



D. A. TSENOV ACADEMY OF ECONOMICS - SVISHTOV

Opinion

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. PhD Plamen Ivanov Petkov, Department of "Statistics and Applied Mathematics", Faculty of "Business Accounting", D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, habilitated in scientific field 3.8 Economics in the scientific specialty "Statistics and Demography".

Author of the thesis: Raphael Röttinger

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

The basis for writing this review: Order No. 259/20.03.2025 of the Rector of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the Application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff at D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, and the decision of the first meeting of the scientific jury held on 28.03.2025.

I. General presentation of the thesis

The presented dissertation on "SECURITY MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SPORT EVENTS: A CASE STUDY ON FOOTBALL STADIUMS IN GERMANY" by Raphael Röttinger is 341 pages long, including 283 pages of plain text, two pages with a list of figures and tables used, three pages of abbreviations and acronyms, and two pages of the thesis abstract, 27 pages of bibliographical references, 17 pages of appendices presenting the questions included in the interview conducted among the respondents and the questions in the survey as a quantitative study and a declaration of originality. 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, four parts, a conclusion, a list of references used, appendices, and a declaration of originality.

A total of 351 references are included in the bibliography. Correct use of others' opinions and comments is demonstrated. Five tables and 11 figures are included in the main text.

II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

1. *Relevance of the study and formulated object, aim and objectives*

The topicality of the researched issue is undeniable and is related to the importance of security management at stadiums when hosting football matches in Germany with a focus on Germany's hosting of the European Football Championship held in 2024. Based on a strong review of the scientific literature, the degree of elaboration of the research problem is diagnosed and on this basis the **research thesis** is defined, according to which the success of stadium security is determined by complex factors related to the selection of appropriate strategies, transparent accountability and adaptive coordination between stakeholders. To achieve success, it is necessary to combine integrated and flexible approaches, which in turn are associated with the implementation of adequate actions aimed at resolving issues related to overlapping jurisdictions, evolving threats, and large-scale gatherings.

The object of the study is the cooperation of the public and private sectors in Germany regarding the provision of security at football matches, with a focus on security at stadiums hosting matches of the European Championship in 2024. The institutional and governance mechanisms that shape public-private cooperation in the implementation of stadium security are covered. **The main objective** is to explore the cooperation between public authorities and private security organisations in dealing with complex and unpredictable security challenges, in particular in the context of large-scale events such as the 2024 European Football Championship, while exploring the areas and main issues in ensuring and protecting public safety. Traditional security concerns during football matches include those related to the risks of climate protests, hooliganism and terrorist threats, as well as those arising from geopolitical instability such as the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, for example. In addition, other security challenges can be pointed to that are directly related to the availability of advanced technologies for the use and control of drones, as well as the potential possibility of a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to concretize the goal, **5 research tasks** of theoretical-methodological and practical-applied nature were set. The tasks with theoretical and methodological orientation are related to the review of the existing literature, designed to identify weaknesses in public-private interactions in ensuring stadium safety and the analysis of the main regulatory documents in the field of public protection of sporting events. The practical-applied tasks relate to: conducting empirical research using interviews and surveys to clarify the challenges and opportunities that underpin public-private relationships in sport event security: studying case studies of past large-scale events, in particular the 2024 European Football Championship, to identify best practices in the management of public-private interactions; and proposing recommendations to optimise the organisation and management of safety processes,

2. Volume of development, style and correctness of the tools used

The work is of a volume significantly exceeding the generally accepted standards, has a clear structure and follows the logic of a complex scientific study. There is a relative balance in the volume of the individual parts as the emphasis is directed to the empirical part. The presentation is presented in a logical sequence, which is used to develop the research ideas, prove the author's hypotheses and achieve the relevant contributions. A significant number of literature sources have been studied and have been appropriately systematized by the author. This demonstrates, on the one hand, a thorough knowledge of contemporary scientific developments in the field of security management approaches to mass sporting events, and on the other hand, it is a means of presenting one's own views on the issues under study. Foreign opinions are cited in good faith and correctly and technically meet the generally accepted

requirements. The diagrams, tables, graphical representations and appendices used are drawn up according to the rules of statistical theory.

