STATEMENT

Regarding: Dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (Ph.D.)

Field of Higher Education: 5. Technical Sciences

Professional Area: 5.7. Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy

Doctoral Program: "Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities and Details"

Author: Arch. Eng. Stoyan Georgiev Todorov, independent Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Architecture and Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture, Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"

Topic: "Organizational Models for Building Creation in Bulgaria and Bavaria and the Formation of the Professional Tasks of Architects"

Scientific Advisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Zhechka Ilieva

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Maria Davcheva, Department of Architecture, New Bulgarian University (NBU), Sofia

This statement has been prepared on the basis of Order No. 338/23.06.2026 issued by the Rector of Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar".

1. General Characteristics and Evaluation of the Candidate's Results and Contributions

1.1. Brief Presentation of the Dissertation

The dissertation *"Organizational Models for Building Creation in Bulgaria and Bavaria and the Formation of the Professional Tasks of Architects"* is an independent, interdisciplinary research of a scientific and applied nature, presented in two volumes. Volume 1 comprises over 504 pages (including an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, and a terminological glossary), while Volume 2 contains 16 appendices.

The study employs a holistic comparative approach between the building cultures and the legal-administrative frameworks of Bulgaria and the State of Bavaria (Germany). It integrates theoretical analyses, empirical survey studies, and an experimental method based on the examination of actual judicial and administrative case studies. The dissertation summary (extended abstract) fully reflects the content and main conclusions of the work.

Despite the relevance of the topic—which seeks the foundations underlying the inevitable globalization of processes related to architectural education and professional practice—the

dissertation itself, although voluminous, is not well balanced. The focus repeatedly shifts toward the author's personal dissatisfaction. While a personal stance is always an integral component of scientific research, this holds true only when such a stance remains emotionally impartial and, most importantly, results in models characterized by innovation and high practical value. The applicability of these models must be demonstrated through testing and validation; however, in this specific case, the author relies primarily on analogies between Bulgaria and Germany and subsequently devotes disproportionate attention to documentation and correspondence concerning personal requests and complaints. Although these documents confirm the disparities in architectural education, design, and implementation between the two countries, this remains an obvious fact—much like the demographic reality that Bulgaria has a population of 6,400,000 while Germany has 83,500,000.

The essential question lies in identifying the intercultural bridges and global architectural principles that can assist different nations in preserving their local architectural-construction identity while simultaneously enabling the free exchange of authorial concepts and competencies. Regrettably, although this was the declared ambition of the thesis and a substantial, diverse body of initial material was selected, a real, empirically validated, and working operational model has not been produced.

1.2. Evaluation of Achieved Results

The results demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the subject matter alongside the aforementioned personal dissatisfaction, providing an analysis of existing distortions within the Bulgarian construction sector. The comparison between Bulgarian and Bavarian practice highlights the primary structural difference in the positioning of the architect: whereas in Bavaria the architect functions as a master-builder/generalist and a trusted client representative, in Bulgaria the role is predominantly reduced to that of a designer limited to the "Architectural" design package. The study defines and compares 5 core organizational models for the implementation of construction projects within each of the two environments.

1.3. Character of Contributions

1.3.1. Scientific Novelty

For the first time in Bulgarian architectural theory, the objective relationships between the regulatory framework, administrative/judicial practices, organizational models, and the professional scope of the architect have been systematically categorized. The historical evolution of the architect’s professional tasks from the late 19th century to 2026 is traced through the framework of the Vitruvian Triad.

1.3.2. Enrichment of Existing Knowledge

The work expands existing knowledge regarding European Union regulatory frameworks for liberal professions (Directives 2005/36/EC, 2006/123/EC, and (EU) 2018/958) and the application of criteria from the Davos System for Quality in Baukultur. The necessity of transitioning from restrictive *ex-ante* control to effective *ex-post* oversight is substantiated.

1.3.3. Practical Application and Economic Impact

A new business workflow and a functional web application (*ARCHModels*) have been developed to assist clients in digitally determining the most suitable organizational model.

Specific regulatory reform measures are proposed to optimize construction costs and curb detrimental engineering-procurement and corruption practices.

However, two critical conditional prerequisites ("ifs") remain: *If* investors had the legal flexibility to freely choose an organizational model, this application would be invaluable; however, this is impossible today and in the foreseeable future. *If* there were a realistic prospect of the proposed regulatory amendments being adopted in the near future, the proposed model would indeed be applicable and valuable, bringing national frameworks closer to global integration. Even after Arch. Eng. Todorov's extensive research, these two "ifs" remain unyielding. While the author could not define a single universal model capable of overcoming deeply entrenched cultural differences, the study could have maintained a tighter focus on shared, objective facts.

1.4. Evaluation of Scientific Publications

The candidate meets and significantly exceeds the national minimum requirements (achieving 180 points in Indicator Group "G" against the required 30 points). The submission includes 9 single-authored scientific publications (published in *Architecture* journal, the VFU Yearbook, and German publications) as well as 2 implemented architectural projects.

The absence of co-authors confirms the candidate's leading personal involvement in the subject matter; on the other hand, it suggests that when attempting to establish integrative parallels, the researcher should ideally be fully integrated within the academic and professional environment to ensure maximum objectivity. Two of the articles (Items 1 and 2 from the candidate's list) fall outside the primary thesis topic, though they address relevant current areas of architectural design.

2. Critical Remarks, Comments, and Recommendations

Remarks:

- **Excessive Scope:** The attempt to combine a historical review, a comparative legal analysis, and software engineering decentralizes the primary research focus.
- **Publicistic Tone:** In several places, the narrative relies on publicistic and emotionally charged expressions rather than the expected academic register. A personal and emotional bias permeates the study, which calls into question its scientific objectivity.
- **Technological Detail and Data Protection:** The inclusion of specific source code introduces a risk of rapid technological obsolescence. Furthermore, when utilizing digital documentation, strict adherence to GDPR regulations regarding the complete anonymization of personal data, signatures, and personal stamps is required.

Recommendations:

I have several recommendations for Arch. Eng. Stoyan Todorov, which can be summarized as follows:

- Conduct broader empirical UX testing of the beta version of *ARCHModels* among real-world clients and municipal planning departments. Consider opening the code-generation structure to allow for flexibility, dynamism, and adaptability according to

project parameters, client specifications, evolving regulatory frameworks, and project management conditions during implementation.

- Attempt to refine the focus of the research by eliminating redundant material (such as court records, letters, petitions, and complaints related to personal grievances), non-academic statements, and personal commentary.
- Prior to publishing the monograph, improve and standardize the quality of the graphic materials. Although heterogeneous in content, all illustrations must be fully legible and correctly captioned.
- Expand the research bibliography. Incorporate a broader range of Bulgarian sources and balance the proportion between printed books/monographs and papers (24 items), printed official documents (25 items), and online sources (85 items).
- Increase publication activity through co-authorship and within international peer-reviewed journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science.

3. Verification of Plagiarism

No evidence of plagiarism was detected in the submitted materials. The scientific contributions are the original work of the candidate, and external sources have been cited correctly in accordance with established academic standards.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation *"Organizational Models for Building Creation in Bulgaria and Bavaria and the Formation of the Professional Tasks of Architects"* is a completed scientific study that complies with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (ZRASRB) and Regulation No. 12 of Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar".

I give my **POSITIVE EVALUATION** and propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award **Arch. Eng. Stoyan Georgiev Todorov** the educational and scientific degree **"Doctor" (Ph.D.)**.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Maria Davcheva

30.08.2026

Sofia