

Opinion

by Prof. Kristian Stoyanov Hadzhiev, PhD, NBU, Department of Administration and Management, professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management", scientific specialty 05.02.20 "Social Management"

Subject: Dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, in Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management, in the Scientific Specialty "Organization and Management Outside the Sphere of Material Production (Public Administration)".

Grounds for presenting the opinion: participation as a member of the scientific jury for the defense of the dissertation in accordance with Order No. 259/20.03.2025 of the Rector of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov.

Author of the dissertation: Raphael Roettinger - PhD student in the doctoral program "Organization and Management outside the Sphere of Material Production" (Public Administration)

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

Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Evelina Parashkevova-Velikova, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Hristo Sirashki, PhD

The opinion has been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulation on the Development of the Academic Staff of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov.

1. General characteristics of the submitted dissertation

The peer-reviewed dissertation consists of 337 pages and includes four chapters, an introduction, a conclusion, a bibliography and 2 appendices. The main text is 282 pages and contains 5 tables and 11 figures. There are 17 pages of appendices related to the research in the dissertation, where the methodological tools used are presented, namely the structured interview questionnaire and the questionnaire for the analysis of security management practices at public sporting events. 321 literature sources are included to support the presentation.

This dissertation addresses a highly **topical and understudied issue** related *to the dynamics of public-private security* in sporting events. *The subject of the study* is the

operational decisions of security managers regarding resource allocation, threat response and interagency coordination during actual security incidents. **The main objective** of the study is to determine **optimal frameworks for public-private security cooperation** through analysis of Euro 2024 operations at 10 German stadiums. **The main research thesis** is that stadium security is highly dependent on the institutional mechanisms that govern public-private cooperation. The dissertation **systematically analyses four key hypotheses** by adequately applying a hybrid research approach based on four different qualitative and quantitative strategies. In this way, the research generates knowledge on strategic alignment, emerging threats, regulatory oversight and the integration of historical lessons.

The research methodology is fully in line with the main aim and the formulated research objectives. There is a clear decomposition of the methodological tools along the lines of the research tasks, which ensures the achievement of the main research objective. An adapted toolkit has been developed for the research objectives.

I fully accept this approach to developing the research methodology. It is well argued and logical. On the one hand, it clearly shows the relationship and the logical line of the dissertation in terms of "objectives-methods-outcomes", and on the other hand, it guarantees the precision of the research and the relevance of the results obtained.

In this context, the thesis propositions, ideas and suggestions have a practical and applied character.

The dissertation is **balanced**, the issues discussed are presented in their logical sequence and interrelation, the style of presentation is scientific, the technical layout is excellent.

The aim and objectives are coherent and coherent and fully correspond to the topic of the thesis. The main scientific problem has been correctly formulated and its limits have been precisely defined. The research tasks, the object, the subject and the main thesis of the research are clearly and specifically stated. A methodology has been developed which is quite sufficient to achieve the research objectives. The concepts and terms used in the dissertation are specified.

The literature used is as close as possible to the topic of the dissertation and gives a sufficiently complete picture of the state of the research problem. The literature sources are arranged according to the requirements of accepted standards.

The doctoral student analyzed and systematized a significant amount of literature sources on the topic, which are cited correctly in the text. His own critical interpretation of the theses presented in them is made.

The text is well illustrated with tables and figures that contribute significantly to its understanding. The results of the research are presented in a clear, logical and comprehensible manner.

From what has been said so far, I conclude that the doctoral student's marginal clarity on the above issues is one of the prerequisites for the high quality of the entire dissertation.

2. Evaluation of the obtained scientific and applied results

In accordance with the formulated aim and the detailed tasks, the structure of the dissertation is built.

The introduction of the dissertation contains all the necessary "requisites": a convincing justification of the problem and its significance; clear and precise formulations of the aim and research objectives; the object and subject of the research; the research thesis and hypotheses; justification of the choice of research approaches and methods. The contingencies under which the research itself was conducted are identified.

In chapter one, based on a critical theoretical analysis and literature review, the PhD student clarifies the fundamental conceptual dimensions, areas of application and relations related to security management. Security management strategies are analysed. The focus is on

the ***structured cooperation*** between public and private actors in the field of security, identifying three main levels: 1. Informal cooperation and ad hoc interactions; 2. Coordination - formalized but independent operational structures; 3. Cooperation - fully integrated security frameworks. On this basis, the main challenges that destabilize security partnerships are summarized and analyzed, and specific recommendations are formulated to overcome role conflicts and communication barriers. The conclusion that emerges is that ***clear regulatory frameworks and mechanisms for operational integration in public-private security partnerships are needed***.

Chapter one of the dissertation sets the foundation for the author's research on the topic by analyzing security management methodologies that are grounded in criminology, risk analysis, and management science (including effective routine management, rational choice theory, and social control).

From the ***first chapter***, the degree of elaboration of the research problem becomes clear and the theoretical basis is formed, on the basis of which the PhD student derives the main research thesis. The conclusions reached by the doctoral student are sound, supported by solid argumentation. The research in chapter one is very thorough and provides the necessary foundation for the development of the empirical research methodology.

