

STATEMENT

according to an announced competition for the academic position "docent", in the scientific specialty "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (internal order and security)", in the field of higher education 9, "Security and defense", professional direction 9.1. "National security", - National security and public transport, announced in SG No. 56, p. 129 of 2022

*Candidate in the competition: **Dr. Vasil Kolev***

*Author of the statment: **Prof. Dr. Tomo Borisov***

Identification number in NACID: No. 38532; Register of scientific activity in the Republic of Bulgaria; <https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/38532>

Basis for drawing up the statement: Order No. 37/31.10.2022 of the Rector of the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv

Plovdiv

2022

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS SUBMITTED

In the list of scientific publications of the candidate in the competition for associate professor - Dr. Vasil Kolev, 16 titles are included, of which 15 are for review. They can be classified into the following groups:

Monographs - 1;

- Articles and scientific reports - 14.

Developments submitted for review meet the requirements for scientometric data. This makes the applicant's claims justified, with a view to occupying the academic position of "docent".

II. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The presented works were issued after obtaining the scientific degree "doctor". In addition, they fully comply with the requirements for scientometric indicators, with a view to occupying the academic position "associate professor".

Dr. Kolev's research activity is dedicated to current issues related to the protection of national security. Especially in the field of public transport. It is primarily about the organization of work in public transport. A place is dedicated to the study of the various problems accompanying intra-city transport. Approaches to overcome them are also indicated.

I am not aware of any plagiarism data, which gives me reason to say that the publications from the point of view of authorship meet the requirements for participation in a habilitation competition. Moreover, I believe that some of

the suggestions we have reflected in the statement as inputs can be used by the competent authorities and also by non-specialists.

III. EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PAPERS PROPOSED FOR EVALUATION

1. In his study, in the nature of a *monograph* with the title "*National security and its connection with public transport*", the focus is on the problems related to the main aspects of security at the national level, in relation to the use of public transport. It is primarily about the use of any type of intra-city transport. An opinion has been expressed that these types of public transport are not only important for the movement of people, but also for their safety. Based on this principled position, some details are shared, as well as visions for change.

Not only the essence and importance of public transport, but also the possibilities for its development are emphasized. This in itself determines the importance of the main policies not only in a given region, but also at the national level.

The main focus of the study falls on chapter three, dedicated to the role of public transport for national security. It is mainly about the different types of factors affecting national security. The author examines the role of each of these factors in a differentiated manner, which greatly facilitates the analysis. The topic of green energy, which is the subject of consideration by the author and in his other publications, is not left out.

Offering good practices in the context of the subject under consideration further raises the level of the work and speaks of the clear awareness of the author and his capabilities, from the point of view of analysis and recommendations.

The contributions in the monograph can be summarized as follows:

- first of all, we will allow ourselves to note the presence of an analysis of public urban transport and some of the main risks involved in its use. We allow ourselves to note this contribution in the first place because this matter has a direct relation to the protection of national security in a national aspect;
 - the need to change the basic policies for the use of public transport, as a factor for national security, is justified;
 - Differentiated and detailed consideration of the role of public urban transport and its relationship with national security, together with proposed changes, with a view to improving efficiency in protecting the people of the city who benefit from its services, can also be perceived as a contribution .
- The selection of these capabilities in the context of security protection for each country is also of great importance.

The overall study and the contributions made give reason to assume that the proposed work is a complex scientific study that realistically recreates the main aspects and risks from the point of view of use, of intra-city transport and people's safety. In this sense, the work can be useful not only for scientific and practical workers, but also for the population.

2. *The article* "National security and sustainability in urban transport" aims to analyze the development of urban transport, refracted through the prism of security protection. This is a question not only of the relationship between the authorities with competences in matters of intra-city transport, but also between the citizens and the authorities, in the name of their security. It is emphasized that the population in the cities is increasing more and more, which leads to an increase in road transport.

Special attention is paid to the fact that this trend has an impact on the stability of all types of services, including intra-city transport. It is emphasized that the increase in the number of the population and the problems that arise for intra-city transport affect the security of the population in the respective city.

A special place in the article is devoted to the fact that the majority of the population lives in large cities. According to the author, along with the many advantages, there are also some disadvantages, among which is the pollution of the air and the environment.

The contribution of this publication can be concentrated in a new understanding of the state of intra-city transport and its impact on national security.

3. Of great value from the point of view of intra-city transport, as an element of national security, is the publication in the nature of an *article* containing an analysis of this activity in the so-called "smart cities". It is about the implementation of a global initiative on this topic.

The analysis is devoted to bus transport in the context of national security. Attention has also been drawn to the fact that this initiative has been developing for more than a decade. In this way, the significance is emphasized of the initiative from the point of view of the benefits for the residents of the city, but also for national security. It is emphasized that cities from all over the world are included in this initiative. Moreover, some of them are among the largest ones. It is about New York, London and Seoul. According to the author, the criteria that define the cities in question as "smart" play a key role.

