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**PSYCHOLOGICAL COERCION UNDER THE  
BULGARIAN CRIMINAL CODE**

**ABSTRACT**

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## I. RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

Coercive offences account for a significant proportion of total crime in the country. According to the National Statistical Institute (NSI), in 2021 alone, the number of those convicted of crimes under Articles 143 and 144 of the Criminal Code (CC) was 351, accounting for 23% of those convicted of crimes against the person, while the number of those convicted of robbery and extortion was 544, or 10.6% of those convicted of crimes against property. Bulgaria does not keep statistics specifically on crimes committed under duress, but the above also allows for the conclusion that these assaults constitute a significant part of actual crime.

At the same time, coercion, as a legal category, is a heterogeneous phenomenon. It can be manifested in various forms, the most important for criminal law science and jurisprudence is the subdivision of coercion into physical and mental/psychological coercion. A specific segment of this type of crime are crimes related to psychological coercion. They are characterised by the perpetrator exerting a psychological influence on the personality of the victim in order to motivate him or her to undertake certain behaviour that the person does not want. In psychological coercion, the perpetrator does not affect the victim's bodily integrity, but only his psyche, thus directing his or her behaviour. Therefore, the specifics in the behaviour of the perpetrator and that of the victim under psychological coercion, from the point of view of

implementation of criminal law, present significant scientific interest.

Criminal law issues related to the use of psychological coercion have been the subject of increased scientific interest in recent years, provoked by the development of European and domestic legislation in the field of victims' rights. The legal aspects in the behaviour of individuals acting under duress have already been largely clarified theoretically, mostly in the context of legislative regulation of the exclusionary circumstances under Art. 1 and 2 of the Criminal Code. However, there is no comprehensive monographic study of the offences of psychological coercion as of today. This is the reason for the author's interest in the problem of this study.

The offences involving psychological coercion raise specific criminological, criminal and legal and procedural issues. The study of this type of crime, therefore, requires an interdisciplinary approach.

For crimes involving psychological coercion present significant interest to criminological science, especially in view of clarifying the specific complex of socio-demographic, criminal justice, moral and psychological features of the personality of the criminal; elucidation of the specific factors of latency in this type of crime and identifying a complex of measures to increase their establishment; assessment of the victim groups and specific factors of victimhood in crimes involving psychological coercion and identification of measures for victimological prevention.

From the point of view of the science of criminal justice, offences related to psychological coercion raise questions with respect to the legal qualification of the act of the person who exercised the coercion, in view of the implementation of certain sets of norms and rules of the General Part of the Criminal Code and the criminal-law norms of the Special Part of the Criminal Code, regulating the types of crimes related to coercion, and the assessment of the exact measure of state coercion imposed to the criminal offender for the crime committed by him or her.

The specifics of psychological coercion offences, concerning criminal procedural science, are in the direction of the assessment of the specific measure of procedural coercion to be exercised against individuals accused or defendant for this type of crime, the particularities of proving the criminal act and the damage caused, as well as the specifically applicable mechanisms for legal protection of victims of this category of crime.

Crimes related to psychological coercion pose a specific range of issues before the courts, which will have to rule on claims for the implementation of the property liability of legal entities who have benefitting themselves or would be benefitting by crimes of the this type, in accordance with the provisions of Article 83a et seq. of the Law on administrative offences and penalties (AOPA/ZANN).

This dissertation focuses on the clarification of the criminal justice aspects of the problem and, insofar as crimes related to coercion also determine

he liability of legal entities, on the issues related to their liability in case of a crime related to psychological coercion.

In the statement, the issues of crimes related to psychological coercion are examined from a specific point of view, namely from the point of view of the different categories of subjects of influence or protection by criminal law - the individuals exercising psychological coercion; the individuals against whom psychological coercion is exercised; the legal entities who are financially liable when they are benefitting by certain categories of criminal violations carried out through coercion.

