

Book Review

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Ionuț-Bogdan Berceanu, 2024, *Drept administrativ al bunurilor. Partea generală/ Administrative Law of Goods. General Part*, Bucharest: Universitara Publishing House

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The book “*Administrative Law of Goods. General Part*” by Ionuț-Bogdan Berceanu represents a significant contribution to understanding the legal regime of public and private goods of the state and administrative-territorial units. The author, associate professor at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) and a PhD in Administrative Sciences, uses his academic experience to clearly and coherently explain the legal mechanisms through which public administration acquires, uses, and capitalizes on goods. The well-structured content, supported by a solid bibliography and numerous practical examples, makes this volume accessible both to students and to professionals in administrative law.

The book is logically and clearly structured, divided into several modules, each addressing a key theme for understanding the administrative law of goods. The first module offers an introduction to the administrative domain, explaining the concept of “*domainiality*” and the essential differences between public and private property. Bogdan Berceanu highlights that domainiality governs the legal regime of goods belonging to the state and administrative-territorial units, differentiating them from goods owned by individuals. The classification of goods into public and private domains is analyzed in the second module, according to Romanian and European legislation. The author outlines the distinction between the *public domain lato sensu* (which includes private goods protected by the state) and the *public domain stricto sensu* (which consists solely of public property).

The third module covers the ways of acquiring public goods — whether through natural processes, public procurement, expropriation for public utility, donations, or changing the legal status of goods. These mechanisms are presented in detail, with clear references to the applicable laws, including the Administrative Code and the Romanian Constitution. The capitalization of public goods through administration, concession, leasing, and free use is explored in the fourth module. Bogdan Berceanu explains the differences between administrative contracts and civil contracts, linking theory to judicial practice in Romania.

The fifth module discusses the use of private goods by public administration, emphasizing the legal specifics of public authorities as owners of private property. The book concludes with a chapter on case law — relevant case studies that illustrate the application of the discussed legal norms. This section adds practical value to the volume, anchoring abstract concepts in real-world legal scenarios.

One of the book’s strongest points is its interdisciplinary approach to goods managed by public authorities. The author goes beyond purely legal analysis, discussing economic and social perspectives, underlining the role of public goods in promoting social inclusion and democracy — an approach inspired by scholars such as Pierre Delvolvé and René Chapus. Bogdan Berceanu introduces theoretical concepts like the “scale of domainiality” and clarifies the relationship between public property and the public domain, eliminating confusion between these two concepts.

Furthermore, the author addresses the European dimension of public goods regulation, aligning the theory of Romanian administrative law with EU standards. References to national and international legislation, as well as works by renowned French and Romanian scholars, strengthen the academic depth of the volume.

Although the book impresses with its clarity and robust bibliography, there are at least two areas for improvement. Firstly, some focus on recent technological developments would have been necessary, since addressing the impact of digitalization on the management of public goods would have added value, considering European trends toward modernizing public administration. Moreover, it is noticed that although the book briefly references French law, a broader comparison with other EU countries' legal frameworks would have strengthened its international perspective.

“Administrative Law of Goods. General Part” by Ionuț-Bogdan Berceanu represents a valuable contribution to Romanian legal literature, offering a clear and well-structured analysis of the legal regime governing public and private goods managed by the state and administrative-territorial units. The book is essential for students, researchers, and legal practitioners in administrative law, providing a solid understanding of domaniality and the mechanisms through which goods are acquired, capitalized on, and protected by public administration.

The present work is recommended to those interested in administrative and legal fields, as well as to anyone seeking to deepen their knowledge of the legal regime of public goods within a national and European context. In the future, expanding discussions on digitalization and comparative analyses would further increase the book's academic standing.

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