

## **PhD Dissertation Evaluation Report**

By Prof.D.Sc. Hristo Marinov Ivanov - 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).

The exercise of administrative power in the public administration of the member states of the European Union at all levels covers the mechanisms, processes and instruments through which citizens express their interests. Exercising their rights, they assume responsibilities and mediate in solving problems in public life such as the deficits and priorities of communication practices in the lowest level of management in the government executive branch. Communication practices are an invariable part of the management of municipalities and to a large extent reflect the priorities of the management of municipalities, both in Europe and in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The place of self-government is part of the public administration of each country, and its tasks and functions on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria are carried out by the bodies of the executive power, the bodies of local government and local self-government. The mayor and the municipal council, assisted by the respective municipal administrations, resolve the problems that have arisen in the "citizen-administration" legal relationship.

That is why the subject of the dissertation is of indisputable, scientific and practical interest, and it should be noted at the outset that it has been developed comprehensively and thoroughly by the doctoral student. The grounds in this direction are as follows:

1. The process of the emergence, development and practical implementation of the idea of the deficits and priorities of communication practices is logically and systematically presented.

2. In the dissertation, the essence of the methods of scientific research and operationalization of the theoretical statements is broadly clarified by using directions and criteria for evaluating the proactive communication practices of the local authorities. The specific subjects of the study are also summarized.

3. The main problems of deficits and priorities of communication practices in the regions of the Metropolitan Municipality are subjected to a thorough analysis.

4. The structure of the dissertation work and its content are in accordance with the purpose and tasks of the research. The PhD student has consistently adhered to the properly defined aims and objectives of the research in

accordance with the dissertation topic. The style of the exposition is logical, scientifically sound and presented with clearly expressed thought. The graphic images in the form of diagrams, tables, graphs, etc., provide a visual statement of the generalizations, conclusions and practical recommendations made.

5. The conclusions and generalizations are made based on the analysis of a wealth of information from the correctly cited literary sources and the conducted empirical research. The fact that the doctoral student Boris Hadzhipetkov has his position on a number of issues concerning the normative regulation, the organization and functions of the bodies in local self-government and the employees in the local administration should be positively evaluated.

The PhD student has focused on clarifying the issues regarding the location of deficits and priorities of communication practices in a specific area, such as the local self-government. The communication practices of local authorities are positioned in the context of the dynamism and complexity of contemporary times. They represent a high degree of opportunity and diverse needs. They are found in the process of implementing the functions of the municipalities in effectively meeting their responsibilities.

The priorities in the life of the social collective are successfully indicated. The interpretation of:

- the social collective of local self-government (p. 14);
- embedded environment (p. 15);
- social capital (p. 16);
- the coordination function (p. 18).

They are creatively analyzed by the author. These four organizational characteristics are motivated by the use of the systems approach. The doctoral student adheres to and adopts in this aspect the formulation given by Ludwig von Bertalanffy. It breaks the accepted scheme through its creative potential and analyzes the organization of the system and the communication processes taking place in it.

At its basic level, any system is a collection of parts or components that are organized in a specific way and operate in an assumed environment of synchrony to achieve certain goals or serve specific processes. Through the properties of the deficits, the doctoral student determines the dependence of research on his process from holism (p. 25), from the same extremity (p. 26), from the negative entropy and required variety (p. 27). These properties are analyzed and clarified in the overall development of the topic.

The local government bodies, through its communication practices, are able to identify the diverse needs of the citizens in its policies and decisions, thus being able to deal with the diverse challenges facing it.

A number of other arguments "for" and "against" the deficits and priorities of communication practices can be put forward, which shows that the problem is too complex and it is difficult to specify in a definite opinion at the present time. This is a challenge to the PhD student for a more global analysis of

perspectives on the proposed communication practices in local government, which is why I believe that he has opportunities to deepen his research on this topic in the future.

The general impression is that the doctoral student has deeply penetrated the essence of the problem proposed for review by him in the dissertation research.

The abstract adequately reflects the content of the dissertation work and is prepared in accordance with established generally accepted requirements.

I also make some more substantial notes to the dissertation, which relate to the following:

1. It is noticeable that in the introduction the doctoral student did not explicitly justify the relevance of his research problem.

2. A comparative analysis of the structure of civil society should be done more thoroughly (p. 11). It is necessary to correctly interpret it, both from the United Nations Program for Human Settlements and from a number of other authors' works, including from Bulgarian scientific thinkers.

3. Finding facts about the interaction, both inside the research object (local authorities and their supporting administration), and from external entities (including interaction via the Internet) without defining the interaction is unacceptable.

4. A contradiction is allowed between some conclusions (p. 65) about "good" local self-government and the conclusions (p. 84) about the "motivation and emancipation" of local authorities.

5. The chosen approach of the doctoral student to make summaries, conclusions and practical recommendations after each chapter in the dissertation makes a good impression. The only remark that could be made in this regard is that in chapter one, as an exception, the structuring of the points is not made clear, which is absent in the other chapters.

These remarks are strongly recommended and do not detract from the overall positive assessment of the quality of the dissertation work. The main conclusion is that it provides a clear answer to the main researched problems regarding the nature of communicative practices, but at the same time it also raises a number of discussion questions regarding deficits and priorities. This projects the further development of communication practices in local government and their continuous research.

The general assessment is that the peer-reviewed dissertation work presents the doctoral student Boris Hadzhipetkov as a learned young scientist who shows solid possibilities for further scientific development.

## **CONCLUSION**

Bearing in mind that the dissertation work represents a completed research that was carried out in accordance with its set goals and objectives, as well as the fact that the in-depth scientific approach used by the doctoral student Boris Hadzhipetkov presents him as a learned researcher with opportunities for further scientific development, I believe that the work can be positively evaluated and successfully defended for awarding the educational 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).

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