

To

The members of the Scientific Jury established by Order No RD 22-1671 of 16 July 2025 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv 'Paisii Hilendarski' (PU) on the defence of the dissertation of a full-time doctoral student Dian Stoyanov Dunev, Department of Public Law of the Faculty of Law of the PU

OPINION

by Prof. Nadezhda Hristova, PhD

Faculty of Law, University of National and World Economy

Concerning: the dissertation submitted for defence by a full-time doctoral student Dian Stoyanov Dunev in order to obtain the educational and scientific degree of doctor in the area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.6. Law, doctoral program 'Administrative Law and Administrative Process' on the subject 'Powers and Acts of the Municipal Council in the Execution of Local Self-Government', tutored by Prof. Dr. Bogdan Yordanov of the Faculty of Law of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'

Dear members of the Scientific Jury,

As a member of the Scientific Jury established by Order No RD 22-1671 of 16 July 2025 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University for the evaluation of the dissertation entitled 'Powers and Acts of the Municipal Council in the Execution of Local Self-government' of doctoral student Dian Dunev from the Department of Public Law of the Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', I hereby submit my opinion:

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The doctoral student, Dian Dunev, submitted a set of materials in paper and electronic form in accordance with Article 36 of the Rules for Promotion of Academic Staff of Plovdiv University. He has presented three scientific publications on the topic of his dissertation. In relation to the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b(2) and (3) of the Promotion of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria Act and Article 1a(1) of the Regulation on its implementation, my assessment of the number of points achieved by the dissertator on the indicators set out in the Annex to Article 1a(1) of the Regulation for a area of higher education 3. Social, business and legal sciences, professional field 3.6. 'Law' is as follows: for indicator group A - at least 50, performance 50; for indicator group B and C, there are no mandatory

minimum requirements; by indicator group D, at a minimum of 30, performance 30; for indicator group E and F, there are no mandatory minimum requirements. I consider that Dian Dunev meets the regulatory requirements, in particular Article 2b(2) and (3) of the Act, Article 1a(1) of the Regulation and Articles 30, 31, 32(2) and 33(1) of the Plovdiv University Rules, for admission to the defence of his dissertation.

2. Relevance of the topic

The dissertation, presented by Dian Dunev, deals with important issues, both theoretically and practically, such as the powers and acts of the municipal council in the execution of local self-government. As the doctoral student rightly points out, the study will help to improve the work of municipal councils in decision-making and adoption of acts, will contribute to the promotion of legality, transparency and efficiency in local self-government, and will assist the legislator and law enforcement authorities in the need for changes or interpretation of legislation in the field of local self-government.

Researching the questions posed in the dissertation is a challenge for every researcher. In this regard, the goals and objectives are appropriately and successfully formulated by the doctoral student in the dissertation work.

3. Knowledge of the problem

From the content of the dissertation, it may be clearly concluded that Dian Dunev is very well aware of the state of the issues discussed by him. Indicative of the knowledge of the problem is: the overall performance of the doctoral thesis assignments; a thorough examination of legal doctrine and case-law; the logical and justified proposals made in the dissertation to improve the institutional framework.

4. Methodology of the study

In the presented dissertation "Powers and acts of the municipal council in the execution of local self-government" are used primarily the general scientific methods of knowledge - the historical legal method, the comparative legal method, the inductive and deductive method, which allows the achievement of the goals and tasks of the dissertation.

5. Characteristics and Assessment of the Dissertation and Contributions

Structurally, the dissertation consists of: abbreviations introduction , 4 chapters, conclusion and bibliography. The volume of the dissertation is 207 pages.

The study presented has the meaning and the necessary qualities of a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of doctor. Structurally and meaningfully, the dissertation presented is a very good indicator of creative activity and targeted research abilities of the doctoral student. This is a thorough and analytical work. In my opinion, this work is distinguished by scientific novelty, topicality, as well as practical orientation.

The presentation in the dissertation I evaluate as purposeful and meaningful. It is accompanied by separate comparisons and distinctions, justification of conclusions and proposals. The scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation are essential and useful for the legal doctrine and practice of the relevant authorities. Some specific scientific and applied contributions to the dissertation can be highlighted:

1) useful analysis of the concept of local self-government with the identification of its common features;

2) the historical review of local self-government is of great contribution;

3) with contributing importance is the analysis of the legal status of the municipal council as a body of local self-government in the Republic of Bulgaria.

4) the analysis of the powers of the municipal council and their qualification is of marked contribution importance.

5) the analysis of the acts of the municipal council and their qualification is of marked contribution importance.

6) the analysis of the control over the acts of the municipal council, carried out by the regional governor and the mayor of the municipality, is also of contributing importance.

7) the analysis of the prosecutorial supervision and the judicial supervision carried out on the acts of the municipal council, etc., is also of contributing importance.

6. Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

The doctoral student has presented three scientific publications in which current issues, relevant to the theme of the dissertation, have been studied. Personal merit of the doctoral student are the scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation and the presented scientific reports. The doctoral student correctly referred to the doctrinal sources.

7. Thesis abstract

In the thesis abstract, the purpose, object, subject and tasks of the research are clearly and precisely indicated. It is developed at a good level and fully reflects the content of the dissertation and the results achieved.

8. Recommendations for future use of dissertation contributions and results

Due to the topicality of the researched issues, I recommend to Dian Stoyanov Dunev to publish the dissertation as a monograph.

CONCLUSION

1. I declare that the dissertation entitled Powers and Acts of the Municipal Council in the Execution of Local Self-Government contains scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of

Article 6(3) of the Promotion of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria Act, Article 27(2) of the Regulation on its implementation and Article 32(1) and (2) of the Rules of Plovdiv University on Promotion of Academic Staff. At the same time, this dissertation shows that Dian Stoyanov Dunev has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty ‘Administrative Law and Administrative Process’, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent scientific research. Therefore, the doctoral candidate meets the requirements of Article 6(1) of the Act, Articles 24-26 of the Regulation on implementation and Articles 29, 30, 31 and 32(1) and (2) of the Plovdiv University Rules.

2. In connection with the above, pursuant to Article 10(1) of the Promotion of Academic Staff, Article 32(1) of the Regulation on implementation and Article 38(1) of the Plovdiv University Rules, I give my positive assessment of the scientific study conducted by Dian Stoyanov Dunev.

3. I propose that the honorable scientific jury, established by Order No RD 22-1671 of 16 July 2025 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski, on the basis of Article 11(4) of the Promotion of Academic Staff, Article 34(1) of the Regulation on implementation and Article 29 of the Plovdiv University Rules, award the educational and scientific degree of doctor to Dian Stoyanov Dunev in the are of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.6. ‘Law’, doctoral program ‘Administrative law and administrative procedure’.

Sofia, 20.08.2025

Drafted an opinion:

(Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Hristova)