## II. SUBJECT, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THIS DISSERTATION PAPER

The subject of this dissertation paper is psychological coercion as grounds for criminal liability of subjects under the Bulgarian Criminal Code. The subject of study here are the nature of psychological coercion as a form of unlawful criminal influence; the impact of the specifics of the behaviour of the person exercising the coercion on his or her criminal liability; the significance of the behaviour of the person against whom the coercion is exercised for the criminal liability of the criminal offender and the peculiarities of the implementation of the legal set of norms of property liability of the legal entities who have benefited or would have benefited from a crime related to psychological coercion.

With this monographic work the author sets the following goals:

- *Clarifying the legal nature of psychological coercion as a form of criminal mental influence;*
- *Distinction of psychological coercion from other similar concepts and institutes of criminal law and criminology;*
- *Classification of the types of psychological coercion in terms of the implementation of criminal law;*
- *Clarification of the specifics in the implementation of certain legal sets of norms of the General Part of the Criminal Code in crimes related to psychological coercion;*
- *Analysis of the constituent elements of offences regulated in different systematic places in the Special Part of the Criminal Code, involving psychological coercion as a form of executive act or as a manner, as a means for the implementation of the incriminated criminal offence;*



- *Clarification of the significance in criminal law of the behaviour of the victim of psychological coercion for the criminal liability of the offender;*
- *Clarification of certain specific remedies available to the person subjected to psychological coercion;*
- *Clarification of the peculiarities of the involvement of the property liability of legal entities under Art. 83a et seq. of the Criminal Code who have benefited or would have benefited from crimes related to coercion.*

For the purposes of scientific analysis, the methods of assessment, comparison, synthesis, analogy, induction and deduction were used. Some *de lege ferenda* proposals were also made to complement and improve criminal law and administrative criminal legislation.

### III. SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION PAPER

The dissertation paper has been drafted on a total of 218 pages. The structure of the dissertation includes a table of contents, abbreviations used, an introduction, four chapters, conclusions and a list of References. This dissertation paper has a total of 242 footnotes. The List of References includes 98 titles, of which 83 in Bulgarian and 15 in foreign languages.

The text complies with the effective legislation and case-law in force as of April 1, 2023.

#### IV. MAIN STATEMENTS IN THE DISSERTATION PAPER

Chapter 1 of the dissertation, entitled "The Nature of Psychological Coercion", clarifies the legal nature of psychological coercion as a form of criminal mental influence. A distinction is made between psychological coercion and other similar concepts and certain legal sets of norms in criminal law and criminology. The main types of psychological coercion, which have the corresponding meaning in criminal justice have been analyzed and clarified.

Specifically, Section One of Chapter One, "The Legal Nature of Psychological Coercion," discusses at length the characteristics of psychological coercion as a form of purposeful human behaviour. A definition of psychological coercion as a certain legal institution /a set of norms/ in criminal justice has been proposed, according to which it is an unlawful purposeful influence on the psyche of another natural person (victim), without affecting his physical integrity, expressed in motivating him to undertake a certain behaviour (which he or she does not want to undertake or does not want to undertake in the place, time and situation determined by the perpetrator), under the threat of a future adverse change in the objective reality from his point of view. The elements of the proposed definition of psychological coercion and its meaning are explained in detail.

It is argued that the definition of this concept is necessary to clarify the relationship between different types of coercion, as well as between psychological coercion and other concepts and certain institutions/legal sets of norms in criminal law and criminology. The understanding of the content of this concept is the basis for the analysis of a number of criminal offences criminalizing coercive offences, respectively - providing criminal justice protection of public relations guaranteeing the right to personal freedom. Finally, the clarification of the content of psychological coercion is the grounds for

the understanding of its harmful nature and the assessment of the applicable means of legal protection of the victim.

