

STATEMENT

ABOUT DISSERTATION FOR AWARDING OF EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE „DOCTOR“

Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal studies, Professional direction:
3.6 Law (Roman private law)

Author of the dissertation is Stoyan Panayotov Ivanov who is an unsupervised PhD student on an individual plan of Roman private law at the Department of „Theory and history of State and Law“ at Law Faculty of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

Topic of the dissertation: **Companies of Publicans**

The statement is prepared by prof. Lyubka Tsenova, PhD an ordinary professor at VUZF University – Sofia as a member of the scientific jury, according to Order № ПД 38-377/ 21.07.2021 of the Rector of Sofia university „St. Kliment Ohridski“, changed with order № ПД 38-406/ 28.07.2021 of the Rector of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

1. Information about the PhD student and the PhD program according to the submitted documents.

The PhD student Stoyan Panayotov Ivanov completed his secondary education in 2007 in Sofia at the National high school for ancient languages and cultures „Saint Constantine-Cyril the Philosopher“ and the Faculty of Law of Sofia University in 2012. In the period 2013-2018 he worked successively as honorary assistant professor and ordinary assistant professor of Roman private law at Faculty of law of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“. In november 2018 Stoyan Ivanov was enrolled at the Department of „Theory and History of State and Law” as an unsupervised PhD student on individual plan of scientific speciality „Roman private law“. He passed the obligatory exam for doctoral minimum of Roman private law. In 2021 the PhD student presented a PhD thesis on topic „Companies of publicans“, which was approved and allowed for public defense by the Department of „Theory and History of State and Law“. In the period 2015-2017 the PhD student did a specialization at the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in Rome, Italy and at the Foundation „Konstantin and Zinovia Katzarovi“ in Fribourg and Neuchatel, Switzerland. From 2015 till now he has been participating in a project of the Faculty of Law of Sofia University for Roman law and Roman legal tradition. Stoyan Ivanov is a Secretary of the Balkan Association of Roman law and

Roman legal tradition „Societas pro iure romano“ and to the online journal IUS ROMANUM. He is an active member of the circle of Roman law at the Faculty of law in Sofia University.

For the preparation of the statement the candidate Stoyan Panayotov Ivanov submitted in time doctoral thesis, abstract of the doctoral thesis, autobiography, his master`s degree diploma, and 3 articles published in referenced and indexed editions.

The documents submitted by the applicant comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

2. Information about the dissertation.

2.1. **Topic.** The topic of the dissertation „Companies of publicans“, indicated by the doctoral student, fully and accurately reflects the content of the dissertation.

2.2. **Main parts of the dissertation.** The content of the dissertation includes an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion with a bibliography. The total volume of the doctoral thesis is 363 pages, of which the exposition is 350 pages. The list of the used literature is 13 pages and includes 220 sources (26 in Bulgarian; 184 in foreign languages; 10 online resources). The total number of citations and references to them in the text is 1029.

The introduction argues the relevance and significance of the topic. The author also outlines in the introduction the subject, the tasks and the methodology and the limitations of the work.

The subject of the dissertation is a study of the activity, role and significance of the companies of the publicans, as well as their place in the financial system of Ancient Rome in the period from the end of the Republic and the first centuries of the Principate. The doctoral student has outlined several tasks that must be achieved with the research.

The candidate pointed out that in the process of his scientific research he applied the following scientific methods: legal-dogmatic, historical, comparative-legal, political science, sociological, economic and logical, as well as exegesis of the texts of Roman sources, which refer to the contractual relations between the publicans and the Roman state with regard to participation in a public auction, the award of public contracts and the application of a concession regime.

In the first chapter „**Concept and information about activities of publicans**“ the PhD student considers the prerequisites that led to the necessity of the appearance of the companies

of the publicans. Stoyan Ivanov proved that the purpose of *societates publicanorum* is to support the activities of the Roman administration by acquiring rights: to collect public revenues; to supply the Roman army; to perform infrastructural projects as main contractors of contracts for public construction and operation of mines and quarries in Rome.

