

THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF SECURITY AND ECONOMICS

O P I N I O N

by competition for the academic position of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR in the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv by field of higher education: 9. Security and defense, professional direction: 9.1. National security (Environmental security as an element of national security)

The competition for an academic position "docent" in the Higher School of Security and Economics (VUSI) - city of Plovdiv, announced in SG No. 56 of 19.07.2022 and on the website of VUSI on the basis of Article 4 para. .2 and art. 24, 25, 26, 27 of the RSARB and art. 2, Art. 56, 57, 61 and 63 of the Regulations of VUSI for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Candidate in the competition: Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova

Author of the opinion: associate professor Dr. Milorad Rumenov Yordanov

Basis for drawing up the opinion: order No. 35 of 31.10.2022 of the Rector of the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv

2022

Sofia

1. General characteristics of the candidate's teaching and research activities

Candidate for the competition for the academic position "docent" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, professional direction: 9.1. National Security (Environmental security as an element of national security) is Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration and two master's degrees in psychology and finance, obtained at the Paisii Hilendarski Polytechnic and Veliko Tarnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". The teaching and research activity of the candidate is dedicated to one of the subsystems of the national security system, which is environmental security, its dimensions and risks.

The biography of the only candidate under the current competition procedure shows expertise and proven administrative capacity in areas fully relevant to the requirements in the procedure. The accumulated experience expressed in holding various management positions over the years is combined with teaching and research capacity. Dr. Tuntova is fluent in English and French. This has given her the opportunity to participate in a number of international and national forums, etc. events. With his professional and practical experience, and research potential, the candidate contributes to the formation of the necessary capabilities in the environmental security sector.

2. Correspondence of the quantitative results of the candidate's scientific and teaching activities with the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in the professional direction "National Security"

The scientific production presented by the candidate in the competition fully meets the national minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "docent" in activities and indicators in PN 9.1. "National Security". The list of scientific works presented by Dr. Tuntova in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", published after obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", includes 16 titles. Dr. Tuntova's scientific works are distinguished as follows: monograph - 1 (one) issue; a book published on the basis of a protected dissertation - 1 (one) copy; scientific articles – 5 (five) items; scientific reports – 9 (nine) nos. Two of them are in English, published abroad. Of the total number of publications, six are in print, for which the necessary documents have been submitted. All posts by the candidate are copyrighted. From the reference made, it can be seen that with the required minimum of 400 points, Dr. Tuntova has 510, which shows that he exceeds the requirements regarding the indicators for holding the position of "associate professor".

The presented scientific works are directly related to the scientific specialty and the thematic area of the competition for the academic position of "associate professor". The achieved scientific and scientific-applied results and contributions in the works of Dr. Tuntova define her as a goal-oriented scientist and researcher, who knows and develops modern trends in the fields she studies, with a view to the future development of security systems, in particular ecology as element of security. This is confirmed by the fact that each of the scientific works is a transition and upgrade in the candidate's research activity.

The candidate's works have been published in scientific publications after the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in 2020 in the field of the use of mineral waters in the food industry. The titles of the publications and the editions in which they were published generally correspond to the subject of the professional direction 9.1. National Security. 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 systematic scientific knowledge in the security sector with an emphasis on environmental security.

The papers presented by Dr. Tuntova are distinguished by relevance, consistency and analytical thought and are directly related to the scientific specialty and the thematic area of the competition. They present their author as a researcher promoting scientific research and achievements in theory and practice.

3. Evaluation of scientific achievements and contributions in the works proposed for review

The works created by Dr. Tuntova are related to the requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in the professional direction "National Security".

The main monographic work presented by the candidate for participation in the competition is an author's work with the title "Environmental security as an element of national security". The scientific and scientific-applied merits of the monographic work and its accompanying publications make it applicable and accessible to a wide readership concerned with environmental security. The monographic work has a volume of 186 pages and meets the requirements of the regulatory framework. It is developed in three chapters, introduction and conclusion, a modern bibliography is used. The paper is an independently developed scientific study with theoretical and practical contributions. The aim of the monograph is to show the relationship between environmental elements, climate change and resource depletion with environmental security, as well as opportunities to prevent risks to

man, the economy and nature. Various aspects of threats to the environment and ecological security, as well as their impact on human health and vulnerability, are examined. A significant place is also allocated to water resources, as an important factor for national security, as well as for the development of the living environment of the population. A link is also made between climate change and the European agenda on this issue.

An analysis of the main components of the environment was carried out, indicating the adverse effects on them, the risks and threats to the environment and the population in the event of their occurrence. Attention is also paid to risk management and the possibility of preventing adverse impacts, especially regarding the protection of health and life of citizens.