The possible forms of impact on the victim's psyche without affecting his or her bodily integrity - through words (verbal psychological coercion) and through concluding actions (non-verbal psychological coercion) - have been reviewed in detail exhaustively. The conclusions are made that the non-verbal psychological coercion can be carried out by different actions, which do not affect the physical integrity of the victim: by communicating a message in written form, in the respective language form, in the script which the victim is knowledgeable of or even if he or she is not knowledgeable of, could ascertain the content of the message by means of a translation by a third person or machine into a language which he knows; by bringing to the victim's knowledge certain symbol-laden content which does not contain a specific and explicit statement in written-language form; by means of a system of bodily movements performed by the offender, by means of which the offender describes a threatening act using his or her body or that of another person; by means of an effect on a thing or other material conditions of objective reality. It has been clarified that psychological coercion can be carried out through both unlawful and lawful acts, such conclusion has been illustrated with examples.

It has been argued that the exercise of psychological coercion is always an unlawful act, since through the considered influence on the victim, the aim is for the latter to undertake a certain behaviour that would lead to a change in the objective reality, respectively to the conscious needs of the perpetrator, which the victim does not want or does not want in the place, time and situation determined by the perpetrator. The failure of the victim to engage in the behaviour desired by the perpetrator is associated by the perpetrator of the coercion with certain adverse consequences for the victim: causing harm (pecuniary or non-pecuniary harm) to the person against whom the

coercion has been exercised, or of another physical or legal person, or **changes** in the material conditions of life. In other words, in psychological coercion, the perpetrator exerts a motivational influence on the victim to undertake a certain behaviour by linking the non-undertaking of the desired act(s) of conduct with a negative change in **reality**.

The behaviour to which the victim is motivated could be subdivided according to different classification criteria: depending on whether the victim is motivated to behave actively or to refrain from certain behaviour, we distinguish between psychological coercion to act and to refrain from acting; depending on the nature of the behaviour to which the perpetrator motivates the victim, it could be either lawful or unlawful; depending on the time elapsed between the exercise of the unlawful psychological influence and the behaviour to which the victim is motivated, we distinguish between psychological coercion by means of which the victim is motivated to act or to refrain from acting at the moment or immediately after the coercion or coercion through which the victim is motivated towards a certain behaviour to be undertaken at a later time; depending on the attitude of the victim towards the behaviour to which he or she is unlawfully motivated by the perpetrator, we distinguish cases in which the behaviour desired by the perpetrator, through which he aims at changing the objective reality, is fundamentally unwanted by the victim and cases in which the behaviour is generally wanted by the victim, but not at the time, place and setting indicated by the offender.

**The content** of the adverse consequences with which the perpetrator associates the victim's failure to adopt the desired behaviour has been clarified - causing harm to the victim or a third party; imminent adverse change to the victim's or a third party's legal setting, beyond the cases mentioned above; damage to **property**; imminent change in the legal setting of

the victim or a third party. In each of these cases, there is a threat of imminent harm to the legal setting of the victim or of a third party, which may follow immediately or at a later point in time; it may or may not be lawful; it may be carried out by the perpetrator or by a third party.

It is argued that in order to speak of psychological coercion, it is necessary for the perpetrator to motivate the victim to undertake certain behaviour - lawful or unlawful to act or not to act, under the threat of an adverse change in the objective reality. The victim should therefore be able to perceive, first, indications as to the behaviour which the offender wishes to be undertaken; secondly, the adverse changes in objective reality which would occur and, thirdly, the functional relationship between the behaviour which the victim is expected to undertake and the non-occurrence of the adverse consequences, or the threat thereof, in the event that he or she does not undertake the behaviour desired by the offender. On this basis, it is concluded that psychological coercion can be exercised only with respect to the individual, insofar as only the individual possesses a psyche as a property of highly-organized matter to reflect objective reality and can conduct his or her behaviour in accordance with objective reality and his conscious needs.