In chapter two of the doctoral thesis the PhD student considers by clarifying the content and organizational structure of the legal figure of „*societas*“ in Roman law. The research done through the exegesis of the fragment D. 3.4.1 by Gaius presents a contribution to the legal knowledge. Through this approach, the doctoral student was able to identify and analyze the special characteristics of the companies of publicans, which distinguish them from other forms of association known to Roman law.

In chapter three of the PhD thesis „**Legal aspects of the activities of publicans**“ the author examines the applicable procedure for conducting a public auction in Rome, through which public contracts have been awarded for the collection of public revenues and for the realization of various types of public activities by the companies of the publicans. The chapter sets out and analyzes the processual aspects of the relationship between the publicans as tax farmers and the tax payers and highlights the procedural remedies provided by Roman law for both the tax farmers and the taxable persons.

2. 3. Scientific apparatus. The doctoral student shows good knowledge of the scientific apparatus, the used bibliography and its citation. It is noteworthy that he used numerous literary sources, noting that he personally searched for and analyzed some of them.

3. Abstract of the dissertation. The presented abstract has a total volume of 36 pages. It contains a structural and meaningful description of the dissertation and accurately reflects what is presented in the exposition of it.

4. Publications. Stoyan Panayotov Ivanov submitted 3 articles on the topic of the dissertation.

The articles are separate parts of the dissertation, defining a more specific object of study or interpretation. Two of the articles were published in the referenced and indexed in 3 world databases (CEEOL, Erich Plus and Hein OnLine) online journal IUS ROMANUM, of which the PhD student is a secretary. The third article was published in a collection of scientific readings at the Law Faculty of Sofia University, which testifies to the active work of the doctoral student in the scientific life of the Department of Theory and History of State and Law and at Sofia University at all.

The PhD candidate has the required minimum number of 30 scientometric points from publications in peer-reviewed publications registered in the National Reference List of NACID.

5. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions. The dissertation is the first complete study of the companies of publicans (*societates publicanorum*) in the Bulgarian legal literature, which defines it as a significant scientific study in this field.

The dissertation has the following contributions:

➤ study of the legal organization adopted in the Roman Republic for **the governance of public property**, so that through minimal investment to achieve maximum benefits in the performance of provincial government and fiscal policy in the various regions of the Roman Empire;

➤ study of **the public auction procedure on open bidding** for determination of the companies of the publicans which to be entrusted with the performance of public contracts for collection of public revenues and the realization of public activities;

➤ clarification of the genesis for the emergence of the prototype of the modern legal figure of **public procurements**, as a way to outsource the performance of socially significant activities and spending public funds by private commercial companies;

➤ the author outlines in the dissertation the legal decisions adopted by the Roman state, which are aimed at carrying out state activities by companies of publicans, financed with public funds without maintaining expensive for the state budget public administration, which can serve as a theoretical and legal basis and for finding concrete specific legal solutions in modern conditions;

➤ the PhD student **made examination, translation and interpretation of Roman legal texts through exegesis** which is a contribution in the theory of the legal knowledge, which allowed him to outline the legal characteristics of the companies of the publicans, to examine the legal forms by which they performed their obligations to the State, as well as to reveal the remedies of protection provided for both the publicans as tax farmers and the tax payers against the publicans.

It is noteworthy that although the dissertation is on Roman private law, links have been made with Roman public law and in some places this public law problematics prevails.

No plagiarism was found in the dissertation, abstract and scientific papers submitted at the competition.

6. Notes and recommendations. I don't have any particular notes as a member of the scientific jury on the competition for the awarding the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ about the scientific activity of Stoyan Panayotov Ivanov. I recommend to the candidate to continue his scientific researches and publications in the field of the Roman private law and to look more moderately for direct analogies between Roman law and modern institutes.

7. Conclusion. After I got acquainted with the submitted dissertation „Companies of Publicans“, Abstract and other materials, and based on the analysis of their significance and the scientific contributions contained in them, I have reason to recommend to Stoyan Panayotov Ivanov for the presented doctoral thesis on the topic „**Companies of Publicans**“ to be awarded the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ in the professional field 3.6. Law (Roman private law).

I give my **positive** assessment of the dissertation.

Date: 20/08/2021

Sofia

Respectfully:

/Reviewer prof. Lyubka Tzenova, PhD/