

## REVIEW

By competition for the academic position of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR at 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 was announced in SG No. 56 of 19.07.2022 and on the website of the Higher School of Security and Economics on the basis of Art. 4 para. . 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.

Member of the jury and author of the review: Prof. Dimitar Ivanov Kostov, appointed by Order No. 35 of the Rector of VUSI dated 31.10.2022.

One candidate - Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova - has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition.

### **1. Brief biographical data about the candidate**

Dr. Atanaska Tuntova was born in 1960, a Bulgarian citizen.

He has a high educational qualification. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration and two master's degrees in psychology and finance, obtained at Paisii Hilendarski Polytechnic and Veliko Tarnovo University.

He has a doctoral degree with a defended thesis in the field of the use of mineral waters in the food industry.

Dr. Tuntova has extensive professional experience as an expert and manager in a number of important administrative offices at the regional and national level.

The defended dissertation, her scientific work, her publications and her rich and professional experience are directly related to the announced competition.

Dr. Tuntova is fluent in English and French. This has given her the opportunity to participate in a number of international and national events.

I would like to point out that ecology and especially specific water issues are of particular importance for national security. Almost every factor related to human life and nature can be replaced, but the water factor is impossible to replace. This shows that its scientific and practical activity is entirely related to national security.

## **2. General description of the presented materials.**

The submitted documents of the candidate fully meet the requirements of the RSARB and the Regulations of the University of Higher Education - Plovdiv for its application. They fully correspond to the theme of the announced competition.

To participate in the competition, the candidate has attached the following documents:

1. Application for participation in the competition
2. List of the applicant's publications
3. Reference for contributions and citations
4. Diplomas for higher education and scientific degree and certificate of holding an academic position
5. Creative resume
6. Work experience document
7. Medical certificate
8. Criminal record certificate
9. Copy of the state gazette with the announcement of the competition
10. Scientific works
11. Certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements
12. Other references, certificates and certificates related to participation in the procedure
13. Declaration of authenticity and originality

Dr. Tuntova has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR.

From the reference made, it can be seen that with the required minimum of 400 points, she has 510, which shows that she significantly exceeds the requirements regarding the indicators for holding the position of associate professor. Regarding the individual groups of indicators, they are:

Group of Indicators	Required Minimum	Achieved
A	50	50
B	100	100
D	200	215
D	50	145
Total	400	510

### **3. Analysis of the scientific and teaching activity of the candidate**

The dissertation is a scientific publication that is directly related to both the competition and the national security of Bulgaria. The water resources of the country have been studied in detail and in this connection proposals have been made for their effective use. The most important thing in the development is that in terms of security from the water factor, our country is well protected and the question is how they should be used.

Dr. Tuntova has published a monograph that is also directly related to the announced competition and national security. In the monograph, the question of the theoretical positions of ecology as an element of security is well developed. A well-founded connection has been made between national security and the environment. The place and role of environmental problems and national security strategy are indicated.

The monographic work has a volume of 186 pages and meets the requirements of the regulatory framework. It is developed in three chapters, an introduction and a conclusion. An up-to-date bibliography is used, which makes it possible to draw real conclusions.

In the introduction, the author points out that the problems of humanity in the 21st century are directly related to globalization and environmental protection. A contributing point of the author is the indication of the relationship between man, environment and security in the context of world globalization. The issues of natural resources and the problems related to them were discussed in detail. In the monographic work, the author devotes a large place to aspects of environmental security.

The author has made the purpose of the study very clear: to show the relationship between environmental elements, climate change and depletion of natural resources with environmental security.

In the monograph, a significant place is devoted to water resources, as an important factor for national security, as well as for the development of the living environment of the population. A connection is made between climate change and the European program on this problem.

Regarding this publication, it can be said that definitions are given for many of the elements of ecology that are missing or underrepresented in our literature.

Also of interest is the question that Dr. Tuntova considers regarding the circular economy and security. This issue is now very relevant considering the geo-economic and geo-political problems that have arisen in Europe and near Bulgaria.

The monographic work is a well-developed scientific study with theoretical and practical contributions.

As I noted, the dissertation work is directly related to national security. In this regard, the development of a scientific work based on the defended dissertation is also a contribution to Dr. Tuntova's scientific output in the field of national security.

In total, for the groups of indicators from A, B and D -5, she has 225 performance points in relation to the requirements for the competition.

In item 7 of group G, Dr. Tuntova has published 16 scientific developments as articles and reports in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in volumes with scientific publications. All posts are self-contained. Most of them are in Latin. It can definitely be said that these posts are specifically related to the contest.

Dr. Tuntova is cited in group D - 11 in 3 scientific publications; D-12 in 9 scientific publications; D-13 in 8 scientific publications. For them she gets 145 points.

The candidate also has the necessary teaching activity. She teaches at VUSI and three other educational institutions. She participated in the development of two projects under European Union programs.

For several years, she supervised the postgraduate qualification at VUSI.

There is no information about plagiarism in the candidate's scientific works.

#### **4. Main contributions of the candidate**

I accept Dr. Tuntova's reference for the contributions made, but I will group them as follows:

##### **I. Scientific-theoretical and methodical contributions**

1. On the basis of in-depth research, the ecological factors affecting the development of ecosystems and their change due to the interaction of different species have been systematized.
2. A systematization of the defined security and ecological security, as well as the relationship between man and nature, was made.
3. A connection is made between the structural and institutional changes caused by the transition of economic systems.
4. The influence of the European legislation and the expected results of the green deal are studied.
5. The questions related to the change of ecosystems and their impact on man were studied.
6. The possibilities of the ecological monitoring system and its use for the prevention of risky threats to the environment and man are defined.
7. Dependencies in the anthropogenic impact of man on the components of the environment are derived.

## **II. Practical-applied contributions**

1. Climate change and the effect of climate change on the environment are studied.
2. The prerequisites for the implementation of the National Security Strategy and the need for financial and human resources have been analyzed.
3. The possibilities of using green technologies and circular economy for the protection of natural resources are indicated.
4. The process of urbanization as a threat to ecological security is analyzed.
5. An analysis of the possibilities for risk management and prevention of threats to ecosystems has been made.
6. The relationship between the circular economy and security and its benefit to environmental security is explored.

## **V. Critical Notes and Recommendations**

Publications are mainly in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and edited collective volumes.

I recommend that he write a teaching aid on Environmental Security.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova meet all the requirements of the ŽARSRB and the Rules of the Higher Education Institution for its application.

Based on my familiarity with the scientific works submitted for review, their significance for education, science and practice and the available contributions in them, I am fully convinced that it is justified to propose Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova to occupy the academic position of DOCTOR in the Department of Higher Education : 9. Security and defense Professional direction: 9.1. National security (Environmental security as an element of national security).

11/10/2022

**Reviewer:**

/prof. d.n. Dimitar Kostov/