It is argued that the exercise of psychological coercion, therefore, is an external objectification, under certain conditions of time, place and setting, of an internal mental mechanism of the act taking place in the mind of the perpetrator, as a result of which he or she has decided to exercise coercion over the victim and thus to change the existing objective reality in accordance with his or her needs, desires, goals, intentions. The author's dissertation paper on the subjective side of psychological coercion is presented upon this plane of thought.

The issue at study is whether it was necessary for the victim to undertake the behaviour desired by the perpetrator. It is submitted that the answer to this question should be negative. It shall be sufficient for the perpetrator to exert an unlawful motivational influence on the victim's personality which is perceived by the victim in order for it to be presumed that psychological coercion has been exercised within the meaning of criminal law. It is not necessary for the victim to have experienced actual fears, worries about the realisation of the threat, fear of the occurrence of adverse consequences from his point of view, nor to have made a decision to undertake the behaviour to which he is unlawfully motivated by the offender, and even less - to have undertaken it. The significance in criminal justice of the behaviour of the victim of psychological coercion for the criminal liability has been clarified.

Section Two of Chapter One, "Distinguishing psychological coercion from other similar concepts and certain legal institutions/sets of norms," clarifies the relationship between the concept of psychological coercion and other criminal law concepts and certain legal institutions, such as psychic influence, criminal mental influence, duress, intimidation, threat of crime, torture, domestic violence and gender-based violence, as well as some concepts used in criminology - violence and violent crime.

Section three, entitled "Types of Psychological Coercion," reviews the classification criteria proposed so far in the doctrine for subdividing criminal psychological influence in general and coercion in particular. The authors propose their own classification criteria for subdividing the types of psychological coercion - with regard to the mechanism of exerting coercive influence; with regard to the nature of the influence; with regard to the time that elapsed between exerting the influence on the victim and the perception of this influence; with

regard to the temporal distance of the victim's behaviour from the time of the coercion; having regard to the rate of behaviour to which the coercion motivates the victim; having regard to the nature of the behaviour to which the coercion motivates the victim; having regard to the adverse legal consequences with which the perpetrator of the coercion endangers the victim; having regard to whether the victim decides to carry out the behaviour to which he is unlawfully motivated by the coercion.

Chapter Two of the study, entitled "The significance in criminal justice of the exerted psychological coercion for the liability of the criminal offender", is devoted to clarifying the issues related to the criminal liability of the person who exercised the psychological coercion. The paper has also analyzed some basic issues concerning the application of certain legal institutions/sets of norms from the General Part of the Criminal Code in crimes related to psychological coercion are consistently examined, and then the norms of Criminal Justice in the Special Part, referring to criminal acts committed through this type of coercion.

Section one of Chapter two, "Specifics of the application of certain legal institutions/sets of norms in the General Part of the Criminal Code in cases of psychological coercion", successively clarifies the specifics of the stages of intentional criminal activity carried out by psychological coercion, of complicity in crimes committed by psychological coercion and of the totality of crimes, any or all of which were committed by psychological coercion.

Specific hypotheses have been examined of the stages of intentional criminal activity - preparation and attempt to commit a crime, carried out through psychological coercion and a solution is proposed regarding the qualification of such criminal activity. The different possible hypothesis of preparation to a crime by means of coercion have been clarified; the cases of attempt to a crime by means of psychological coercion have been analyzed - to a crime whose executive

act involves the use of coercion, and to a crime, whose executive act does not involve the use of coercion.

Also subject to discussion are cases of complicity in the commission of a deliberate crime committed by psychological coercion. The particular hypotheses of incitement, aiding and abetting have been examined in a crime realized through psychological coercion, by also clarifying the application of substantive law in such cases. Particular attention is paid to the cases of complicity, again realized through psychological coercion.

