reputation needs to be managed, which should be carried out to a greater extent not with the help of state regulation, but through independent local regulation of reputational mechanisms by organizations endowed with the rights provided for in paragraph 3.1 of Art. 4 of the Federal Law on Science. The globalization of science and the development of new technologies require the formation, along with legal ones, of non-legal regulators, as well as legal means that ensure the relative autonomy of science and its self-regulation.

Certification models of educational and scientific organizations endowed with the rights provided for in paragraph 3.1 of Art. 4 of the Federal Law on Science, are still far from ideal reputation ratings – they have something to work on, there is every reason to talk about the need to further improve local regulations (hereinafter – LR), the adoption of new ones, including codes of ethics.

It is noted in the literature that domestic science develops outside the ethical field, while the role of ethical regulators in world science is extremely high. For example, in the absence of legal prohibitions and individual restrictions, non-legal regulators can work effectively for a certain time. Violation of the norms of scientific ethics, developed standards and rules in a number of countries entails serious reputational and other risks. For scientists, they are sometimes more important than the threat of legal sanctions against them. In the codes of ethics and other LR, it is necessary to establish standards and rules for scientific attestation activities, as well as the procedure for monitoring compliance with the requirements of these standards and rules [7].

In the process of analyzing the LR organizations and practice of independent awarding of academic degrees by some organizations, many experts expressed concern about the possibility of corruption-related manifestations, in particular, in the process of issuing diplomas for awarding an academic degree. In this regard, it is proposed to work out a mechanism for systematizing the relevant information to avoid such threats [8–11].

Unlike government acts, LR projects of organizations endowed with the rights provided for in paragraph 3.1 of Art. 4 of the Federal Law on Science are not the subject of public discussion; they are not subject to an independent legal and anti-corruption expertise aimed at observing and protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, at preventing the establishment of unreasonably wide margins of discretion for the law enforcer or the possibility of unreasonably applying exceptions to general rules that create conditions for the manifestation of corruption. The publication by organizations of draft local acts on Internet sites is considered as an element of publicity of the law-making of organizations, which provides an opportunity to familiarize all interested parties with draft acts. Therefore, the publication of the projects of LR organizations should become a necessary condition for their implementation.

According to part 3 of Art. 15 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, any normative legal acts affecting the rights, freedoms and duties of a person and a citizen cannot be applied if they are not officially published for general information. Due to non-compliance with the established procedures, the rights guaranteed by the state and the legitimate interests of citizens may be violated. Official publication has not only informational, but formal legal significance, it gives rise to legal consequences. It is the official publication that serves as a guarantee that the published text fully corresponds exactly to the original, that is, to the text that was adopted by the relevant body and signed by a competent official. In a previously published article [12], in our opinion, the need to approve the nomenclature of scientific specialties in full by the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia with state registration in the Ministry of Justice of Russia and the publication of a regulatory legal act in the prescribed manner was justified.

In order to ensure the regime of law and order, respect for the rights of applicants and other participants in the certification process, it is necessary to carry out the official publication of the LR not only on the websites of organizations, but also in print media, for example, in general for all organizations endowed with the rights provided for

in paragraph 3.1 Art. 4 of the Federal Law on Science, a journal published under the auspices of the Higher Attestation Commission.

The issue of the functioning of the new model of scientific attestation was reflected in a number of works [13–25]. Thus, in a previously published article, the position was substantiated on the inadvisability of providing organizations that received the right to independently award academic degrees with the opportunity to develop and approve “lists of scientific fields and specialties” [14]. In the work of Gabov A.V. the question was raised regarding the fact that the LR of the category of organizations under consideration contains rules of conduct affecting the rights, freedoms and obligations of citizens, foreign citizens and stateless persons (the right to scientific creativity) and establishing a mechanism for the implementation of such rights, freedoms and obligations, that is, containing all the signs normative act subject to state registration [16]. However, as you know, these LR do not undergo any state registration. The article [17] notes that the branch of science is the most important criterion indicator, according to which scientific and scientific-educational organizations receive the right to independent parallel work in the system of state scientific attestation. Based on the analysis of local regulations of organizations that have received the right to independently award academic degrees since 2016, on the use of remote interaction using electronic technologies, the authors concluded that this form of dissertation defenses should be enshrined in regulations as an ordinary one [18]. The team of authors of the article [21] analyzed the first results of the activities of dissertation councils of organizations that received the right to independently award academic degrees, in comparison with the performance indicators of classical councils created by order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia. Pakhomov S.I. The article [22] notes the problematic issues of legal support of the system of scientific attestation at the local level, namely: arbitrary definition in some cases of the types (names) of academic degrees that differ terminologically from the types of academic degrees established by federal legislation, etc.

