

OPINION

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Appointed as an internal member of a scientific jury by Order No. RD-22-70 of 17.01.2025. of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

for a competition for the occupation of an academic position "Professor"

By the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences

Professional Department 3.6 Law - Administrative Law and Administrative Process

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

The procedure was announced at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of Faculty of Law at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Department of Public Laws. The applicant has submitted a complete set of documents in accordance with the regulatory framework. The competition documents correspond to Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the normative acts of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The assessment of the proposed materials in the competition shows that there are conditions for a candidacy for an academic position "Professor".

Applicant Bogdan Yordanov is a habilitated lecturer in administrative law and administrative process with over 30 years of experience at five Bulgarian universities and he presently holds lectures in Faculty of Law at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv the following subjects - Administrative law; Legal regime of civil service; Municipal law; Territorial planning and development.

2. Assessment of the monograph presented

The candidate has submitted a monograph "Regional Development" for an essential review. The work has the necessary minimum volume (the volume of the book is 208 pages according to the data from the report), it is published with a scientific editor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boyan T. Georgiev.

As the author himself focuses, regional development is defined as one of the test areas, generating quite often discussions between specialists from different sectors: economists, lawyers, historians, statistics. The Republic of Bulgaria is territorially divided into statistical areas, forming 3 levels in accordance with the requirements of the general classification of territorial units for statistical purposes (NUTS -Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques) applied in the European Union. The first two levels: NUTS-1 - statistical zones, and NUTS-2 -

statistical areas do not represent administrative-territorial units, while the third level NUTS-3 - areas, are administrative and territorial units and cover the territory of the 28 districts of the same name, which the country is divided administrative and territorial to. The monograph presents the first comprehensive, for our legal literature, an analysis of the norms and the administrative framework of this topic. This makes the scientific research valuable for legal science due to absence of sufficient analysis in the field, as well as interesting and challenging in terms of scientific demand. The author definitely has handled well with this innovative task.

3. Importance on the subject matter

The relevance of the monographic problem developed in a scientific attitude is predetermined by the intensive development of public relations in the communication of government, both at a two-stage and three-stage level in the countries of the European Union. Although many studies have not been carried out so far and many results have not been provided in the direction of the topic in question, the author has been able to unite them using over 50 sources - monographs, articles, normative acts, practice and more. Interest in this topic increases very sharply with the entry of Bulgaria into the EU, as European regional policy is characterized by its exceptional solidarity.

The following specific tasks have been developed in the monograph:

- It was determined the essence of concepts such as "region"; "Regional Development", "Regional Approach" and "Regionalization" so that they can be used exactly according to the context.
- It was monitored the process of formation of the individual regions and the criteria to which they should meet to be distinguished as a structural unit.
- It was made an attempt to emphasize the legislative gaps by tracking the development of the legislation over the years and the deduction of the powers and responsibilities of the competent authorities.
- It was analysed in detail the factors of regional development management - competent authorities and strategic planning documents.

The author focuses on the present problem in legal framework of regional development mainly on the lack of specific provisions to regulate a mechanism by which to guarantee full compliance and reflection of the decisions of the Higher Central Administration with the individual decisions made by the regional development tips. The creation of such a mechanism is an absolute prerequisite for the implementation of the regulations-the requirement of Art. 20 Constitution, namely "the obligation of the state to create conditions for the balanced development of the individual regions of the country and to support territorial organs and activities through financial, credit and investment policy".

4. Knowledge of the problem

Bogdan Yordanov presents two monographs and three independent publications from united forums. Much of his scientific and practical work is in the field of local self-government, regional development, centralisation and decentralisation of state and administrative governance. This can be seen both in the scientific works submitted for evaluation and in the overall bibliography of Bogdan Yordanov. As the author of several essays in the field of decentralisation, Bogdan Yordanov is convinced that one of the main objectives of regional development legislation is to achieve, through legislative intervention, full coherence, coordination and effective interaction between all entities of state administration to conduct a beneficial regional policy and achieve the desired development of the regions.

The purpose of his scientific work is to regard the regional approach as an instrument not only to solve local, regional problems, but also as an instrument for solving national, even global problems. All factors affecting the development of the territory - economic, historical, cultural and natural - are monitored.

The historical retrospection, which is monitored with research, leads to the conclusion that there are no qualitatively constructed and traditional regulations governing this problem. If a comparison is made with the previous laws governing this matter, a "legislative instability" is noted. Legislative instability is also observed in the creation and regulation of appropriate procedures and mechanisms to serve to ensure transparency and reduce the population of conflict of interest. This is an area highly dependent on EU policy. This is an area that requires a special expertise in the construction of an adequate regulatory framework. Because of this dynamicity, the laws in the field of regional development change so often, and fundamentally, with the adoption of completely new provisions and the cancellation of existing ones. Literally, for every programming period, the legislation must be fed to the activities.

The author emphasizes that there is still a problem with the absence of provisions that make the nature of the individual acts under the Regional Development Act, as well as in fact, the possibility of their appeal and the order in which it can be implemented.

5. Methodology of the test

The monograph uses two research methods - the formal-legal method in the study of matter is the leading method, and its place is found in the comparative method used in comparison with community law. The classical interpretative method such as teleological, analogical, textual and historical has been used in the study of the regulatory framework in the field under consideration.

The study is also presented in a descriptive and analytical perspective. The methodology chosen by the author is based on a collective approach that aims to examine the chosen topic of all possible angles of knowledge. There are several literary sources. This approach is also part of the contribution of the monograph, which presents a truly serious body of information in the field of regional development.

6. Assessment of the applicant's publications

Along with the basic monograph work, the candidate presents another monograph based on dissertation work, and three separate publications, presented as reports of established scientific forums. The publications meet the legal requirements by being published in referred collections and carrying the necessary points for occupying an academic position "Professor". They are related to the subject of regional development and local self -government and do not need to be analysed in detail.

These works emphasise the need to organise and stimulate local economic development by involving all sides in interests: central and local authorities, local and foreign investors and the citizens of the municipality concerned. The current tendencies to increased decentralization and the development of public units have been drawn as a central problem before the municipality the normative and scientifically justified realization of its economic policy by increasing the economic effect of its municipal property.

Conclusion

Based on the findings set out above, I give a positive assessment of the research work of the candidate Bogdan Dragnev Yordanov. I consider that it meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the normative acts of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for holding an academic post of "Professor" and I suggest the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote in this regard.

17.02.2025

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