Also raised were issues of aggregate offences, any or all of which were committed by psychological coercion. The hypotheses of a combination of the crime of coercion under Article 143 of the Criminal Code and another crime unrelated to coercion; a combination of coercion under Article 143 of the Criminal Code and another crime involving coercion in its composition and a combination of two or more crimes carried out through coercion, regulated in a different systematic place in the Special Part of the Criminal Code have also been analyzed. Each of the possible hypotheses is illustrated with examples. This range of issues has an important practical significance insofar as it contributes to the correct application of criminal law and, above all, to the correct assessment of cases for the liability of the perpetrator - if it should be realised for a single offence with factual complications or forms of complicated criminal activity, and in which cases the perpetrator should be liable for a aggregate offences.

The specifics in the individualization of the criminal responsibility of the criminal offender who committed a crime involving psychological coercion are also clarified in terms of mitigating and aggravating circumstances, which may be taken into account by the courts when assessing the exact measure of state coercion following the criminal offender.



Section two of chapter two is devoted to the clarification of the specifics of crimes committed by psychological coercion, regulated in the Special Part of the Criminal Code. A classification of crimes committed by means of coercion is proposed, depending on whether it is elevated to an attribute of the basic or qualified composition of the crime, on the basis of which this type of criminal violations are subdivided into substantive and non-substantive offences. On the other hand, substantive offences that may be committed through psychological coercion are subdivided on the basis of two additional criteria, namely whether they can be committed only through psychological coercion or either through psychological or physical coercion or through a combination of both, as well as whether the coercion is the only possible form of executive act through which the legally protected public relations are affected, respectively - the socially dangerous consequences specified in the law are achieved, or whether it is one of the possible manifestations of the psychological coercion.

An overview is made of all crimes currently regulated in the Special Part of the Criminal Code, which can be committed by means of psychological coercion, and they are subdivided on the basis of whether they are committed only by means of psychological coercion, through physical or psychological coercion, or through various forms of motivational influence, including psychological coercion.

Chapter Three of the dissertation paper, "The significance in criminal justice of the conduct of the person to whom psychological coercion has been exerted" examines issues related to the significance in criminal justice of the behaviour of the victim of a crime involving psychological coercion.

Section One, "Legal characteristics of the person subjected to psychological coercion," clarifies the legal characteristics of the person subjected to psychological coercion by making

the statement that such person is always the victim of the crime. The theoretical formulations regarding the criminological concept of the victim of crime are clarified, making the conclusions that the victim of coercion is a victim in the narrow sense of this concept.

Section two, "Meaning in criminal justice of the conduct of the victim of psychological coercion," clarifies the levels of behaviour of the person subjected to psychological coercion with respect to various classification criteria - depending on whether the person subjected to the coercion engaged in the behaviour desired by the perpetrator of the coercion; depending on whether the exercise of psychological coercion has been elevated to an element of a resultant or formal offence; depending on the manifestation of the behaviour of the victim of psychological coercion, etc. The reflection that the victim's behaviour has on the criminal responsibility of the offender is being clarified.

Section three of chapter three of the dissertation, "Specific remedies for people subjected to psychological coercion," is devoted to clarifying some specific remedies for the person subjected to coercion. Emphasis is placed on the mechanisms applicable to the protection of the victim from psychological coercion provided for in the Criminal Code of Procedure (CCP). It is argued in detail that the person against whom psychological coercion is exercised may exercise his rights provided for in the Criminal Code of Procedure (CCP), not only in the event that he or she is the victim of a resultant crime related to coercion, such as the coercion under Art.143a, Para.1 of the Criminal Code, robbery under Art.198, Para.1 of the Criminal Code, extortion under Art.214, Para.1 of the Criminal Code, but also when a crime of coercion is committed, which is of a simple, formal commission - for example, under Art.155(b), Para.2, Item 1, in connection with Para.1 of the Criminal Code, under Art. 182a, Para. 1, proposition 3 of the Criminal Code and other cases, in which actual damage has been caused as a result of the coercion exercised, being direct

and an immediate consequence of the incriminated act, but they have not been elevated to an objective element of the crime.

