

STATEMENT

in connection with an open procedure of public defense of a dissertation on the topic **“Organizational and managerial challenges for medical institutions in the conditions of pandemic of COVID-19 (on the example of Multi profile hospital for active treatment „Heart and Brain“ EAD – Pleven)”**, developed by doctoral student **Lyuba Martinova Miteva, d020218165**, for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the Doctoral Program "Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance (Insurance and Social Security)".

Author of the statement: Assoc. Prof., Plamen Petkov Yordanov, PhD, - Habilitated in the scientific specialty 05.02.05 “Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit and Insurance (Social Insurance)”, Certificate No. 26420 of 19.07.2010 of the Higher Attestation Commission.

Grounds for the opinion: Order No. 475 of 01.06.2023 of the Rector of Academy of Economics “D. A. Tsenov” – Svishtov, in implementation of the decision of the first meeting of the approved Scientific Jury.

I. General Characteristics of the Presented Dissertation

The submitted dissertation has a total length of 240 pages and includes a table of contents, a list of abbreviations used, an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of literature used and cited, a list of publications of the author on the topic of the dissertation, appendices and a Declaration of Originality and Authenticity. The research included its survey. In support of the thesis, 69 figures (52 of which reflect the results of the survey) and 24 tables have been developed. The number of sources used and cited in the list is 78.

II. Content characteristics of the submitted dissertation

The object of the dissertation work is the private Multi profile hospital for active treatment "Heart and Brain" EAD - Pleven, as a part of the current national system of hospital medical care facilities in the Republic of Bulgaria. The subject of the study is the organizational and management challenges faced by the medical institutions in the country

in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to implement a risk management program (on the example of the Multi profile hospital for active treatment „Heart and Brain“ EAD – Pleven).

An attempt has been made to present in a focused and substantiated way the thesis that the COVID-19 pandemic provokes the management of the hospital medical care institutions in the country in the direction of - rethinking the strategies of the medical institutions and, in particular, the risk management programs underlying their risk management. The implementation of these programs is a key management tool and a practice-tested method of counteracting any healthcare organization (in this case - Multi profile hospital for active treatment „Heart and Brain“ EAD – Pleven) that is exposed to unprecedented risk pressure of similar pandemic proportions. Only the proactive and systematic implementation of risk management programs in the hospital could result in positively ensuring the safety, life, and health of patients and staff, as well as the organization's assets, market share, accreditation, reimbursement levels, brand value, and reputation in the community.

The main **objective** of the study is to demonstrate the need for a strong risk management program, noting that compliance with the steps outlined in the program to identify, monitor, assess, and prevent existing risks to the operations of the healthcare organization, and the strict implementation of the identified actions, could transform any threat to the healthcare organization into a positive and generate added value for the organization.

Nine specific research tasks have been formulated, the implementation of which is decisive in terms of the logical sequence and structure of the presentation.

The **first chapter** presents the PhD student's views on the hospital-risk management-COVID-19 pandemic relationship. Within this part of the study, the main characteristics of the hospital are outlined (with a focus on its role in modern health systems), the concept of hospital risk management is presented through the lens of current public health dimensions, and the need to apply risk management as a management tool for healthcare facilities is

argued based on established practices and reported benefits in the extreme conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chapter 2 outlines the organizational and management challenges facing healthcare facilities in Bulgaria in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this part of the development, the state of hospital medical care in the country is studied and the main challenges for the activities of medical institutions in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic are outlined, against which the results of the activities of the Multi profile hospital for active treatment „Heart and Brain“ EAD – Pleven are commented.

In the **third chapter**, the analysis of the organization and management of the activity of the Multi profile hospital for active treatment of „Heart and Brain“ EAD – Pleven in the conditions of the pandemic of COVID-19 is carried out. Within this part of the development, the actions of the management team in the extreme pandemic environment are presented, the elements of the implemented Risk and Opportunity Management Program are commented on, and the attitude of the staff towards the risk management processes in the hospital is established.

III. Evaluation of results

The study is of sufficient size, with an appropriate and balanced structure. The style is scholarly and meets the requirements for such research papers. The presentation follows a good logical sequence. The methods used are adequate to the object, subject, thesis, and aim of the study. The main aim and objectives have been met, which substantiates the thesis. As the merits of the development of scientific and scientific-applied contribution can be pointed out (1) the generalizations and systematizations of methodological nature, devoted to the place and importance of risk management in the management mechanism of the medical institution, (2) the evaluation of the activity of hospital medical care institutions in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in national and regional (Pleven region) aspect, (3) the study of the applied aspects of risk management processes in the Multi profile hospital for active treatment of “Heart and Brain” EAD - Pleven, and (4) the attempt to interpret the results of the survey conducted on the attitude of staff towards risk management processes through the prism of the management of the medical institution.

The abstract is 42 pages long and correctly reflects the achievements of the thesis.

One article and two reports have been published, thus achieving the necessary fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for obtaining the PhD.

I accept the attached Declaration of Originality and Authenticity .

IV. Weaknesses

I believe that the work, as a whole, would have benefited if a more tangible and definite link had been attempted between the principles of risk management, examined in Chapter One, the risk exposure of medical institutions, as a function (and reflection) of the state of hospital care, commented in Chapter Two, the applied aspects of risk management in the Multi profile hospital for active treatment „Heart and Brain“ EAD – Pleven, presented in Chapter Three, with the perspectives and strategic development of the medical institution.

V. Questions

None.

VI. Conclusion

The dissertation is a well-executed, correct, and complete scientific study. The set tasks and aim have been achieved, the thesis is substantiated. There is the necessary fulfillment of the minimum national requirements. The dissertation, the abstract, the publications on the topic, and the participation in scientific forums testify to the presence of the necessary theoretical knowledge in the specialty and the abilities for independent research work. This gives me grounds to express a positive opinion and to propose the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to Lyuba Martinova Miteva.

Svishtov, 20.06.2023

Author of the statement:

The signature was deleted on the basis
of Article 4, Paragraph 1 of Regulation
679/2016.

(Assoc. Prof. Pl. Yordanov, PhD)