

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

By Prof. Nikolay Kirilov Mihailov, PhD, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", FJMC, Department of "Communication, Public Relations and Advertising", member of the scientific jury for the procedure for the defense of a dissertation work for the acquisition of the Doctor/PhD in professional field

3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences, on the topic, professional field Sociology, **"SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE FORMATION AND CONTENT OF LEGAL AWARENESS IN AN INTERGENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE"**

By BILYANA IVANOVA IVANOVA, PhD student

Scientific Advisor: Prof. Anna Mantarova, DSc.

1. General characteristics of the dissertation thesis. The dissertation submitted for opinion deals with a number of important problems of our society, related to the modern social situation, as the dissertation focuses on the issue of legal consciousness - on its content, on the mechanisms and factors of its formation. The main research goal set by the PhD student is to thoroughly investigate the problem of intergenerational differences in the formation and functioning of legal consciousness. This goal sets a scientific field that enables the dissertation student to prove his thesis and successfully fulfill the scientific tasks he has set before himself, including creating a credible theoretical model, which he can later operationalize with a view to applying it in an empirical study. The entire work has a volume of over 200 pages, with a logically consistent presentation, spread out in three chapters, an additional introduction, conclusion and appendix plus a considerable bibliography (over 170 titles in Bulgarian and foreign languages plus Internet sources). The PhD student has chosen a research approach that I find completely appropriate for the purpose of her work. Starting with an analysis and construction of a conceptual framework of attempts to research legal awareness, she conducts a successful empirical sociological study proving the established research thesis of building a stable model of intergenerational continuity and development of this awareness over time. Sociological research methods have been applied successfully and this gives credibility to the results obtained. The PhD student has published three articles and one study in which he reflects on intergenerational differences in the functioning and formation of legal consciousness, a topic entirely relevant to the general design of the research and the dissertation work. In this way, she not only meets but exceeds the necessary national scientometric requirements for the degree she is applying for. Separately, I should also mention the active and participation with reports in scientific forums at home and abroad, which speaks of the activity as a researcher and the skills and to carry out successful scientific communication of achieved results in her academic

work on the dissertation thesis. The abstract is detailed, meaningful, faithfully presents the general idea and results of the research and fully meets the requirements for referencing a dissertation. The language of the presentation is scientific, with clear messages, descriptions and conclusions, and is fully understood by the reader. My overall assessment of the research and scientific value of the presented dissertation work, its layout, definition of research goals and tasks and their implementation is entirely positive.

2. Analysis of the content of the dissertation. Scientific contributions. The subject of the dissertation is the formation and content of legal consciousness in a temporal or generational social aspect. The main thesis of the author is the study of the significant changes in the social environment that have occurred over time (in social terms), which produce differences in the cognitive components of legal consciousness, in the value systems and orientations, and from there - in the psychological and behavioral components of the different generations. In the first chapter of the dissertation, the PhD student traces the formation and development of legal consciousness while at the same time successfully looking for the differences between the legal and sociological approaches, as well as the unification of the heuristic possibilities of the two approaches. In this chapter, the research reaches important conceptualizations regarding the methodological significance of considering law as an element in the sociological structure of society, possessing its own internal structure and interacting with other elements of the social system. The analysis of the concept of "legal consciousness", the distinction between "law" and "law" is distinguished by its theoretical depth, as the PhD student also demonstrates a wide bibliographic erudition while examining these concepts, which are key to the purposes of the research. In the second chapter, the sociological analysis is directed to the relationship of legal consciousness in an intergenerational discourse to concepts such as socialization, legal socialization, (social) deviations and other analyzes important for the research. Chapter three is perhaps most important to the dissertation's main research effort and is devoted to an empirical analysis of legal consciousness in an intergenerational perspective. The aim of the presented empirical research is to collect and analyze information about the content and formation of the legal consciousness of three different generational groups, taking into account the different socio-cultural context that built it. The researcher seeks to find similarities and differences in an intergenerational perspective and aims to establish the impact on legally relevant behavior and on the risk of social deviance. The ultimate practical goal of the study is an attempt to increase the effectiveness of law in modern society with the help of sociological knowledge. The realized sample includes 150 persons from each of the three groups, which, together with

the skillful conduct and analysis of the research, is a basis for the reliability of the results obtained.

The dissertation's conclusions are relevant to the overall design of the dissertation and present a coherent and skillfully defended research position. The social environment in which legal awareness is formed is highly dynamic. The role of the various agents of (legal) socialization is also changing – the family, the school, etc., which has its impact on the formation of legal awareness. Communication technologies, online platforms and social networks are increasingly influencing this formation, which sometimes has a somewhat negative effect on legal awareness. Political changes - living in a democratic state with a separation of powers and an emphasis on rights - also have an important impact on the generation that has built its personal and social potential and legal awareness in this social environment.

The research confirms the dissertation's thesis that the degree of legal awareness in itself is not the decisive factor for legal or illegal/deviant behavior. According to the researcher, the psychological component is much more important, as it determines the motives and the decision for the specific legally significant behavior. Based on the results of the conducted research, a successful attempt was made by the PhD student to recommend practical actions aimed both at the main agents of legal socialization and at the specialized state bodies that have an essential role in the formation and functioning of legal consciousness, especially that of the adolescent generation.

3. Conclusion. The presented dissertation thesis on the topic "**Similarities and differences in the formation and content of legal consciousness in an intergenerational perspective**" undoubtedly possesses the necessary qualities, which make me take a categorically positive opinion on the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "PhD/Doctor" to its author. It is dedicated to an interesting and current topic from the fields of sociology and sociological knowledge, related to the construction and formation of legal awareness in changing social, political and cultural conditions. The emphasis on various original sociological and juridical concepts and authors, the sharing and argumentation of own positions, as well as the presented empirical research, its analysis and results by the author confirm my positive opinion of the work presented. The dissertation work has a marked contribution in terms of providing new knowledge and its practical significance. I acknowledge and accept the listed contributions from the PhD student. I consider the entire work to be a coherent concept that gives a clear idea of an up-to-date research idea related to the sociological understanding of problems important to society - the formation of legal consciousness - as a sign of civilization and social maturity of

any society. The overall research concept and completed work are relevant to the subject area of the research and the doctoral program in which it was developed. I call upon the respected members **of the Scientific Jury to confer to Bilyana Ivanova Ivanova educational and scientific degree "PhD/Doctor" in professional direction 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences, professional field Sociology, as I myself will vote for with conviction for this.**

Sofia, 26.11.2023

Prof. N. Mihailov