

OPINION

by **prof.Boris Vladimirov Velchev, D.Sc., Sofia University**

On dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree
"PhD"

in: Field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences;

Professional direction 3.6 law

Doctoral Program - Criminal Law

Author: Krasimira Ipokratova Ipokratova

Topic: "Criminal Law Regime of the Juveniles"

Supervisor : Ass.Professor. Ph.D Tervel Georgiev, Plovdiv University

1. General presentation of the procedure and the PhD candidate

By Order No. RD 21-1972 of 13.11.1923 of the Rector of Plovdiv University I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the dissertation defense of Krasimira Ipokratova on the topic "Criminal Law Regime of Juveniles" in the doctoral program "Criminal Law".

The documents submitted by the PhD student meet the requirements of Art. 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University and include:

1. Application in the form to the Rector Plovdiv University for opening the procedure

2. CV

3. Minutes of preliminary discussion in the department

4. Author summary in Bulgarian and English

5. Declaration of originality and reliability

6. Reference for fulfilment of the minimum national requirements

7. List of publications

8. Dissertation

9. Copy of three published articles;

Krasimira Ipokratova graduated in law from New Bulgarian University. She worked in the tax administration system. She is currently an investigative magistrate at the Sofia City Prosecutor's Office. She was also a prosecutor at the Shumen Regional Prosecutor's Office.

2. Relevance of the topic

The chosen topic is undoubtedly among the most topical in criminal law. In recent years it has been underestimated and has not been the subject of significant scientific interest. The lack of such interest has not led to any particular legislative changes in the juvenile criminal regime. Therefore, the future publication of the dissertation will help to revive interest in this particularly important topic.

3. Knowledge of the problem

The PhD candidate is related to the criminal justice system. This has not only predetermined her interest in the topic, but has also allowed the topic to be approached from the position of person with some practical experience. I can summarize that the PhD student is well versed in both case law and the available theoretical publications on the subject.

4. Research methodology

The research methodology is most accurately designed in the chosen structure of the dissertation. It is logical, correctly starting with the historical development of

the relevant institutes and even with elements of customary law. This approach is to be welcomed despite some factual inaccuracies. An assessment of the current regime follows, after which the PhD student rightly examines the Law for Combating Antisocial Behavior of Minors and Juveniles and seeks comparisons with the criminal law regime. The rest of the dissertation is devoted to an analysis of international and EU law, as well as a chapter on restorative justice. The research methodology would benefit from a comparative law analysis. Moreover, the way in which the individual components of scientific work are arranged could be criticised. The substantive part dedicated to the actual criminal law regime of the juveniles is somehow "lost" in the dissertation. I would recommend that the PhD candidate consider some restructuring before the thesis is published. In general, even in the other chapters, general themes predominate, with no clear emphasis on the juvenile regime.

5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions

The current dissertation is a serious attempt to be revised the juvenile criminal justice regime. The scientific work would benefit from being completed with a comparative legal analysis, to search original foreign solutions regarding the types of penalties imposed on juveniles. The same applies to the particularities of serving sentences of juveniles. As I have already pointed out, before the publication of the dissertation work I recommend its revision, in which the matter of the criminal regime of juveniles is singled out and not lost in the multitude of excellent in their nature, but only indirectly related analyses. The mainly descriptive approach, particularly unsuccessfully expressed in the part on the types of penalties provided for juveniles, should be replaced by an analytical approach and possible new solutions should be proposed.

Otherwise, I agree with the contributory nature of the work on the proposals for the application of restorative justice and mediation to juveniles. They should be better defended, but on the other hand they are original .

6. Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the PhD candidate

The PhD student presents three articles that are related to the topic of the dissertation and fulfill the minimum requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

All three articles are original work of the PhD candidate.

The first one is dedicated to the topic of restorative justice applicable to juveniles through the prism of the Council of Europe instruments.

The second article is also of particular interest to legal historians, as it is the first historical overview of this nature of the history of the juvenile regime from the Middle Ages to the present day, and it is done with great good faith.

The third article continues the interest of the PhD student in the significance of the Council of Europe Acts for the legal status of juveniles.

7. Author summary

The author summary is prepared according to the requirements. It well presents the content of the dissertation work and the scientific conclusions and other contributions.

8. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results

As I already mentioned, the main value of the dissertation work is in the restoration of the interest of the juvenile criminal justice regime. The analysis of international law, EU law and Council of Europe acts would assist in the creation of a new such regime. The idea of applying elements of restorative justice to juveniles would be useful in thinking about the future juvenile regime in the Criminal Code.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation work of my colleague Ipokratova contains certain scientific results that represent a contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the internal regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

The dissertation demonstrates an ability for independent scientific thinking and with a little refinement could publish a scientific work that is convincing in its contributions.

Therefore, I give my positive evaluation to the dissertation work of Krasimira Ipokratova on the topic "Criminal Law Regime of Juveniles" and propose to the honorable scientific jury to award her the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional direction 3.6 Law, doctoral programme - "Criminal Law".

Issued the opinion:.....

Prof. Boris Velchev, D.Sc.