

Review

written by a member of the academic jury for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" at D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov.

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Mihail Simeonov Chipriyanov, PhD

Author of the thesis: Raphael Roettinger

Thesis topic: SECURITY MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SPORT EVENTS: A CASE STUDY ON FOOTBALL STADIUMS IN GERMANY

I. General presentation of the thesis

The submitted dissertation is 341 pages long, including 283 pages of substantive text, 2 pages of a list of figures and tables used, three pages of abbreviations and abbreviations used, two pages of an abstract of the dissertation, 27 pages of bibliographical references, and 17 pages of appendices. Structurally, the dissertation consists of a table of contents, a list of figures and tables used, a list of abbreviations and acronyms, an abstract, an introduction, three parts, a conclusion, a list of references used, appendices, and a declaration of originality.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation.

The introduction highlights the relevance of security management at stadiums in Germany during the European Football Championship 2024, with a focus on public-private cooperation. The study analyses the institutional and governance mechanisms providing security at sporting events and examines the challenges related to hooliganism, terrorism, climate protests, geopolitical instability, etc.

The main thesis is that successful security provision depends on strategic approaches, transparency and effective coordination between public and private structures. The working hypotheses consider the impact of adaptive cooperation, technological and geopolitical threats, regulatory oversight, and best practices from previous large-scale events.

Theoretical-methodological and practical-applied tasks are formulated to achieve the objectives. The theoretical part includes an analysis of the literature and the normative framework, while the empirical research uses interviews and case studies from past championships to identify best practices and recommendations for optimizing security through institutional reforms and better integration of the private sector.

Chapter One outlines the theoretical framework of the study, presenting potential areas of application of security management approaches. It analyses strategies, models and methods of cooperation between the private and public sectors in the implementation of security activities, with attention also given to the role of state monopoly. Possible security risks and their impact on society are examined, with special emphasis on sporting events in Germany. Scenarios of large-scale emergencies, attacks and chaos are presented as critical moments in security management. Security during the European Football Championship in 2024 is carefully analysed, looking at planned measures, potential incidents and the reactions of competent institutions.

Chapter two is mixed in nature, combining organisational methodological aspects with empirical research. The first part presents the concrete implementation of security measures at public events in football stadiums in Germany. The main normative document, the National Concept for Sport and Safety (NCSS), is analysed, with a detailed discussion of the recommendations for preventive and repressive measures, their legal regulation, frequent violations at stadiums and a historical overview of the measures taken over the last three decades. The second part includes an empirical study based on four components: a systematic literature review, expert interviews, a quantitative survey and case studies. The process of questionnaire design, sample formation, and analysis of the results is detailed, highlighting key challenges and best practices in the management of public-private partnerships for sport event security.

The third chapter synthesises the results of the previous sections, identifying best practices and formulating recommendations for improving security at sporting events. The author argues for the need for a holistic, integrated approach that combines traditional and innovative security methods. The advantages and limitations of different methodologies are outlined, emphasizing the importance of coordination between institutions and the private sector.

The bibliographic reference includes 351 sources, and correct citation and use of others' opinions is demonstrated. A check using [Strikeplagiarism.com](https://www.strikeplagiarism.com) confirms the originality of the dissertation: the similarity index when considering 5 consecutive words (CS1) is 0.37%, when considering 25 consecutive words (CS2) is 0%, and in cited texts is 4.72%.

The conclusion summarizes the main results of the study, highlighting the importance of the development for the scientific and practical sphere.

III. Scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation.

The dissertation contains scientific and applied contributions that build on the theoretical and empirical research in the management and provision of effective security activities in the conduct of mass sporting events. They are correctly defined by the PhD student in the abstract and correspond to the achieved results:

First. The thesis empirically documents the failures of the security framework during Euro 2024, and includes them in the history of stadium security. It provides a unique, wide-ranging analysis by including statistics on 2,340 criminal incidents, including 700 cases of physical violence and 140 cases of assault on police officers. The study highlights the standardised failures of security protocols, such as the jurisdictional confusion in Munich, where 50 unauthorised drones were detected but only 14 cases resulted in prosecution. It further examines the breakdowns in communication between law enforcement and private security, highlighting operational gaps revealed by emerging threats such as drone activity. On this basis, the dissertation presents a framework for integrating emerging security technologies with compliance. The framework standardizes security surveillance by ensuring interoperability between private and public security forces. Empirical validation through EURO 2024 data shows that structured technology integration improves coordination. A large quantitative study further corroborates the findings by identifying gaps in inter-agency communication, perception of role-dependent risk, and challenges to collaboration. The survey quantified areas for improvement, with 32.18% of experienced officers recommending frequent exercises and 25.29% emphasizing better technology implementation.

Second. The study highlights how ill-defined boundaries of authority between public and private security actors lead to delayed or uncoordinated responses. This analysis is supported by the study of 115,000 police arrangements during Euro 2024, which shows a jurisdictional confusion between private security contractors operating in stadiums and police forces responsible for surrounding areas. Furthermore, this research contribution covers exemplary information on how emerging threats reveal gaps in existing security frameworks

Third. The dissertation makes a methodological contribution through a well-established mixed-methods security analysis framework applicable to other large-scale events. This framework integrates a systematic literature review, structured interviews, quantitative studies, and comparisons of historical case studies. The literature review, based on Paré & Kitsiou's framework, identified gaps in research on security policies, crisis response frameworks, and public-private coordination. The interviews document communication barriers and regulatory blind spots, and include managing directors, security officers, Bundesliga security managers, and IT operations managers. Structured interviews with seven security professionals, each with

at least one year's experience in stadium operations, provide context for understanding the operational reality behind the statistics gathered through the survey. The survey component, which included 361 respondents holding various security positions, provides statistical validation. The comparative case studies - Hillsborough (1989), Hazel (1985), Paris Bombings (2015) and STP 2024 - allow for the identification of patterns in security failures and response strategies. The mixed methods approach effectively corroborated the findings, revealing differences in satisfaction with communication between agencies, with 50% of positive ratings from law enforcement compared to 34% from private security.

Fourth. This dissertation develops an evidence-based framework for integrating public and private security at major sporting events. Empirical validation shows that venues with standardized security cooperation experienced fewer incidents. Comparative analysis of venues following the National Sport and Safety Concept (NSSC) versus those with venue-specific protocols highlights the structural factors influencing security outcomes. The study maps the command structures in Cologne, examining the interaction between the five coordination centres and the flow of security information between 580 international police forces and 22,000 security officers.

The PhD student has realized 6 scientific publications (articles) for popularization of the obtained results, one of them is co-authored.

IV. Critical notes, questions and recommendations on the thesis.

I have no questions about the defense.

In the future, the author may expand his research to include a more detailed analysis of the role of digitalization and artificial intelligence in the management of public sporting events, with particular attention to the relationship between these technologies and administration. The implementation of advanced technologies, such as smart cameras and data analytics systems, requires the active involvement of public bodies and regulators to ensure the proper integration and ethics of these technologies in event management.

V. Summary conclusion and opinion.

Considering the completed nature of the presented work, taking into account its merits and positive aspects, I believe that the PhD student possesses theoretical knowledge and skills for practical application of appropriate tools for analysis and has demonstrated to a high degree the ability to argue for their own views and to perform a critical analysis of theory and practice.

This justifies me to give **a positive assessment of** the dissertation and I propose to the members of the Scientific Jury **to award** the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in the doctoral programme Organization and Management outside the Sphere of Material Production (Public administration) to Raphael Röttinger.

Date: 4.04.2025

Reviewer:

(Assoc. Prof. M. Chipriyanov, PhD)