The fourth chapter of the study, "Crimes related to psychological coercion as grounds for liability of legal entities", is devoted to the peculiarities of liability of legal entities in case of crimes, related to psychological coercion. A classification of crimes related to psychological coercion is made, which presuppose the involvement of the administrative and criminal liability of legal entities under Art.83a et seq. of the Law on Administrative Offences and Penalties (AOPA/ZANN); the issues related to the mechanism of legal entities benefitting from crimes related to psychological coercion are examined (in Section II); the specificities of individualization of the property liability of legal entities that have benefited or would have benefited from the discussed crimes have been clarified (in Section III); some special hypotheses that exclude the possibility of engaging the property liability of the legal entity are also examined (in Section IV).

The study is intended for legal practitioners - judges, prosecutors, investigators, investigating police officers, lawyers who take part in the examination of criminal and administrative cases. The work could also be useful to those engaged in research in the field of criminal law, to students in law schools around the country, and to anyone interested in the issues of coercive crime.

## • MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MONOGRAPHIC STUDY

Among the main contributions of the dissertation paper, we should highlight the following.

The dissertation paper is a comprehensive monographic study in the field of psychological coercion as a form of criminal psychological influence, as grounds for criminal liability of the perpetrator of the coercion.

A definition of psychological coercion as a certain legal institution /a set of norms/ in criminal justice has been proposed, according to which it is an unlawful purposeful influence on the psyche of another individual (the victim), without affecting his or her physical integrity, expressed in motivating him or her to undertake a certain behaviour (which he or she does not want to undertake or does not want to undertake in the place, time and situation determined by the perpetrator), under the threat of a future adverse change in the objective reality from his or her point of view. The elements of the definition of psychological coercion and its meaning are explained in detail.

The possible forms of influence on the victim's psyche without affecting his or her bodily integrity - through words (verbal psychological coercion) and through concrete actions (non-verbal psychological coercion) - are discussed in detail and exhaustively. The possible forms of nonverbal psychological coercion are analyzed.

The author has proposed a classification of the different manifestations of the behaviour of the victim of psychological coercion, depending on different classification criteria. The criminal law significance of each of these forms of behaviour has been clarified.

The correlation between the concept of psychological coercion and other criminal law concepts and certain legal sets of norms, such as mental influence, criminal mental influence, coercion, intimidation, threat of committing crime, torture, domestic violence and gender-based violence, as well as the correlation between this concept and some other concepts used in criminology - violence and violent crime.

The author has also proposed his own classification criteria for subdividing the types of psychological coercion - in view of the mechanism of the coercive influence; in view of the nature of the influence; in view of the time that elapses between the exercise of the influence on the victim and the perception of that influence; in view of the temporal distance of the victim's behaviour from the moment of the exercise of the coercion; in view of the level of behaviour to which the victim is motivated; having regard to the nature of the conduct to which the victim is motivated; having regard to the adverse legal consequences with which the perpetrator endangers the victim; having regard to whether the victim decides to carry out the conduct to which he or she is unlawfully motivated through the exercise of coercion.

The specifics of the implementation of certain legal set of norms of the General Part of the Criminal Code in crimes related to psychological coercion have been clarified as follows: The stages of intentional criminal activity carried out by means of psychological coercion; the complicity in offences carried out by means of psychological coercion; the totality of offences, any or all of which are carried out by means of psychological coercion. The specifics in the individualization of the criminal responsibility of the criminal offender who committed a crime involving psychological coercion are also clarified in terms of mitigating and aggravating circumstances, which may be taken into account by the courts when assessing the exact measure of state coercion following the criminal offender.

A review is made of the types of offences, regulated in different systematic places in the Special Part of the Criminal Code, involving psychological coercion as a form of executive act or as a way, a means for the implementation of the incriminated criminal offence.

The significance in criminal justice of the behaviour of the victim of psychological coercion for the criminal liability of the criminal offender is clarified. Some specific remedies for the person subjected to psychological coercion are analysed.

