



**VASIL LEVSKI NATIONAL MILITARY UNIVERSITY**  
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## **OPINION**

by Professor Ph.D. Sevdalina Ilieva Dimitrova, professor in the scientific section "Innovation activity and cooperation with external organizations" of the Institute "Research and innovation activity" at VASIL LEVSKI NATIONAL MILITARY UNIVERSITY, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria Blvd. No. 76, phone +359 887 395 307; sevdalinaid\_bg@mail.bg Registration number 45970 in the scientific activity register - <https://cris.nacid.bg/public/scientist-preview/14061>; Registration number 14061 in the register of the academic staff - <https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/14061>; Area of Higher Education 9. Security and Defense Professional direction 9.1. National Security Scientific specialty 05-02-24 "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (defense and national security)"

of the scientific works presented in the competition to occupy an academic position "associate professor" 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/ 19.06.2022

The scientific jury was announced by order of the Rector of Higher School of Security and Economics No. 37 of 31.10.2022.

**Veliko Tarnovo**  
**2022**

## **1. General characteristics of the candidate's research, applied science and pedagogical activities**

The only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, PN 9.1. "National Security (National Security and Public Transport)" is Vasil Mitkov Kolev, PhD. The candidate's research and applied scientific activity is in the field of public transport through the prism of national security.

The list of scientific works of the candidate under the competition includes 16 titles published after obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor". The scientific works of Vasil Kolev, PhD are distinguished as follows:

- monographs – 1 (one) issue. in a volume of 166 pages.;
- published book on the basis of a protected dissertation work for the acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor" - 1 (one) issue in a volume of 170 pages.

- scientific articles - 4 (four) issues in a volume of 20 pages.;

- scientific reports – 10 (ten) issues with a total volume of 48 pages.

Six issues of the scientific reports are in print, for which a properly formatted document has been presented. One of the scientific articles is in Latin, the remaining 15 publications are in Cyrillic. Scientific peer-reviewed publications are authored.

The scientific works have been published in prestigious national and foreign publications, with a total volume of 404 pages and are directly related to the scientific specialty and the thematic area of the competition for the academic position of "associate professor". Each of the scientific works is a transition and upgrade in the scientific research activity of Kolev, PhD which circumstance presents him as a young, consistent, purposeful researcher and scientist.

The scientific production presented by the candidate in the competition fully meets the national minimum requirements for occupying the academic position " associate professor " in terms of activities and indicators in PF 9.1. "National Security". In confirmation is the submitted report with a total point equivalent of 560 points (town A - 50 points, town B - 100 points, town D - 215 points and town D -195 points) with a minimum required 400 points.

The amount of publications submitted for review by the candidate is representative and I believe that they are sufficient for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv.

The relevance of the developed problems in the works proposed for review, in a scientific and scientific-applied sense, stems from the need to expand the systematic scientific knowledge of security, with the emphasis on the role of public transport and the reflection of green energy on its future development as part of the policy for the security of the country.

Thematically, Dr. Vasil Kolev's works are focused on the relationship "green energy - public transport - national security", which is relevant to PF 9.1. National Security. The main one among them is the monographic work

"National security and its connection with public transport" in the nature of a habilitation thesis (No. 1), with which the accompanying publications from the list of works for participation in the competition are connected (No. 3-16).

The defensibility of the research thesis formulated by the author is based on the systematization of existing research in theory and practice and the aspiration to generate new knowledge about effective mechanisms and tools for implementing innovative models in public transport in the context of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies as an imperative of national security, understood in a broad sense. This is also the main research contribution of the presented scientific work.

The main scientific and applied contribution of the monographic work is the proposed conceptual model for an accessible urban environment and the prospects in the development of public transport, with an emphasis on automobiles, through the use of "green energy", with a legal-regulatory framework adequate to the dynamic changes of the security environment.

The papers submitted for review are distinguished by relevance, consistency, logical and analytical thought and are directly related to the scientific specialty and the thematic area of the competition. They present their author as a consistent researcher promoting scientific research and achievements in the theory and practice of the country's integrated transport policy, as one of the sectoral policies of national security and its contribution to the construction of the so-called "smart cities". They fill the gap in scientific knowledge about security.

