

REVIEW

by prof. Nadezhda Getsova Yonkova PhD –

Institute for State and Law at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences '

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition

for occupying the academic position of "**Professor**"

at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

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

professional field **3.6. Law,**

Scientific specialty: **Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure**

In the competition for "Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 98 of 19.11.2024 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", Assoc. Prof. Bogdan Dragnev Yordanov, PhD

1. General presentation of the materials received

By Order No. PD – 22 - 70 of 17.01.2025 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "**Professor**" **at the University of Plovdiv** in the field of higher education **3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences**, professional field **3.6. Law** (Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure).

For participation in the announced competition, **a single candidate has submitted documents:**

Ass. Dr. Bogdan Dragnev Yordanov from the Faculty of Law of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski",

The set of paper materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Dragnev Yordanov **is** in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv and includes the following documents:

- a letter of sample to the rector for admission to participate in the competition;
- CV in European format;
- Diploma for Higher Education with acquired educational and qualification degree "Master" with an appendix (copy);

- Diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (copy);
- diploma (certificate) for the academic position of "Associate Professor" (copy);
- a list of scientific papers;
- scientific papers (copies of publications);
- a reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements;
- a declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- annotations of the materials under Art. 76. of PRASPU (in Bulgarian and English);
- self-assessment of contributions in Bulgarian and English/;
- list of citations;
- document (certificate) for work experience;
- documents for academic work;
- A set of paper documents
- a set of documents on electronic media.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Yordanov has applied a total of 5 scientific papers: two monographs and three articles.

2. Brief biographical details of the candidate

Bogdan Yordanov is an Associate Professor and Doctor of Administrative Law and Procedure. Lecturer at the Faculty of Law of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". He also teaches at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Sofia. Burgas.

Ass. Dr. B. Yordanov is one of the participants in the preparation of the current Administrative Procedure Code.

He is a member of the Burgas Bar Association.

He is the author of numerous monographs and articles in the field of administrative law and procedure, civil service, local self-government and municipal property, territorial and urban planning and regional development.

He is a consultant of international programs in public administration, he was an expert at the National Association of Municipalities and a legal adviser on local self-government issues of municipalities in the Burgas region.

3. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Evaluation of educational and pedagogical activity and preparation of the candidate

It is evident from the submitted certificate that the candidate Associate Professor Dr. Bogdan Yordanov has nearly 30 years of teaching experience, of which nearly 14 years as a habilitated person – Associate Professor, and he has had the scientific and educational degree of Doctor of Law for 23 years.

From the official note presented in the set of documents, it is evident that Assoc. Dr. Yordanov has given lectures at the Faculty of Law of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in the following compulsory and elective subjects: "Administrative Law - General Part", "Legal Regime of the Civil Service", "Municipal Law" and "Territorial Development and Planning".

Evaluation of the scientific and applied activities of the candidate

The main monographic work presented in this procedure is "**Regional Development**".

The work contains 206 pages, including the literature used. dedicated to the current administrative, legal and economic aspects of the regional development of the Republic of Bulgaria. The monograph in question is a comprehensive scientific work that examines the essence of the concept of regional development, the structure of regional planning, regional development management, strategic planning documents and the resource provision of regional development. The positive aspects of the modern legislative framework are analyzed, its gaps and ambiguities are reflected and proposals for its improvement are made, the current problems related to the regional development framework are outlined and options for overcoming social and economic inequalities are proposed, which is also a strategic priority in the EU regional development policy.

Structurally, the exposition includes an introduction, five chapters and a conclusion:

- Chapter One – Regional Development – Essence;
- Chapter Two – Structure of Regional Development;
- Chapter Greta – Regional Development Management, Competent Authorities and Strategic Planning Documents;
- Chapter Four – Resource Provision of Regional Development;
- Chapter Five – Comments and recommendations on the current legislative framework.

For the purposes of *scientometrics*, the candidate also submits a second monograph published on the basis of a dissertation "**Management of Municipal Properties**", which is not subject to peer review.

The applicant shall also submit the following articles:

- **"The Need for Improvement and Modernization of the Regulatory Framework on Spatial Planning and Planning"**, published in the Collection "Scientific Readings Dedicated to the 140th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Tarnovo Constitution", organized by the Law Faculty at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", 19.04.2019, Plovdiv, ISBN 978-954-28-3043-6, ed. Ciela, Norma AD, 2019, p. 123-130.