In ***chapter two***, the PhD student presents and argues the ***strategic dimensions of security in the public sector, focusing on the concept of national security and sport in Germany***. In contrast to other European models, which mainly adopt repressive measures, German policy combines the implementation of security measures with social and pedagogical intervention through mandatory projects for fans. The specificities of the legal frameworks that regulate stadium security are analysed, distinguishing between preventive and repressive measures in the German federal system. Hazard prevention law allows for short-term protective measures, while preventive punitive protection combines deterrence with enforcement. The evolution of the National Concept of Sport and Safety is explored through the lens of new surveillance technologies and data collection protocols that require particular scrutiny, as legal frameworks must define acceptable limits on privacy in the service of security objectives. Innovations central to the reform include advanced network dialogue protocols, standardised qualification requirements through QuaSOD e-learning certification, and improved coordination mechanisms between security stakeholders. Key factors impacting stadium security have been identified: structural design and infrastructure that determine crowd control and evacuation; public-private security coordination that provides risk mitigation through collaboration; behavioral risk factors, as football culture tolerates deviant behavior and historical ties to subcultures reinforce territoriality; crowd management and conflict prevention that address risks such as overcrowding and malicious intrusion.

In ***chapter three of*** the dissertation, based on empirical research, the PhD student analyses the practices of providing security at public sporting events. In constructing the methodology, the PhD student draws on known approaches that include a set of tools, models and techniques in relation to specific goals and objectives. At the core of the methodology is the integration of qualitative and quantitative research techniques: a systematic literature review, expert interviews, a quantitative survey and four case studies. ***The conclusion*** that emerges is that the instrumentation used is adequate to elicit the detailed data required to achieve the aim and objectives of the thesis.

An immediate outcome of the research is that modern models for managing security at public sporting events require: standard equipment and training rules; better communication systems; clear public and private sector security roles; careful use of technology; updated qualification rules; and equitable cost allocation.

Chapter 4, based on a detailed case study analysis of security crises, develops ***an adapted conceptual framework for public-private collaboration*** that integrates and optimises the operation of internal and external factors in risk management in the context of football

events, in a dynamic security environment. The information processing performed clearly shows the existence of an own contribution in the collection and analysis of empirical data.

The conclusion that is required is that the PhD student shows not only skills in research of objects, problem situations, relevant positions, justification and systematization of classifications, but also clear highlighting and **reasoned scientific defense of** their theses. The immediate research findings are interpreted on the basis of detailed qualitative argumentation and justification through the lens of public management.

In the conclusion, the author analyzes and proposes adequate solutions to the problems studied, systematizing and summarizing the recommendations for social and organizational practice. The limitations of the study and the main contributions are presented. Directions for future research are outlined.

Result of the dissertation research: confirmation of the formulated **main** research thesis.

3. Description of scientific and applied contributions

The dissertation contains a number of statements, ideas and proposals that can be evaluated as contributions of a **scientific and applied nature** in the context of the analysis and synthesis of existing scientific knowledge in the field, on the criterion of enrichment of existing scientific knowledge. I fully accept the PhD student's claims to the **four contributions** outlined. The list of contributions has been drawn up correctly and reflects objectively the scientific results achieved by the doctoral candidate. The contributions in the dissertation show that the doctoral candidate possesses a thorough knowledge of the scientific field under investigation and is capable of conducting independent scientific research and interpreting its results logically.

4. Impact of the thesis on the external environment

In support of his research and as an expression of the publicity of his ideas, the PhD student presents a list of **six publications**, one of which is **co-authored**. They are published in reputable specialized scientific journals, which testifies that the immediate results of the dissertation research are accessible to a professional audience. They all reflect specific aspects of the PhD student's research work and provide the necessary publicity

It can be concluded that the publications are sufficient both in terms of quantity and quality. In practice, they exceed the minimum national requirements.

5. Evaluation of the abstract

The presented abstract in Bulgarian is 49 pages and in English - 40 pages. It reflects correctly the content of the dissertation. It presents in a synthesized form the main points of the dissertation: general characteristics; structure and content of the four chapters, the thesis, the object and methodology of the scientific research, as well as the theoretical-methodological and empirical results achieved; scientific contributions; publications on the issues of the dissertation, declaration of originality and as such meets the requirements.

6. Critical comments, recommendations and questions

I have no critical comments on the presentation of the ideas, propositions and immediate results in the thesis. I recommend the PhD student to publish it as a book

7. Conclusion

The presented dissertation demonstrates that the author possesses in-depth knowledge of the issues he is researching - he knows and analyses the literature on the topic, can formulate

research problems, systematize classical and new theories and concepts, construct research apparatus, conduct empirical research and justify proposals for improvement of existing practice. The topic of the dissertation is topical and significant in scientific and practical-applied aspects. The dissertation is a fully completed scientific and practical-applied research, which meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the internal normative basis of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics. In his/her research the PhD student shows that he/she possesses the ability to conduct *independent scientific research and obtain specific scientific and applied results and contributions*.

All this gives me the reason to give a **positive assessment of the dissertation** and to propose to the distinguished members of the scientific jury to take a decision **to award** the educational and scientific degree of Doctor to Rafael Roettinger **in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management outside the Sphere of Material Production (Public Administration)" in the professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management"**.

Sofia,
31, March 2025.

Signature:

/Prof. Kristian Hadzhiev, PhD/