

Review and Assessment of the Educational and Scientific Programme “Law” at the Scientific Research Institute of State Building and Local Government of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine

The educational and scientific programme under review, developed and formally adopted by the Scientific Research Institute of State Building and Local Government of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine, is intended for the preparation of Doctors of Philosophy in the field of Law. The educational component comprises 45 ECTS credits delivered over a four-year period of study, which is consistent with the applicable national standard for third-cycle legal education and with the general regulatory framework governing doctoral training in Ukraine. The declared purpose of the programme is to prepare competitive specialists capable of generating original scholarly ideas, addressing complex theoretical and applied problems in the field of law, and engaging meaningfully with the European and global academic community.

The overall architecture of the programme is logically coherent and internally consistent. Its mandatory part brings together general, professional, and practical components, which, together with a substantial list of elective courses, allows each candidate to shape an individual path of study. The balance between compulsory and elective disciplines is well maintained, and the content of the components is oriented towards a thorough grounding in research methodology, contemporary legal doctrine, and the methods of university teaching. The tables mapping programme competencies to the educational components confirm a careful and consistent application of the competency-based approach.

The system of programme competencies, comprising integral, general, and special (professional) categories, reflects contemporary expectations for doctoral training in law and corresponds to what is sought by the academic community and by prospective employers. The learning outcomes are clearly articulated and well correlated with the declared competencies, envisaging the acquisition of advanced conceptual and methodological knowledge, the development of research skills, proficiency in doctrinal interpretation, and the capacity to engage in expert and advisory work in the field of public law.

The substantive focus of the programme lies in the domain of public law, which is consistent with the scholarly profile of the host institution and with socially significant directions of contemporary legal research. Particular attention is paid to the conceptual and legal foundations of Ukrainian statehood in the face of present-day national and global challenges, as well as to European integration, good governance, local self-government, human rights, national security, and the institutional law of the European Union. This thematic emphasis lends the programme a clear intellectual identity and ensures its relevance to both legal scholarship and practice.

The educational process rests on competency-based, systemic, and integrative approaches, complemented by interactive and innovative teaching technologies, elements of distance learning, and the candidates' involvement in research projects

and in the preparation of scholarly legal opinions. The practical dimension is provided through pedagogical practice, which supports the development of teaching skills appropriate to work in higher education. The system of assessment, combining ongoing, interim, and final evaluation within a 100-point cumulative scale, is transparent and in keeping with the principles of academic integrity.

The resources supporting the programme appear fully sufficient for the attainment of its declared outcomes. The academic staff includes researchers from the Institute's specialized scholarly divisions as well as faculty members of the Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, which together provide solid academic leadership for the programme. The material, technical, informational, and methodological infrastructure enables the effective delivery of the educational and scientific process, including access to Ukrainian and international professional periodicals and electronic resources. The established channels of national and international academic mobility further broaden the candidates' opportunities to engage with the wider scholarly community.

In sum, the educational and scientific programme "Law" for the third (educational and scientific) level of higher education, specialty 081 Law, at the Scientific Research Institute of State Building and Local Government of the NALS of Ukraine is marked by conceptual integrity, structural balance, and substantive relevance to contemporary expectations for doctoral training in law. It responds to the demands of the academic and professional environment and is oriented towards the formation of highly qualified specialists capable of independent scholarly, academic, and expert activity. On these grounds, the programme is recommended for implementation in the training of candidates at the third level of higher education in the field of law.

Sincerely,

Professor dr. Andrejus Novikovas