## **2. Opinion on the presence or absence of plagiarism**

In the course of my work as a member of the scientific jury, there have been no signals, argued in accordance with the relevant legal order in writing, about the presence of plagiarism in the candidate's works submitted for review under the competition. And I, as a member of the scientific jury, did not find elements of plagiarism and dishonest use of other people's scientific results in the candidate's works.

## **3. Main scientific results and contributions**

The scientific and scientific-applied results and contributions of the author's scientific research are based on the in-depth knowledge and creative adaptation of modern scientific theories, concepts and publications on the investigated issues, the analyzed problem areas in public transport, refracted through the prism of national security in a dynamically changing environment. The obtained scientific results based on the systematic approach and following the logic of the author's research give me grounds to define the following scientific and scientific-applied results and contribution points.

### **3.1. Scientific results and contributions:**

➤ the theoretical framework of the applicability of green energy for the development of the integrated transport system of our country with an

emphasis on road transport in a sustainable urban and interurban environment has been enriched and further developed;

- new knowledge has been generated based on effective innovative mechanisms and tools for the development of public transport, as a sectoral policy of national security.

### **3.2. Applied scientific results and contributions:**

- the scientific-expert platform for creating a conceptual model for the sustainable development of public transport, with a legal-regulatory framework adequate to the dynamic changes of the security environment and with a contribution to the accessible urban environment, is scientifically based and provable;

- an algorithm for an integrated approach to the sustainable development of public transport based on "green energy" with a contribution to building "smart cities" and an accessible urban environment, refracted through the prism of national security, is proposed.

## **4. Evaluation of the significance of the contributions for science and practice**

The contributions in the papers submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" are distinguished by their scientific and scientific-applied significance for the effective management of processes related to the sustainable development of public transport and the protection of the connectivity of road transport with the national security. They serve as a methodological basis for diagnosing the dimensions of the relationship "green energy-public transport - national security" and its connection with strategic decisions for the protection of national security.

The significance and effect of the contributions to science and practice, which are the personal work of the candidate of the competition, are proven in his scientific works and do not tolerate refutation, which confirm him as a young scientist in the field of security science.

A reference is presented for a total of 30 (thirty) numbers cited by other authors, including 9 (nine) issues in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes and 21 (twenty-one) issues in peer-reviewed non-refereed journals.

## **5. Critical notes on the presented works**

The notes to the research production and activity of Vasil Kolev, PhD, which are in the nature of recommendations for his future activity, are:

- It is recommended to justify the purpose, tasks, subject and object of the scientific research and the methodology used in the introduction of the monograph;

- appropriateness of verification of results and models;

- directing the publication activity to editions with scientific review and indexed in the international scientific network.

The mentioned remarks are more of a discussion nature and do not

diminish the merits of the works presented by the candidate in the competition.

## **6. Conclusion**

I believe that the scientific works submitted for review by Vasil Mitkov Kolev, PhD are an independent work and successfully defend the scientific and scientifically applied results and contributions therein. These can successfully be used as a starting point for the candidate's further research and publications.

The documentation and scientific production submitted by the candidate for the competition meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, for compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2 of the Regulations for its application for the acquisition of an academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", PF 9.1. "National Security" and the regulations of Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv.

## **7. Evaluation of candidates**

My assessment of the scientific works of Vasil Mitkov Kolev, PhD the only participant in the competition for the academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National Security (National Security and Public Transport)", **is positive.**

The academic style, comprehensibility, indisputability of the professional and expert experience of Vasil Mitkov Kolev, PhD with the potential for adaptability to change and innovation in training and the formation of scientific research abilities, confirm him as a scientist and researcher who knows the researched issues, applies a critical approach and is able to derive and generate new knowledge and practical-applied justifications. This gives me reason to propose to the respected scientific jury of the competition that Vasil Mitkov Kolev, PhD be elected and proposed to occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National Security (National Security and Public Transport)", for the needs of the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv.

**08.11.2022.**  
**Veliko Tarnovo**

**Member of the jury:**  
**Prof. DSc. Sevdalina Dimitrova**