Thus, reputational responsibility can and should be used to achieve the main goal of scientific attestation – to ensure the influx of highly qualified young scientific personnel.

2. Methodology for self-examination of the certification model of the organization

Development of independence and initiative of organizations endowed with the rights provided for in paragraph 3.1 of Art. 4 of the Federal Law on Science, requires the availability of organizational and legal tools and technologies for managing the quality of the certification model, which will allow you to regularly receive reliable and up-to-date information about the state of scientific attestation in the organization. Such tools include the procedure for self-examination of certification models of scientific organizations and educational organizations of higher education.

Self-examination is considered as an independent assessment by the organization of the quality indicators of the certification model operating in the organization (self-assessment, internal scientific audit).

Self-examination of the certification model of the organization is also carried out in order to ensure the availability and openness of information about the level of efficiency of the organization's activities in ensuring the defense of dissertations for the degree of candidate of science, for the degree of doctor of science. The thoroughness and criticality of the self-examination form the basis for the effectiveness of this process for the organization, and are also a guarantee of confidence in the quality of its certification of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel of the highest qualification.

At the same time, the results of self-examination will allow organizations to determine the range of problems that the system of state scientific attestation is aimed at solving, as well as to identify priorities for improving the certification model of the organization, tasks that ensure its stable functioning and development. In addition, the results of the self-examination will provide an opportunity to demonstrate positive experience that can be perceived by other organizations, including those in which dissertations are defended under the traditional model of state scientific attestation.

The tasks of self-examination of the certification model of the organization include:

- establishing the degree of manifestation of the measured parameters of the certification model as an object of self-assessment;
- identification of the presence or absence of the dynamics of the certification model of the organization as a whole (or its individual components);
- creation of an integral system of evaluation characteristics of the certification process;
- identification of positive trends in the certification model of the organization, reserves for its improvement;
- establishing the causes of occurrence and ways to solve problems identified during the self-assessment of problems;
- making forecasts of changes related to the development of the certification model of the organization.

Self-examination of the certification model of the organization is carried out by quantitative and qualitative assessment of the effectiveness of scientific attestation based on the analysis of the information contained in the report, which is one of

the means of managing the certification model of the organization. In the above context, the question of the criteria indicators of universities for granting the right to independently award academic degrees is of interest [26].

The published results of the report can be used by members of the public concerned for the public assessment of the certification model of the organization.

An important direction in the development of regulatory regulation for evaluating the certification model of an organization is local regulation. The above federal normative legal acts can serve as a model for the creation of LR and their assessment for compliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

It is advisable for the effective conduct of self-examination in each organization to adopt local regulations that approve:

- regulation on the procedure for conducting self-examination;
- self-examination report.

The procedure for self-examination of the certification model can be represented as the following block diagram (Fig. 1).