The article examines the need to improve and modernize the legal framework of spatial planning and planning in Bulgaria. The current legislation at the time of publication of the article is analyzed in detail, the main problems in the field are identified and solutions based on the experience of other countries and international standards related to spatial planning are proposed.

The scientific work identifies three main areas in which territorial planning in Bulgaria encounters problems: the planning system and its legal framework; planning practice and education and professionalism in the field of planning. The article also outlines the need for modernization of the regulatory framework, using a comparative method and borrowing the experience of other countries. The European concept of spatial development and the experience of the countries of the Baltic Sea region, as well as the practice of spatial planning in the United States of America, are also considered and analyzed.

- **"The Regional Governor. Historical traditions. Status and Organization of Activity"** in STUDIA IURIS ISSN 2367-5314 (electronic edition of the Law Faculty at the University of Plovdiv), issue 2 December 2016.

The article examines the figure of the Regional Governor in Bulgaria, focusing on the historical traditions, status and organization of his activities. In general, the scientific work reviews the legal framework, analyzes the main functions and powers of the Regional Governor and offers recommendations for improving the legislation. *"to develop the process of decentralization and to provide more independent powers and responsibilities to the regional governor so that he can effectively fulfill the tasks and goals set out in the Constitution."*

- **"Legal Problems in Challenging the Decisions of the Municipal Election Commission for Early Termination of the Powers of Mayors"** In: Collection "Law — Art for the Good and the Just" ed. PU 2013 pp.51 — 57, ISBN 978-954-423-874-2

The article discusses the legal problems related to challenging the decisions of the Municipal Election Commission (DEC) for early termination of the powers of mayors. The amendments to the Local Self-Government and Local Administration Act (LSMA) and the long-standing case law reflected in

Interpretative Decision No. 1 of 30.03.2009 of the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) are analyzed in detail.

Legislative changes and a revision of the long-standing case law are also proposed in order to clarify and specify the legal framework regarding the appealability of refusals of DEC's for early termination of the powers of mayors as well. Emphasis is placed on the need to overcome vicious public practices and protect significant public interests.

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied) and citations

The works submitted for participation in the competition are aimed at topical and significant issues that have their place in the development of legal doctrine, as well as wide application in the practice of executive authorities and local self-government. Each of the works presented in this procedure has its place for the development of administrative legal science, and given the interdisciplinarity of the monograph Regional Development, I am convinced that it will be highly appreciated and useful for colleagues from border areas and scientific fields.

The significance of the candidate's contributions is evaluated by citing his works in those of other authors. It is evident from the presented reference that the number of citations of Bogdan Yordanov's works is 21. The works presented in this procedure are also cited, e.g. The article "The Regional Governor. Historical traditions. Status and Organization of Activity" in Studia Iuris is cited 3 times, and the cited authors are indisputable authorities in the field of administrative law. I am convinced that in relation to the monographic work "Regional Development" the citations are yet to be noticed.

4. Assessment of the personal contribution of the applicant(s)

I have no doubts about the personal contribution of the candidate in the submitted publications, as well as that the formulated scientific proposals and contributions are his personal merit.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have a few formal critical remarks and recommendations to the candidate: in his future research work, to carry out an in-depth study of the bibliography on the topics studied. For example, among the bibliography in the monograph "Regional Development" I do not find a citation of the monograph "Decentralization - a Major Factor for Increasing the Effectiveness of Management" by Maria Neykova. This, of course, is an insignificant remark, which in no way diminishes my high assessment of the candidate's works.

6. Personal impressions

My personal impressions of the candidate out of competition as a lecturer, as a researcher and as a colleague – university lecturer are that he is a conscientious scientist and an excellent lawyer who has the qualities to occupy the academic position of "professor".

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Dragnev Yordanov **meet all** the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition **has** presented **a sufficient/significant** number of scientific papers, published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD thesis and the academic position of Associate Professor. In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have been published in journals and scientific collections published by academic publishers. The teaching qualification of S&P **is undoubted**.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Yordanov in the educational and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the implementation of the RASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Law for the election of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Dragnev Yordanov** to the **academic position of Professor** at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in: Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.6. Law (Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure).

07.03. 2025 г.

Reviewer:

(signature)

Prof. Nadezhda Yonkova, PhD