

PhD Dissertation Evaluation Report

By Prof. D.Sc. Dimitar Trendafilov Yonchev - member of the scientific jury for the evaluation of the dissertation work of the doctoral student Boris Filipov Hadzhipetkov on the topic: “Deficits and priorities of communication practices in the local self-government system in Republic of Bulgaria” for obtaining education and scientific degree “doctor” in the scientific field “Organization and management of the non-production sphere (public administration) in professional direction “Administration and management”(3.7).

Significance of the research problem

Local self-government in the system of public authorities in the Republic of Bulgaria is that part of the government that is directly in constant contact with the population of the country. Boris Hadzhipetkov's choice of the research problem is fully justified, especially in the light of continuous changes in means of communication. This problem has not been thoroughly investigated in the available publications. Any improvement in the field of communication practices in local self-government will definitely contribute to an even closer relationship between the government and the population and thereby to better service.

Formulation of the objectives and tasks of the dissertation

The purpose of the dissertation is defined with a clear awareness of the limiting conditions. Thus, the focus of the research is not on the communication practices of local self-government in their entirety, but above all on their deficits, and from here the dissertation intends to determine the relevant priorities for their improvement.

The tasks that the researcher has set derive from the research objective formulated in this way. These tasks are five in number. The first is related to clarifying the nature of communication practices; the second implies an analysis of the current state of proactive communication; the third task I related to the development of a practical toolkit that would allow an objective evaluation of the communicative practices; the fourth task solves the question of the objective evaluation of the electronically based communicative practices, such , as they are at the present moment and finally, which is logical, the PhD student sets the task of proposing a recommended model of an electronic communication platform to facilitate the improvement of the available practices.

The goals and tasks of the research formulated in this way are logically connected and cover the research field of the selected problem.

Knowledge of the state of the research problem and the relevant literature

Acquaintance with the research work of Boris Hadzhipetkov gives the impression that he is sufficiently familiar with both the theoretical side and the practices of public administration science, being well informed about its communicative environment in the conditions of the use of the Internet.

I believe that the PhD student has familiarized himself with the available national and foreign literary sources in the field of public administration, which is reflected in the selection of the literature used by him.

The list of used literature includes 24 sources in Bulgarian, 63 in English, as well as 152 websites of local authorities.

Correctness of citation

The citations in the dissertation work are made according to the requirements, indicating the sources. The adopted way of indicating is one of the permissible ones, so the citations are correct and there are no significant gaps in the citation order.

Availability of a justified and developed research model

A good research structure is due to a thorough preliminary consideration of what needs to be researched, the ways in which this research should proceed, as well as the tools that should be used to achieve the goal of the research. The PhD student devotes the second chapter of the dissertation to the choice of instrumentation and its use, which subsequently serves as a practical basis (after the theoretical one is developed in the first chapter) for the realization of the purpose of the research, which, in my opinion, is mainly carried out in the third chapter of the dissertation.

It can be seen that both in the initial organization of the work and in its subsequent unfolding, the preliminary design of Boris Hadzhipetkov was developed and realized, which proves the existence of a meaningful model of research.

Correspondence of the methodology and methodology with the purpose and tasks of the research

In this regard, there is no doubt about that. Not only is there a correspondence, but even more, it is precisely on this that the research is built. The fact that the implementation of the set tasks is followed in each of the chapters, which are developed precisely as an implementation of the chosen methodology and methods of work, is clearly outlined.

Presence of own contribution in the collection and analysis of the empirical data

The author has covered an array of data collected by him from the communication practices of 154 municipalities in the country, which gives the research a representative character. Therefore, the ways suggested by the researcher to improve communication practices could have a positive impact in a number of municipalities that have greater opportunities and population is over 10,000 people.

Description of Contributions

The author claims five contributions, which he presents comprehensively and which boil down to a few essential points.

The first moment is that of the performed analyses, which he distinguishes in two of the contributions - the one for the Sofia Municipality and the other for the municipalities with a population of over 10,000 people. In both cases, the analyzes are complex because they covered the entire research field and ended with relevant recommendations.

The second contribution is the disclosure of the factors (preferably the normative ones) that determine the communicative practices in the researched field.

The third one is particularly important, related to the development of communication platform for approving the state of electronic communication practices of local authorities and their supporting administrations, whose official websites show serious communication deficits

The contributions so formulated can be accepted as they are proven in the research. The research itself is a good example of a balanced approach to combining the theoretical basis with practical moments.

The Impact of research on the external environment

The impact can be judged rather by the publications made by the author in the Yearbook of the Center for Public Administration, year III, VOLUME 3, S., Publisher: New Bulgarian University, ISSN 1313-4760, as well as in the Economic Alternatives magazine , issue 3, S., Publisher: UNSS, pp. 138-154, ISSN 1312-5281.

Opinions, recommendations and notes

The work has some of the typical weaknesses for first attempts at the realm of scientific discourse. The thought is not always presented sufficiently clearly and comprehensibly at the expense of complicated and weighted thought constructions.

The introduction of key terms and concepts is not always correct, as they are not agreed both on where they are borrowed from and with what restrictions they will be applied within the research.

In terms of content, the work would have gained if the author had tried to look deeper into the reasons for the described deficits beyond the declared lack of will, adequate planning and inconsistency in improvement. In such a case, the effects of cultural determinism would be reached, and even more effective ways of improving the situation could be sought.

However, I do not think that the mentioned weaknesses reduce or damage the positive impression of the conscientious and fruitful work done by Boris Hadzhipetkov.

Conclusion

I find the doctoral work submitted for defense to be an independent scientific study that meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. I propose to the Honorable Jury of the NBU to award the scientific and educational degree "doctor" to Boris Filipov Hadzhipetkov in the scientific field "Organization and management of the non-production sphere (public administration)' in professional direction "Administration and Management" 3.7.

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Sofia

Prof. D.Sc. Dimitar Yonchev