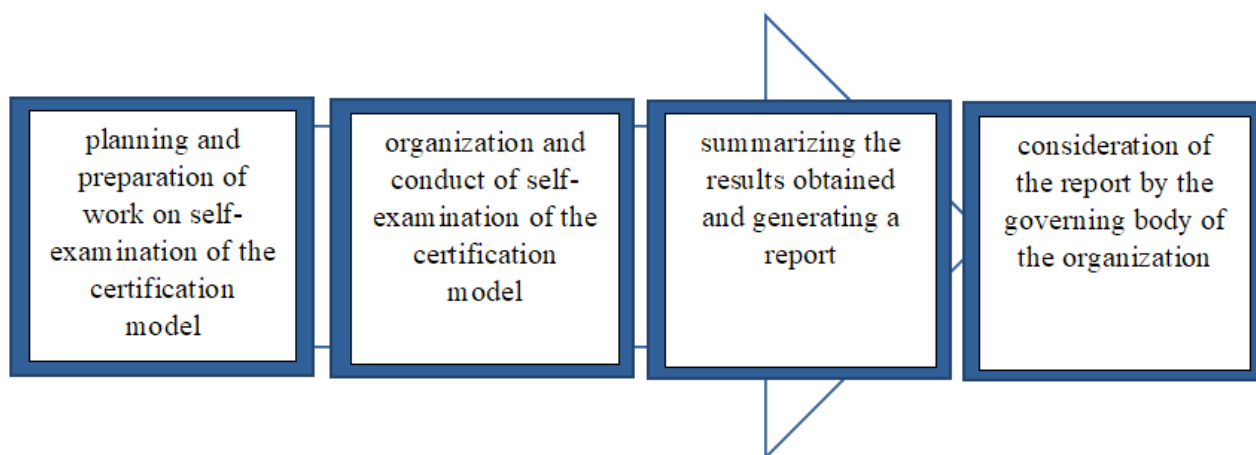


Fig. 1. Scheme of self-examination of the certification model.

3. Performance indicators of the certification model of the organization

To evaluate the effectiveness of the certification model, a system of criteria (indicators) of efficiency is proposed, which organizations should use. In the process of self-examination, an assessment is carried out:

- compliance of the certification model of the organization with the legislation of the Russian Federation in the field of scientific attestation;
- information about the scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel of the organization as of January 1 of the year;
- the volume of expenses for research and

development based on the number of employees performing research and development for the next year;

- information about scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel trained in scientific specialties, in which academic degrees are awarded by the organization, for the next year;

- the composition of the dissertation council, the procedure for the formation and management;

- information about the members of the dissertation council;

- the process of scientific attestation;

- information about applicants for academic degrees who successfully (not successfully) defended their dissertations;

- information about the decisions of the dissertation council to withdraw the dissertation from consideration at the request of the applicant for a academic degree;

- information on the topics of dissertations, taking into account priority areas within the Program of Fundamental Scientific Research in the Russian Federation for a long-term period (2021 - 2030);

- the content and quality of dissertations, their compliance with the criteria that dissertations for academic degrees must meet;

- information about official opponents and leading organizations, scientific supervisors and scientific consultants, indicating the code and name of the scientific specialty in accordance with the nomenclature of scientific specialties in which the dissertation was defended, as well as the availability of publications on the topic of the dissertation;

- the quality of the reviews of opponents, the leading organization for the thesis, other reviews received for the thesis, including the review of the supervisor or scientific consultant;

- presence of complaints related to the process of scientific attestation and responses to complaints;

- availability and quality of video recordings of dissertation defenses;

- completeness and relevance of information on issues of state scientific attestation posted on the official website of the organization

on the Internet (availability of local regulations, information about dissertation councils, members of dissertation councils; availability of texts of dissertations and abstracts, information about publications and scientometric indicators of persons, who are awarded a academic degree, information on the defense of dissertations, on the issuance of documents confirming the award of a academic degree, etc.);

- information about the cancellation of decisions of dissertation councils on the award of the degree of candidate of science or the degree of doctor of science;

- availability and effectiveness of a mechanism for public participation in the monitoring of the certification model;

- functioning of the internal system for assessing the quality of scientific attestation.

The above list of information and data to be assessed during self-examination is exemplary; it can be expanded taking into account the characteristics of a scientific or educational organization.

4. Proposals for the development of indicators for monitoring the activities of dissertation councils of organizations endowed with the right to independently award academic degrees

For the purpose of information openness and transparency of certification models of organizations endowed with the rights provided for in paragraph 3.1 of Art. 4 of the Federal Law on Science, the obligation is established for these organizations to submit to the federal information system the state scientific attestation, provided for in Art. 6.4 of the said federal law, the following information:

- on local regulations of organizations related to the award of academic degrees;

- on advice on defending dissertations for the degree of candidate of science, for the degree of doctor of science;

- on awarding academic degrees;

- on the deprivation of academic degrees;

- on the restoration of academic degrees.