A comprehensive analysis of resource depletion in the context of geo-economic preconditions in the battle for resources and security has been made. The opportunities to use the circular economy as a tool for environmental security are reported. Climate change and the effect of climate change on the environment, economy and human impact are studied. Climate change policies, European Green Deal and its environmental benefits are analyzed.

Candidate Dr. Tuntova has also presented original works, having published 16 scientific works - articles and reports in peer-reviewed journals or in volumes with scientific publications. All publications are self-contained, and most of them are in English. The mentioned publications definitely correspond to the subject matter of professional direction 9.1 National security. The interdisciplinary approach prevails in these works, which we can also attribute to their merits and to the factors ensuring the adequacy of these publications to the conditions of the competition.

The works presented, in addition to making a significant contribution to the enrichment of theory in the field of environmental security, also have a high practical value, in view of the significance of the challenges facing the modern management of security services. Environmental security is included in the national security strategy as an element of the same with five priorities related to environmental protection, which is of particular importance given the growing problems in the field of environmental protection and the increase in threats to the health of the people. In his research, the candidate defines scientific facts, creates and identifies new classifications and offers new models for building the environmental policy of the Republic of Bulgaria. The results of the author's scientific works, both as theoretical justifications and as formulated guidelines for practical activities, are of direct importance for improving the work of competent structures and specialized bodies in

the indicated field. The author presents ideas for the development of the ecological security of the Republic of Bulgaria.

4. Scientific and applied results and contributions in the works of the candidate

The contributions in the works 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 the processes related to the ecological security of the Republic of Bulgaria. I accept the attached reference of Dr. Tuntova for the contributions made. As scientific-theoretical contributions, the candidate has systematized the ecological factors affecting the development of ecosystems and their change in the interaction of different species. A systematization of the definitions of security and ecological security existing in the literature, as well as the relationship between man and nature, has been made. Also, a connection is made between the structural and institutional changes caused by the transition of the economic systems, after the admission of Bulgaria to the EU. The impact of European legislation and the expected results of the green deal are explored. Issues related to ecosystem change and their impact on humans are explored, as well as the interrelationship between ecology, environment and humans. An analysis has been made of the possibilities of the ecological monitoring system and its use for the prevention of risky threats to the environment and man. A comprehensive analysis of resource depletion in the context of geo-economic preconditions in the battle for resources and security has been made.

The analyzes of the prerequisites for the implementation of the National Security Strategy and the need for financial and human resources can be derived as practical contributions. The candidate has studied climate change and the effect of climate change on the environment. The possibilities of using green technologies and circular economy for the protection of natural resources are presented. The process of urbanization is analyzed as a threat to ecological security. An analysis of the possibilities for risk management and prevention of threats to ecosystems has been carried out. The relationship between the circular economy and security and its benefit to environmental security is explored.

Dr. Tuntova's research works reflect the results of analyzes of events and social phenomena related to the generation of new knowledge based on effective mechanisms and tools for expanding the scope of environmental security in the Republic of Belarus. The significance and effect of the contributions to science and practice, which are the personal work of the candidate in the competition, are proven in her scientific works, which confirm her as a scientist in the field of environmental security.

5. Originality of the presented works and reliability of the scientific data therein

When familiarizing myself with and evaluating the works of Dr. Tuntova, I did not find any plagiarism. The publications submitted for evaluation by the scientific jury are the personal work of the candidate for associate professor. The methodology used in the research combines various methods, the exercise of which separately or in combination leads to an assessment of the reliability of the scientific data obtained.

The author of the works has provided written references, which reflect the points obtained by groups of indicators for compliance with the minimum national requirements for an associate professor in the professional direction "National Security", the contributions to theory and practice contained in the publications and the received scientific and practical applied results. I accept the contributions and scientific results described and explained by the applicant in the references attached to the competition materials.

I recommend that Dr. Tuntova in the future direct her publication activity to peer-reviewed and indexed publications in the international scientific network and promote her activity by publishing more scientific works in English.

6. Conclusion

The research works of Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova deserve a positive assessment. She knows well the literary sources on the researched problems and uses them with an aspiration for a creative approach. The scientific parameters of the candidate meet the legal requirements for acquiring the academic position "docent" in the professional field "National Security". I do not know the candidate in the competition personally, but looking at her overall scientific activity, I remain convinced that she is an established and recognized scientist with excellent prospects for further development.

All this gives me the reason to propose to the respected scientific jury of the competition that Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova be selected 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 (Environmental security as an element of national security).

Sofia

/Assoc. prof. Milorad Yordanov, PhD /