

OPINION

by Prof. Galina Georgieva Kurteva, PhD
Professor of the academic specialty "Social Management" in the professional field 3.7.
Administration and Management, at Burgas Free University

Regarding:

The dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the doctoral program "Organization and Management Outside the Material Production Sphere (Public Administration)" at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov.

Basis for issuing this opinion:

Participation in the scientific jury for the dissertation defense pursuant to Order № 259/20.03.2025 of the Rector of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov and the decision of the first jury meeting held on 28.03.2025.

Author of the dissertation:

Raphael Röttinger

Title of the dissertation:

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

Scientific supervisors:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Evelina Parashkevova-Velikova,
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Sirashki

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

I. General presentation of the dissertation:

The total volume of the dissertation submitted for review is 337 pages and includes four chapters, an introduction, a conclusion, and a bibliography. There are also two appendices containing the questionnaires used by the doctoral candidate during the scientific study. The main text is supported by 11 figures and 5 tables. The volume is more than satisfactory, and the content is logically coherent and well balanced across chapters and paragraphs.

The subject of the research is the real-life interactions between public authorities and private contractors during operations conducted during EURO 2024. The dissertation has a clearly defined goal, subject, and scope of the research, and the tasks necessary to achieve the goal are correctly formulated. Doctoral candidate Raphael Röttinger has appropriately defined the main thesis and its limiting conditions for validation.

The dissertation is based on the study, analysis, and systematization of numerous scientific publications, literary and informational sources, and normative documents in the relevant field. The presented list includes a total of 321 sources (in English and German), reflecting the author's strong familiarity with the research topic. The sources are relevant to the studied issue, appropriately used, and correctly cited. The doctoral candidate deserves high praise for his ability to critically assess and selectively incorporate external perspectives and concepts when constructing his own arguments to support the thesis.

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

The dissertation addresses a highly relevant issue in the context of modern security management. The focus is on stadium security. The research highlights challenges such as poor coordination and ineffective communication between private security services and public authorities, inadequate training of security personnel, and various legal ambiguities. Thus, according to the candidate, balancing the interaction between state authorities and private security services during football events represents one of the critical challenges for public administration in Germany.

The relevance of the research aligns with broader changes in the way public institutions exercise their powers and oversight responsibilities in response to new and sometimes unpredictable events associated with stadium events. The transformation is most evident, according to the candidate, in how state authorities coordinate and control the many stakeholders in the security field—from private security firms to stadium operators and sports associations.

In this context, Raphael Röttinger aims to define optimal frameworks for public-private cooperation in the field of stadium security by analyzing operations conducted at 10 German stadiums during EURO 2024. His main thesis argues that stadium security succeeds or fails depending on the institutional mechanisms regulating public-private cooperation.

The methodology used by the candidate (systematic literature review, qualitative expert interviews, quantitative research, and four case studies) allows him to successfully argue his scientific thesis.

III. Scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation:

The core results of the scientific research are presented across the chapters as follows:

- **Chapter One** is conceptual. It presents the areas of application of security management, discusses specific strategies and methods for public-private security cooperation, and categorizes threats requiring assessment and analysis of societal impact.
- **Chapter Two** focuses on the practical and applied aspects of security management, particularly on the unique framework and strategies used in German football stadiums. The development, core principles, and significance of the National Concept for Sport and Security are discussed, including preventive and repressive measures. Responsibilities of security personnel and changes in safety standards post-2012 reforms are also covered.
- **Chapter Three** presents empirical research on public sports event security practices. Key factors determining effective stadium security management are outlined: strategic stakeholder alignment, adaptability to emerging threats, cooperative partnerships, and

optimal resource allocation. The dynamics of public-private cooperation are analyzed, along with needs for standard equipment, improved communication systems, clear sectoral roles, cautious tech use, updated qualification standards, and fair cost distribution.

- **Chapter Four** provides a critical analysis of specific case studies, where the candidate presents his opinion on optimizing security management concepts. He emphasizes the importance of effective collaboration and communication between public authorities and private contractors, and outlines the main factors on which this depends.

The summary assessment is that Raphael Röttinger's research results align with the tasks defined in the dissertation introduction, thus confirming the successful and thorough realization of the project's main goal.

The **author's abstract** is 40 pages long, well-structured, and corresponds accurately with the main dissertation. It includes a list of publications (6 non-peer-reviewed articles, exceeding the required minimum), all directly related to the dissertation and demonstrating the candidate's ability to disseminate his ideas publicly. The abstract also includes a list of contributions, properly structured and objectively reflecting the research outcomes.

IV. Questions and critical remarks:

I have no critical remarks or questions regarding the ideas and statements presented in the dissertation.

V. Summary assessment and conclusion:

The dissertation meets the established scientific research criteria. It presents an independent study based on an in-depth examination of a specific problem and offers a justified new solution. Several of its ideas and proposals qualify as both theoretical and practical contributions. The author has disseminated his ideas and research results through appropriate publications.

All this provides me with a solid basis to give a **positive assessment** of the submitted dissertation and to recommend that the scientific jury **award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"** in the academic specialty "Organization and Management Outside the Material Production Sphere (Public Administration)" in professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management" to Raphael Röttinger.

Date: 02.04.2025

Opinion prepared by:

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