

OPINION

From Assoc. Prof. Rusi Vladimirov Yanev Ph.D., habilitated in the scientific specialty "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production" from the professional field "National Security", member of the scientific jury for evaluation of the materials presented by Vasil Mitkov Kolev for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv, field of higher education 9. Security and defence, Professional field 9.1. National Security ("National Security and Public Transport")

Compliance of the quantitative results of the scientific and teaching activity of the applicant with the normative minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of "National Security"

In the competition for associate professor, announced in the State Gazette, no. 56 of 19.07. 2022 Vasil Mitkov Kolev participates for the needs of the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv. The candidate has acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 3.6. Law, Doctoral Program "Criminal Procedure".

For participation in the competition Kolev Ph.D. has presented published author's monographic work and other works. With the acquired Ph.D., two years of teaching activity in the academic position of "Assistant" at the Law Faculty of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" and published independent monographic work, Vasil Kolev meets the conditions provided for in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LRASRB), significant for the beginning of the assessment of the existence of minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field "National Security."

I define the following quantitative assessment of the materials presented in the competition by Vasil Kolev Ph.D. in accordance with the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field of National Security:

- 50 points for defended dissertation and awarded ESD "Doctor";
- 75 points for a published book "The Court as a Subject of Criminal Procedure", Publishing House of the Supreme Administrative Court, Plovdiv, 2022, ISBN 978-619-7343-65-6, based on a defended dissertation for awarding the ESD "Doctor" in Law;

- 100 points for habilitation work – published peer-reviewed independent monograph on "National Security and its Connectivity with Public Transport", edition of the Supreme Administrative Court Plovdiv, 2022 ISBN 978-619-7343-68-7;

- a total of 140 points for fourteen papers and papers published in non-refereed journals with scientific review and in edited collective volumes;

- a total of 90 points for nine citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review;

- a total of 105 points for twenty-one citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

This quantitative assessment reflects the minimum required points by groups of indicators for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of "National Security".

Results of the applicant's research papers submitted for evaluation

To evaluate the results of the works of the candidate for associate professor I have reviewed a monograph that has been published habilitation, six articles, one of which in English and eight scientific reports. The works were created by Vasil Kolev after acquiring the doctoral degree, do not repeat the dissertation and are related only to the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of "National Security".

The main habilitation work of Kolev Ph.D. is the published monograph on "National Security and its Connectivity with Public Transport", with a volume of 156 pages, edition of the Publishing Complex of HSSE Plovdiv in 2022. The topic presented in three chapters is interdisciplinary and the structured exhibition on it intertwines the descriptive and explanatory approach to seeking an effective model for the security of the state through ecological public transport. The focus of the monograph is the special function of the public transport system in the context of the economic and environmental security of the Republic of Bulgaria as part of its national security.

Skillfully affected are known but interpreted in a new way theoretical formulations of management science and law, which has led to well-founded conclusions about the guidelines for improving the protection of national security in the context of ecological public transport, mainly in urban environments. The author has used general scientific and empirical research methods and, as a result of their combination, has defended and proposed justified solutions to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of elements of public transport and infrastructure with artificial intelligence. The content of the labor fills a partial gap in the specialized literature that

explores the problems of the protection of national security in the context of the functioning of modes of public transport.

In the articles "National Security and Sustainability in Inner-Urban Transport", "Specification of Intra-Urban Transport for National Security in the Republic of Bulgaria", "Green Energy and Bus Transport – Trends in its Development from the Point of View of National Security", "Smart Cities", "Bus Transport and National Security", "Sustainable Urban Mobility and Public Transport in the Republic of Bulgaria – Future and Perspectives", published in "National Security" magazine, Sofia, "Victory Izdat" Ltd., ISSN 2682–9983, in various issues of 2022, the author Vasil Kolev announced to the research community the need to assess the challenges for elements of national security by public transport in cities, the use of artificial intelligence and renewable energy.

The candidate for associate professor has presented at scientific conferences in the country reports on topics with a matter in which he specializes. The presentation of significant research results at the scientific forum and points to the experience and establishment of Vasil Kolev Ph.D. as a lecturer at a higher school.

