

OPINION

by

Prof. Veselin Borislavov Vuchkov, PhD – Lecturer at New Bulgarian University and the Academy of the Ministry of Interior

on a dissertation submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree of „Doctor (PhD)”

In field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences

Professional Field 3.8. Economics

Author of the dissertation: **Veselin Pavlov Yolov**

Topic: **„Problems of Financial Management and Control in Healthcare Institutions During Times of Crisis“**

Research supervisor: **Assoc. Professor Diyana Bankova, PhD**

1. General Description of the Submitted Materials

By Order No. 269 of 8 July 2026, issued by the Rector of the University of Insurance and Finance, Corresponding Member Prof. Dr. Boris Velchev, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the public defence of the dissertation entitled Problems of Financial Management and Control in Healthcare Institutions During Times of Crisis, submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD) in Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.8. Economics. The dissertation was prepared by Veselin Pavlov Yolov, a doctoral student in the PhD programme Accounting, Auditing and Analysis at the Department of Accounting and Auditing. The scientific supervisor is Assoc. Prof. Diyana Bankova, PhD.

The materials submitted by the candidate include all documents listed in the inventory.

The doctoral candidate has also submitted three scientific publications related to the dissertation topic.

2. Brief Biographical Information about the Candidate

Veselin Yolov has served as Deputy Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care at the Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior – Central Clinical Hospital since 2013. He graduated with a Master's degree in Medicine from the Medical University – Sofia in 2002 and obtained the specialty qualification in Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care in 2011. In 2019, he completed a second Master's degree in Public Health and Health Management at the same university. He has also acquired additional professional qualifications. He has participated in several international police missions. For nearly twenty years, he has been a part-time lecturer at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior. Between 2006 and 2013, he also worked as a Research Associate (Grade III) at the Clinic of Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation of the Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior.

3. Characteristics and Evaluation of the Dissertation

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, and appendices. The total length is 175 pages and includes 6 tables, 5 figures, and 5 appendices. The bibliography comprises 25 sources in Bulgarian and 41 in English. The legal and regulatory sources include 58 documents in Bulgarian and 22 in English. In addition, the author has used 41 Bulgarian online sources and 93 international electronic sources. Overall, the dissertation is based on 280 references.

4. Contributions and Significance of the Dissertation for Science and Practice

I would like to highlight three major scientific contributions of the dissertation.

First, the dissertation makes a significant conceptual contribution. The author provides a comprehensive analysis of key concepts such as *health management* and *healthcare financing models*, building upon well-established national and international academic publications. Based on this conceptual framework, the dissertation presents a systematic overview of the hierarchical and functional structure of the Bulgarian public authorities responsible for healthcare governance and control. This theoretical foundation, developed in Chapter One, is essential for understanding the analyses and conclusions presented in the following chapters.

Second, the dissertation offers an in-depth analysis of the impact of different types of crises on healthcare financing and the quality of healthcare services. The discussion follows a well-structured historical perspective, covering the international environment, Bulgaria's accession to the European Union, the global financial crisis of 2008, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and other types of crises. The author demonstrates how each of these crises has influenced the financing strategies of healthcare institutions, including the increasing role of substantial state financial support. The conclusions presented on page 97 represent a valuable scientific contribution.

Third, the dissertation provides an important forward-looking contribution, mainly developed in Chapter Three. The six conclusions presented at the end of this chapter offer valuable recommendations for improving governance, financial control, and the long-term sustainability of the healthcare sector, particularly healthcare institutions in Bulgaria. It is important to note that these conclusions are supported by empirical research conducted by the author.

5. Evaluation of the Publications Related to the Dissertation

The candidate has submitted *three scientific publications* related to the dissertation topic. I accept all three publications. They clearly demonstrate the doctoral candidate's research abilities, contribute to achieving the objectives of the dissertation, and represent the author's independent scientific work. I have no information regarding citations by other researchers. The publications have appeared in reputable academic journals.

6. Assessment of Compliance with the Minimum National Requirements

The candidate meets the minimum national requirements for the award of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD) in the Professional Field of Economics.

7. Dissertation Abstract

The dissertation abstract, consisting of 50 pages, accurately and comprehensively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation.

8. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above considerations, I conclude that *the author of the dissertation possesses profound theoretical knowledge in the relevant scientific field and has clearly demonstrated the ability to conduct independent scientific research. The dissertation contains original scientific and applied research results that make a valuable contribution to the development of the field.*

Taking into account my positive evaluation of the dissertation, as well as the candidate's substantial professional and expert experience, I confidently express my *positive assessment* and recommend that the Scientific Jury vote in favour of awarding Veselin Pavlov YOLOV the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD).

27 July 2026
Sofia

Author of the Opinion:
(Prof. Veselin B. Vuchkov, PhD)