

## Book Review

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Verginia Vedinaș, Ioan Laurențiu Vedinaș, 2023, *Comunicare în administrația publică. O viziune altfel/ Communication in Public Administration. A different Vision*, Bucharest: Universul Juridic Publishing House.

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Universul Juridic Publishing House published in 2023 the book “*Communication in Public Administration. A different vision*”, authors Verginia Vedinas and Ioan Laurențiu Vedinaș. It is a work that differs from other publications in the novelty of the theme and approach, which, moreover, is also reflected in its title, which refers to a different vision.

The topic of communication within public authorities is the subject of numerous works which, by their approach, are more abstract and somewhat removed from the specificity of public administration. We believe that the different character was also determined by the long specialization that Professor Verginia Vedinaș, one of the authors of this book, has as a theorist and practitioner of administrative law. The combination of her experience with the young vision of the other author gives the work a freshness and an applied character, as is necessary in administration.

The work is divided into six chapters and opens with a foreword whose title says more than a thousand words: 'without communication we are strangers, not only to each other, but also to ourselves

The authors start from the truth that communication is essential in administration, in public relations, in relations between the authorities and the beneficiaries of public services. We also learn from this work that regardless of the form in which communication takes place, it is aimed at protecting the public interest (p. 10).

This work is devoted primarily to students who are following the specialization known for training future local police officers. It is praiseworthy that such specializations have been opened to train those who are going to exercise an extremely important public function for local communities, namely, local police officers. They were introduced into Romania's regulatory and institutional system in 2010, after having been preceded by the corps of public guards and community police. The local policeman is a public official with great significance in other countries, emblematic being the example of the "sheriff" in the United States. Returning to the work we are presenting, the first chapter analyses notions concerning the organization and functioning of the Romanian state. We note that not only the administrative- territorial organization of the country but also that of public service, public administration and local police are addressed.

Chapter II is devoted to the presentation of the history and the regulation of public order and local policing issues, including the current regulatory framework for local policing in Romania.

In Chapter III, we find an introduction to the general theory of communication, where introductory notions on communications are presented and we learn that nowadays, in the course of a week, man has more contacts with known and unknown people than people living in the Middle Ages had in their entire lives. Also in this chapter we find the rules governing conversation. We note,



among these, “respect for politeness in conversation”, and we would add, not only in conversation, the role of silence in conversation and communication, and we learn that silence has the last word, without a doubt (p. 56). We note that there is even a right to silence, which has a special role, especially in criminal law.

Chapter IV is devoted to some principles taken from the legislation on relations and communication between the public administration and the beneficiaries of its activity, where we also find important information about the public space, which has existed since antiquity in the form of the "agora", and the communication generated by public entities is a component of this public space (p. 64).

Chapter V analyses some rules on communication in public administration, taken from the legislation on free access to information of public interest. Both Romanian and European legislation are presented here, including the European Union Regulation 2017/679, known as GDPR Regulation.

The last chapter is devoted to communication in public administration from the perspective of the right to good administration, one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by Article 41 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

After each chapter, there is some food for thought for students.

Finally, the work has two annexes in which we find Law 544/2001 and Government Decision 123/2002 implementing it. We hope that the information presented about the paper on communication in public administration has been convincing enough to arouse your interest.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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