In terms of style, the information is presented correctly, in the necessary depth and corresponds to a complete scientific work. To verify the defined research thesis, aim and objectives, a combined approach was used, which relied on both secondary analysis of information from similar empirical studies conducted on the topic, as well as the collection and analysis of primary information using qualitative expert interviews, quantitative research using a survey and case studies. The main details of the questionnaire design, the determination of the required sample size, the selection of the sampling units and the results obtained are presented in detail, allowing to identify specific challenges and best practices in the management of public-private initiatives with regard to the organization of safety at sport events. In conducting the empirical study, all formal requirements were met and the results obtained were adequately described and interpreted. All this allows the dissertation to correctly fulfill the set thesis, aim and specific research objectives.

3. Abstract, publications on the topic and compliance with the rules of scientific ethics

The abstract is 40 pages long and accurately reflects the dissertation work, giving a complete picture of the research conducted. It is written in a concise and well-crafted style, demonstrating the doctoral student's skill in presenting the main stages and results of the research in a synthesized, balanced and compact manner. There are six articles appended to the dissertation, one of which is co-authored. Two of them are in German and the rest in English, two of them have been published in Bulgarian journals. The publications are directly related to the topic, subject, object and main thesis of the dissertation, reflecting to a significant extent the main ideas presented in the dissertation. They exceed the minimum scientific requirements for a dissertation in scientific field 3 "Social, economic and legal sciences". No violations of the usual rules of scientific ethics have been reported. All literature sources are cited correctly in the exposition and included in the bibliographic reference.

III. Scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation work

A topical problem has been studied, the solution of which needs an objective analysis using a multidisciplinary approach, part of which relies on correctly applied and used statistical methods for collecting, analyzing and interpreting results from specifically conducted empirical studies such as in-depth interviews and statistical surveys. The development has a clear structure and follows the logic of a complex scientific study. The literature sources cited, the balance between English and German authors' publications and the good structuring of the literature review show a thorough knowledge of the current research on the topic. The diagrams and tables used are in sufficient quantity and adequately illustrate the exposition and important conclusions. The formulated conclusions at the end of each chapter reinforce the impression of a clear thought and plan to carry out the research. The display of the questionnaires and surveys used in the empirical studies in the appendices facilitates the perception of the exposition and the results of the analysis.

The expression of the author's opinion is clear and measured, without falling into unnecessary criticism. A scientific style is used in the exposition and a very good linguistic culture is shown. The dissertation contains scientific and applied contributions that build on 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. Their number is reduced to four as three of them are the result of the conducted empirical analysis, and the last one has a methodological character. Of a practical-applied nature are the contributions related to: the conclusion that the lack of clearly defined boundaries of authority between public and private security actors leads to delayed or uncoordinated responses; the proposed framework for integrating emerging security technologies with legal compliance, while respecting interoperability between private and public security authorities; the empirical confirmation that venues with standardised security cooperation The methodological contribution relates to the proposal to use mixed methods in the study of security measures applicable to both sporting and other large-scale events. This approach proposes to combine heterogeneous approaches such as systematic literature reviews, structured interviews, quantitative studies and comparisons of historical case studies

IV. Dissertation questions

I have a question for the dissertator. The dissertation has carried out an empirical analysis of the main types of problems encountered in the organisation of stadium security in Germany when hosting Euro 2024. Out of a total of 2340 criminal incidents, 700 cases of physical violence and 140 cases of assault against police officers as well as the use of 50 unauthorized drones were recorded. In terms of other types of incident, there is no analysis, and in this regard, I would ask if the doctoral candidate has any information on how many of these cases are of a terrorist, ethnic, religious or racial nature? If so, what is their relative proportion?

V. Summary conclusion and opinion

Considering the complete nature of the presented work, taking into account its merits and positive aspects, I believe that the PhD student has the theoretical knowledge and skills for practical application of appropriate tools for the analysis and has demonstrated to the necessary extent the ability to argue for their own views and to perform a critical analysis of theory and practice. This gives me grounds for a **positive assessment of** the dissertation and I propose that 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: 31.03.2025.

Reviewer:

(Assoc. Prof. P. Petkov)