Clarified are the peculiarities of the involvement of the property liability of the legal entities under Art. 83a et seq. of the Criminal Code, who have benefitting or would have benefited from crimes related to coercion.

Thereupon, the issues of crimes related to psychological coercion are examined from a specific point of view, namely from the point of view of the different categories of subjects of influence or protection by criminal law - the individuals exercising psychological coercion; the individuals against whom psychological coercion is exercised; the legal entities who shall be financially liable when they are benefitting by certain categories of criminal violations carried out through coercion.

In his conclusions, the author has made some *de lege ferenda* proposals for updating, supplementing and modernizing the legislation providing protection from the category of violations discussed.

With regard to the protection in criminal justice from the crimes of coercion, it is recommended that the system of a number of criminal offences should be supplemented by making the use of coercion a qualifying factor. Such amendments are necessary for the offences under Art.159, Para.3 under Art. 174, under Art.189, Art.225c, Para. 1, Art. 280, Art. 289, Art. 297 of the Criminal Code.

With regard to raising the standards of protection for victims of coercive crime, a recommendation is made to fully transpose Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA by establishing a national institution, or at least a credible and functioning mechanism, to fully implement the so-called restorative justice, and to provide the victims of such incriminated offence the right to a free trial, including the right to the most lenient and expeditious retribution possible.

With regard to the regulation concerning the liability of legal entities in case of a criminal offence, it is proposed that legal entities shall be held financially liable in any case of a criminal offence, as a result of which they have benefited or would have benefited or the catalogue of offences under Art.83a (1) of the Criminal Code, which determines the liability of this category of legal entities, should be reconsidered by including all crimes, from which a legal entity could enrich itself, to be included in the catalogue under the Law on Administrative Offences and Penalties (AOPA/ZANN). At least, the catalogue of crimes regulated in Art.83a, Para.1 of the Criminal Code, should provide for the robbery under Art.198(1 - 3) of the Criminal Code, coercion of an authority exercised with the purpose of motivating it to do or omit something in its official capacity under Art. 269 of the Criminal Code, the seizure of an aircraft under Art. 341(b) of the Criminal Code, the unlawful taking of a motor vehicle for the purpose of use, by means of coercion, under Art. 346(5) of the Criminal Code. It is also proposed to regulate at the statutory level the legal consequences for the legal person in case it enriches or is enabled to enrich itself by the commission of two or more offences - under the conditions of an ideal or real aggregate, including those related to coercion.

• PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THIS DISSERTATION PAPER

1. Alexiev, P., Psychological coercion on the criminal offender as a form of complicity under Bulgarian criminal law - In: De Jure, 2021 (22), issue No.1, pages 41 -49;
2. Alexiev, P., Particular circumstances relevant to individualization of criminal responsibility for crimes, related to psychological coercion - In: Contemporary Law, 2020, issue No. 3, pages 81 - 94;
3. Alexiev, P., Mechanism of Legal Entities Benefiting under Article 83a of the Law on Administrative Offences and Penalties from crimes related to coercion - In: The reform in Administrative Punishment from 2020. A collection of reports - Sofia, University St. Kliment Ohridski", 2021, pp. 171 - 181;
4. Alexiev, P., Aggregate offences involving coercion, under Bulgarian criminal law (book in print - In: Law and Coercion. Collection of reports of the Scientific Readings held on 16 May 2022 Sofia, University of St. Kliment Ohridski");
5. Alexiev, P., Significance of the behaviour of the person against whom psychological coercion is exercised for the criminal liability of the offender (book in print - In: Collection of reports of the National Scientific Conference, held on 13 October 2022, dedicated to the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Prof. Dr. Ivan Nenov and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Prof. Dr. Tseko Tsekov - Sofia, University of St. Kliment Ohridski");
6. Alexiev, P., Legal Nature of Psychological Coercion - In: De Jure, 2023 (book in print).