The results of Kolev's Ph.D. research work are directly applicable in the preparation of students and post-graduate students at the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv and other Higher Schools. The publications of the candidate for associate professor constitute parts of the information fund of courses related to the protection of national security from processes and phenomena of a negative nature. Their use can also lead to improved practice of state and corporate structures in different areas of activity.

Scientific contributions from the papers of the candidate

The topic that the candidate for associate professor develops in his works builds on the specialized scientific literature, mainly in the field of transition to energy from renewable sources in the transport sector and its connectivity with the protection of national security. His research works reflect the results of analyses of events and social phenomena related to the institutional and functional organization of public transport in the context of the risk of affecting economic and environmental security. A system of methods for analyzing and assessing changes in the public transport system has been developed in order to improve the transport scheme and through it to limit threats to national security. The candidate for associate professor has made a successful attempt to determine the trends for the development of the road transport network and the modernization of the structure of public transport in the Republic of Bulgaria and a description and explanation of elements of the functioning of computer systems with artificial intelligence for ecological and sustainable public transport.

The evidence and results of the evaluated works enrich the management science in the programming, organization, management and control phases. These authors build on well-established theoretical formulations in the field of innovation in public transport, risk management in the social organization for the protection of elements of national security.

These scientific contributions have been proven by Kolev Ph.D. with the publication of a researched matter in which he specializes by analyzing scientific publications, legal acts and summarized results of the practical work of competent authorities.

Originality of the submitted works and reliability of the scientific data in them

The publications submitted for evaluation by the scientific jury are a personal work of the candidate for associate professor.

The methodology used in the studies combines different methods, the exercise of which, individually or as a whole, leads to an assessment of the reliability of the scientific data obtained. During the acquaintance and evaluation of the works of the candidate for associate professor Vasil Kolev, I did not establish the presence of plagiarism. The author of the works has provided written references reflecting the points obtained by groups of indicators of compliance with the minimum national requirements for associate professor in the professional field of National Security, the contributions to theory and practice contained in the publications and the received scientific and practical results. I accept the contributions and the scientific results described and explained by the applicant in the references attached to the competition materials.

Critical remarks, question and recommendations

On the monograph presented by the candidate "National Security and its Connectivity with Public Transport" I have a limited number of critical remarks - of formal and content-methodological nature.

The balance in the volume of matter in the heads is disproportionate. For example, the first chapter is in the volume of thirty pages, the second – seventy-five and third thirty-five. The introduction does not sufficiently justify the topicality and importance of the topic studied for the protection of national security. The subject, purpose, tasks and methods of research are not stated unambiguously. The conclusion did not cover the results of the study with an indication of the solved problems using general scientific and empirical methods. The author has used a limited volume of publications of various authors and other sources - 13 in Cyrillic and 5 in Latin in the research process, which has resulted in the small number of citations.

To Kolev Ph.D. I have a question: "What are the content elements of the legal term "national security" and how can they be associated with guidelines for the development of public transport?"

My recommendation for the development of the research activity of Vasil Kolev Ph.D. is in the field of the subject covering theoretical formulations in the discipline for which he applied. To continue to track and develop topics for changes in the state of national security in the context of the development of the public transport system in urban environments through artificial intelligence.

These critical remarks, question and recommendation do not affect the overall positive assessment of the works of the candidate for Associate Professor Vasil Kolev Ph.D.

Conclusion

The research works of Vasil Kolev Ph.D. deserve a general positive assessment. He is generally familiar with the literary and other sources on the studied problems and uses them with a desire for a creative approach. The scientific parameters of the candidate meet the legal requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of "National Security".

In view of the above, I propose that the members of the scientific jury rank the candidate for participation in the competition Vasil Mitkov Kolev Ph.D. and propose him for election by the Faculty Council of the Educational and Scientific Center "National Security and Public Order" at HSSE- Plovdiv for associate professor in the professional field of "National Security".

10.11.2022

Member of the scientific jury: (p)

Ass. Prof. Rusi Yanev Ph.D.