The conducted analysis gives grounds for specific conclusions and recommendations, some of which are related to the need for systematic coordination and cooperation, on the investigated issues. Still in this connection, the role of the

institutions for the development of the cities from the point of view of the security of the population of its territory is emphasized. The main finding is that along with overcoming the existing problems, it is also necessary to have opportunities for development. This key conclusion for the practical activity can also be accepted as one of the contributions not only in this publication, but also in the overall scientific research activity of the candidate.

Central to the publication is the use of computer systems, which in real time provide up-to-date information on the state of the road situation, which in turn helps people's safety and the taking of the right measures.

Attention has also been paid to the passenger flow, in which cars with one passenger are very often involved. In itself, this implies traffic jams and other road traffic complications. This problem, according to the author, can reasonably be overcome by using public transport. However, this is possible only in case of raising the level of the service called intra-city transport. It is about increasing the number of means of transport and, if possible, creating new routes. This in turn will create other climate and environmental problems. At the end of the work, the conclusion was made that internal transport should contribute, not only to improving the conditions for the movement of the population, but also to the overall development of the respective populated place.

4. The topic of *green energy, related to bus transport and its connection to national security*, has not been overlooked in Mr. Kolev's publications. This is yet another proof of the exceptional empathy on the issues of protecting national security in the context of intra-city transport. In this way, the author shows affinity to the ecological part as well.

Thus, in his publication in the nature of an article, dedicated to *green energy and bus transport and the trends for its development from the point of view of*

national security, issues related to the environmental transport factor that has arisen in recent years, such as green energy, are touched upon. Correctly, according to the author, the transition to this type of transport is necessary.

In this connection, grounds for such as environmental protection, which to a certain extent is also related to security, are also indicated. The conclusion was made that intra-city transport has a significant impact on the development of the settlements in which it is used, and also on the need to sharpen the attention of the authorized institutions, with the hope that in this way the necessary measures will be taken . All this is of strategic importance for every city and country. The article also states that the competent authorities should undertake specific commitments, with a view to finding innovative forms and methods, with a view to ensuring the much-needed security of the population under their jurisdiction.

Another important detail in the article is that the author reminds of the need for transport and that the movement of people from one place to another is of the most essential importance for the economy of the populated place and the country as a whole. Like other publications, this one also mentions the trend of increasing urban population, and with it the difficulties in terms of lifestyle. The author shares the need to curb this trend, with a view to protecting security.

Other important issues related to population growth have not been overlooked. It is about their food, shelter, communication and various types of services. Among them, of course, is the transport service, whose significance factor increases in these conditions. This is because these people need to get - to school, to work, to drinking establishments, shopping establishments and others. In this regard, problems also arise for the city transport itself, mainly related to the car fleet and bus service. However, the need to promote public transport in these conditions is more than necessary because it will help to reduce the number of vehicles, mainly

private cars. All this speaks of the need to find innovative forms of transport, such as green energy.

The analysis and, on this basis, the conclusions, show the good knowledge of the author and his ability to turn the information into an analysis, on the basis of which the necessary conclusions can be drawn.

5. Special emphasis in Dr. Kolev's publications is given to the specification of intra-city transport. A typical example of this is the article with the title *"Specification of intra-city transport, in view of national security in the Republic of Bulgaria"*

The author makes his analysis based on the main points and circumstances regarding the specifics of intra-city public transport. Unlike other publications in this one, besides the proclaimed thesis about the importance of transport from the point of view of the economy, the author also mentions the importance of transport law as an independent branch of law. In this sense, the specificity of this type of transport is important for national security. As is well known, the importance of mass transport is of particular importance to the population of any country.

A special place in the work is occupied by the analysis of bus transport. The effect of transportation was also investigated, assessed as beneficial from the point of view of change of location. Costs are also included, which are less when using public transport.

Still in this connection, it can be noted that people's desire to use their own transport is mostly based on the possibility of making the decision themselves, without considering the timetable of public transport. It should be noted that an essential element of the issue under consideration is the excessive number of cars plying on the roads, resulting in a large number of traffic jams. This applies mostly

to peak hours. All this gives the author reason to conclude that the most appropriate option is to use mass urban transport, which also has a direct bearing on national security.

The rest of the publications that are included in the list presented by Mr. Kolev also have their importance and cannot in any way be neglected when we talk about providing an opinion from the point of view of their nature and importance. We have allowed ourselves to select only some of them, which, in our opinion, trace the development of the candidate for the academic position of "docent" and clearly show his affinity to certain problems, mainly related to the protection of national security, in the context of intra-city transport. We must note that the scientific output of Mr. Kolev is not only theoretically but also practically sound and can be useful not only to specialists, but also to a large part of the population in the defense of national security.

The presence of citations complements the overall excellent impression of the level of scientific production of Dr. Kolev.

IV. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE CANDIDATE'S WORK

I do not know Mr. Kolev personally. However, bearing in mind the level of his scientific production and the career that has accompanied him up to this point, as a teacher and supervisor, I can conclude that he is a serious person with clearly developed qualities, whose habilitation will be well-deserved.

V. CONCLUSION

The teaching, scientific and managerial activities of Dr. Kolev, as well as the presented scientific publications, give reason to recommend to the DEAR JURY to select him, with a view to his taking the academic position of "docent".

14.11.2022

Sofia

Written by:

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