This provision of the Federal Law does not contain specific indicators for monitoring the activities of dissertation councils of organizations aimed at improving the mechanisms of reputational

responsibility, leaving the solution of this issue to the discretion of the organizations themselves.

In order to maintain their scientific and professional image, organizations that have the right to independently award academic degrees, conducting self-examination and monitoring through systematic observation, analysis, evaluation and forecasting of the effectiveness of dissertation councils, should include indicators indicating a high scientific (academic) reputation as members of dissertation councils, and other participants in the certification process, about the quality of dissertations and the reliability of the organization as a whole.

Monitoring the activities of dissertation councils of organizations with the right to independently award academic degrees, aimed at improving the mechanisms of reputational responsibility, should include the following indicators:

- stability of local regulations in the field of scientific attestation (frequency of changes and additions, indicating their entry into force);
- timely promulgation of local regulations in the field of scientific attestation, including changes and additions;
- availability of codes of ethics and other local regulations containing standards and rules for scientific attestation activities, as well as the procedure for monitoring compliance with the requirements of these standards and rules;
- availability, reliability and completeness of information on issues of state scientific attestation posted on the official website of the organization on the Internet (availability of local regulations, information about dissertation councils, members of dissertation councils; availability of texts of dissertations and abstracts, information on publications and scientometric indicators persons who are awarded a academic degree, information on the defense of dissertations, on the issuance of documents confirming the award of a academic degree, etc.);
- the timeliness of updating information on scientific attestation on the official website of the organization on the Internet;
- availability of channels for reporting violations of attestation procedures (a channel for

reporting violations on the internal website of the organization, a public Internet resource for reporting potential violations, a hotline, chat bots, etc.);

- information on handling reports of violations of certification procedures and measures taken;
- information about the work with applications and appeals of citizens, legal entities, state authorities and local governments, the media, received on issues of scientific attestation;
- information on identified and resolved conflicts of interest;
- information about the revealed facts of unethical behavior and the measures taken;
- availability of an internal system for assessing the quality of scientific attestation;
- the results of inspections by internal control bodies and the measures taken based on their results (encouragement or punishment);
- results of surveys of members of dissertation councils, official and unofficial opponents, applicants for academic degrees;
- results of independent studies of the quality of dissertations conducted by educational, public, expert and scientific organizations;
- information on the compliance of the topics of dissertations with priority areas within the framework of the Program of Fundamental Scientific Research in the Russian Federation for a long-term period (2021 - 2030);
- the results of independent studies of the quality of feedback from opponents, the leading organization for the dissertation, other reviews received for the dissertation, including the review of the supervisor or scientific consultant;
- information about the training of members of dissertation councils in attestation rules and procedures regulated by federal legislation and local regulations;
- availability of video recordings of dissertation defenses, their availability, completeness and quality;
- information about the cancellation of decisions of dissertation councils on the award of the degree of candidate of science or the degree of doctor of science;
- information on the existence and effectiveness of the mechanism for public

participation in the monitoring of the certification model.

The listed indicators of monitoring dissertation councils of organizations with the right to independently award academic degrees, aimed at improving the mechanisms of reputational responsibility, can be supplemented taking into account the specifics of a scientific or educational organization.

Given that the key parameter for measuring the reputation of researchers is the effectiveness of their work, organizations can be recommended to distribute digests about their dissertations defended, their real contribution to the development of science in leading educational and scientific organizations, and post them in free access on the official website of the organization. They may also contain information about self-examination and monitoring of dissertation councils, scientific attestation processes, other information that contributes to the formation of a stable positive image of the organization, the scientific community's trust in its certification model.

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

Narutto S.V., Bodrov A.V. The concept of the development of the mechanism of reputational responsibility of the organization within the framework of a new model of scientific attestation. *Pravoprimerenie = Law Enforcement Review*, 2023, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 34–44. DOI: 10.52468/2542-1514.2023.7(3).34-44. (In Russ.).