

Opinion

From: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Nikolova Cheshmedzhieva

Regarding: Dissertation thesis for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree

“DOCTOR”

Field of higher education: 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences

Professional field: 3.6. Law

Doctoral Program: “Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure”

Author of the dissertation thesis: **Diyan Stoyanov Dunev**, full-time doctoral student at the Department of Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

Topic of the dissertation thesis: **“Powers and Acts of the Municipal Council in the Exercise of Local Self-Government”**

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Bogdan Yordanov

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC JURY,

By Order No. RD-22-1671/16.07.2025 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, I was appointed as an external member of the academic jury for the public defense of the dissertation thesis of Diyan Stoyanov Dunev – full-time doctoral student in the Department of Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law at PU “Paisii Hilendarski,” in the scientific specialty “Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure,” professional field 3.6 Law, on the topic “Powers and Acts of the Municipal Council in the Exercise of Local Self-Government.” The opinion was assigned by a decision of the first meeting of the academic jury for conducting the procedure for defense of the dissertation thesis.

I. General data on the procedure and the candidate.

Diyan Stoyanov Dunev was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student in the doctoral program “Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure” at the Department of Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, in 2021. He was

discharged with the right of defense. Diyan Dunev has three publications, which show that his scientific interests and the results of his activity have become publicly accessible to scientific and specialized circles. The doctoral student has successfully passed an internal defense in the primary unit. The doctoral student has submitted all the necessary documents related to the procedure for defending the dissertation. The presented abstract meets the established requirements, correctly reflects the content of the dissertation thesis, and gives a clear idea of its contributions.

II. General characteristics of the dissertation thesis and contributory points.

The dissertation thesis was prepared under the scientific supervision of Prof. Dr. Bogdan Yordanov. The total volume of the work is 207 pages. The structure of the dissertation thesis follows a logical sequence that corresponds to the classical standards of scientific research. A total of 439 footnotes have been made. The bibliography includes 78 sources in Bulgarian.

The work presented to us by doctoral student Diyan Dunev is dedicated to an interesting and topical question. The author's goal is to conduct a comprehensive scientific study of the powers and acts of the municipal council in the exercise of local self-government.

In systematic sequence, the doctoral student explains in detail the essence of local self-government as an expression of the decentralization of state administration, identifies its main characteristics, and distinguishes it from related concepts – deconcentration, decentralization, municipal self-government, local administration, regional administration, subject of a federal union. The historical review of the legal framework of local self-government in different periods in Bulgaria deserves attention, as it contributes to a clearer understanding of its development and provides the opportunity for an in-depth study of the main issues of the topic. I positively evaluate the author's idea to summarize all legal sources of the current framework of local self-government; in this part, the essence of the municipality as a legal entity in which local self-government is exercised is clarified. The characteristic features of the municipality are examined – territory, population, name, symbols, the municipality as a legal person.

Chapter Two is the substantive part of the dissertation thesis, entirely devoted to the main theme. In the part concerning the competence of the municipal council, the doctoral student correctly presents doctrinal theses about the concept of "competence," analyzing the ways of acquiring competence by the municipal council. The subject-based classification of the powers of the municipal council is to be positively assessed. A

contributory element of the work is the distinction of the powers of the municipal council in exercising the functions of local self-government – regulatory, organizational, property-related, and others – as well as the proposals made in connection with the introduction of a mechanism for strengthening public control in the management and disposal of municipal property. Well-argued is the position regarding the introduction of more frequent reporting on the implementation of the municipal budget. Undoubtedly deserving attention is the analysis of the municipal council's power to refer disputes on competence between them and central bodies to the Constitutional Court.

In Chapter Three, the legal essence, features, and classification of administrative acts issued by the municipal council, through which it exercises its powers in the exercise of local self-government, are well studied. Attention is deserved by the part concerning the types of control exercised over the acts of the municipal council – administrative control, judicial control, prosecutorial supervision, and public control. The emphasis here is placed on the control exercised by the regional governor and the mayor of the municipality, and proposals *de lege ferenda* are made.

There is no doubt that the doctoral student knows the problem well, having approached its development in depth and with scholarly integrity. It is indisputable that Diyan Dunev is familiar with the positions expressed in the legal doctrine on separate discussion questions related to the subject of the dissertation research. The contributions of the dissertation research undoubtedly have not only theoretical but also practical significance.

Some notes and recommendations may be made regarding the work. The dissertation thesis is an in-depth scientific study, but the introduction should be supplemented with key scientific elements – object and subject, aim and tasks, methodology of the research, approaches, the thesis of the research. This would contribute to its greater academic value and better argumentation. I would recommend that the proposals *de lege ferenda* be formulated in a clearer and more categorical way, which would contribute to the improvement of legislation. The remarks made in no way undermine the positive evaluation that the work deserves.

III. Conclusion.

The dissertation thesis presented for defense before the academic jury, on the topic **“Powers and Acts of the Municipal Council in the Exercise of Local Self-Government,”** contains scientifically applicable results that represent an original contribution to science and meets the requirements of Art. 6, para. 3 of the Act on the Development of the Academic

Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 27 of the Rules for the Application of the ADASRB, as well as the relevant Rules of PU "Paisii Hilendarski" for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor."

In view of the above, I will vote positively and propose to the esteemed academic jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 3.6. Law, scientific specialty "Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure," to **Diyan Stoyanov Dunev**.

29 September 2025

City of Blagoevgrad

Opinion Prepared By:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Cheshmedzhieva