

R E C E N C I O N

in the announced competition for occupying the academic position "*Associate Professor*", 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 field 9.1. " National Security", – National Security and Public Transport, declared in the SG No. 56 of 2022

Candidate in the competition is Vasil Kolev Ph.D.

Author of the review: prof. d.s. Lyubomir Kirilov Timchev

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS SUBMITTED

The list of scientific publications of the candidate in the competition for associate professor – Vasil Kolev Ph.D. includes 16 titles, of which 15 are to review.

They can be classified into the following groups:

- ◆ Monographs - 1;
- ◆ Articles and scientific reports - 14.

The papers submitted for peer review are issued after obtaining the scientific degree "Ph.D.". In addition, they fully comply with the requirements for scientific indicators with a view to occupying the academic position of Associate Professor.

II. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APPLICANT'S TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

By its purpose, Kolev's Ph.D. research activity is dedicated to some of the current issues related to the protection of national security and in transport. It is about both the legal regulation and the organization of work mainly of public transport. Considerable space is given to the research, to the causes of the various problems that accompany this transport and which is very significant the ways to overcome them in the country. Part of the publications are also dedicated to bus and intraurban transport and in particular the problems that accompany them, from the point of view of national security, as an important part of security in the urban environment.

The presented scientific works are the personal work of the candidate. In this sense, they meet the requirements for participation in a competition, for obtaining the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Having a reference to the contributions that correctly reflects scientific and applied achievements and their application in academic work and in management activities further facilitates peer review. As a rule, their implementation in legislation and practice will contribute to increasing the efficiency of the activities of the competent authorities, which will be a recognition of its efforts.

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

1. The *monograph* "**National Security and its Connectivity with Public Transport**" examines the problems related to the public transport system and its relationship with national security as part of the security in the environment, as evidenced by its title. In particular, it is a question of differentiated consideration of the problems of public bus transport, intra-urban mass transport and other such transport, called by the author additional intra-urban transport. On the basis of the analysis, the essence and importance of each of the modes of transport are highlighted. Important for the work is the outlining of opportunities for their development. In this sense, the monograph proposed for review is a scientific work consistent with existing standards and requirements. Attention is drawn to the fact that it is only about public transport and its importance for security, as one of the most important phenomena in the respective settlement or in the country.

Emphasis is placed both on the possibilities for the development of this mode of transport and on the fact that it is essential not only for security in the strict sense of the word, but also in a broader sense, from the point of view of the entire urban environment. On this basis, it is noted that it is precisely this combination of different modes of transport, in addition to being good for the population in terms of its movement, that also creates some failures that should be in the field of attention of the competent authorities in order to overcome them and thus increase the security of the citizens who use it. In this regard, a number of generalizations and proposals for change are made the perception, which will help to increase the effectiveness of the work on the issues under consideration.

A special place in the development is given to the possibilities for optimizing the environment in public transport, which will indirectly improve the state of security. Important in this case are both the opinions of contractors and those who carry out managerial activities.

The impact of problems related to public transport on the protection of the national security of the country is analyzed. In this regard, a number of issues related to the application of an appropriate approach have been analyzed and systematized to pave the way for a more stable protection that is not affected by the selected method and organization of work.

It is emphasized that it is precisely the improvement of the state of the environment in this mode of transport, in the context of the protection of national security, that is one of the most significant activities. Moreover, the consequences of this phenomenon in increasing the efficiency in the organization of work and its consequences are also considered. Different policies are important in this direction, respectively at national, regional and global level.

The contributions to the monograph can be summarized as follows:

- ◆ First of all, we will note the consideration of the main aspects related to the protection of national security in the context of public transport. The emergence and development of this issue, considered as a problem at both national and regional level, may at some point prove serious from the point of view of security, of citizens in and outside public transport;
- ◆ It is also important to note that an attempt has been made to analyze the activities of the various institutions and their bodies related to public transport in the context of national security. I cannot guarantee the primacy of this analysis in the specialized literature, but we can categorically note that its presence makes a very good impression;

- ◆ We can also significantly determine the further development of the productions dedicated to the effect of the existence and development of public transport and its impact on the activity of specialized institutions. This also has a significant impact on the protection of national security.
- ◆ Analyzed are the issues refracted through public transport and its connection with national security, as one of the strategic phenomena for residents in larger cities. This in itself necessitates the search for new forms and guidelines for improving the organization of work, which the author successfully seeks;

All this gives the appearance of monographic research, as a very significant scientific and also practical work on a problem of importance for both researchers and practical employees of the sector. Moreover, the protection of the population on public transport is a matter of concern not only to the national security protection system, but also to all those involved in this matter.

2. The need for security in public transport is a topic for consideration in other publications of Mr. Kolev. Such an example is the *article*, where the candidate boldly addresses the problems of public transport and **its connectivity with** national security. Although in a more fragmentary version, it focuses on some points of importance for the national security in public transport. Special attention is paid to the nature and peculiarities of the security of citizens in public transport as an element of the phenomenon of national security, and not only of a theoretical but above all of a practical nature. In this way, it is indirectly suggested to the specialized bodies to use effective actions, possibly anticipatory.

In addition, this article summarizes the possibilities for optimizing the activities of specialized bodies as part of the system for the protection of national security.

3. *The article "National Security and Sustainability in Inner City Transport"* is devoted to the sustainability of urban transport in the context of national security. The topicality of the subject matter and in this connection its conditioning on different circumstances is emphasized.

The work is an attempt to present the main problems facing the urban population in relation to the increasing vehicles, in particular urban bus transport. The nature of the scientific development is complemented by the proposals for changes made in view of the impact of transport in the city on national security. In this regard, a number of proposals have been launched to update the current norms in the organization of work, the urban transport system, in the context of the protection of national security.

It should be noted that the article deals with the results of an analysis based on the state of urban transport not only in Bulgaria but also worldwide. A distinctive feature of the survey is that it shows that more than half of the world's population lives in cities, which in itself means difficulty moving. The analysis shows that this trend will deepen, with expectations that this percentage will reach 75. Of course, this also has some advantages, but there are also disadvantages that create problems. In general, they can be defined as a bad atmosphere due to air pollution. Emphasizing the importance of urban transport and the transport sector as a whole for the population living in cities, the author emphasizes some negative trends. Among them, the emission of harmful emissions from motor vehicles occupies a leading place.

The contributions in this publication can generally be defined as making a new sense of the available transport system by moving on to a new technological option. The study provides an opportunity to focus on the importance and serious role played by intra-urban transport not only for the movement of the population, but also for the economy of each city as a whole. The emphasis on this fact is

justified by the need to move to schools, kindergartens, commercial and other sites. As we noted, in addition to the legal regulation, the practical activity in terms of effectiveness in the protection of national security in the urban environment and in particular in urban transport is also studied. The efficiency in the use of different types of transport is emphasized, as well as the fact that in large cities urban transport is much more useful in terms of pollution and congestion. The high percentage of passenger capacity should not be neglected. Logically, the article concludes with the conclusion that passenger flow in the coming years will increase, which will itself increase the role of urban transport and transport activity in general. All this requires special attention to the safety of those who move, regardless of the mode of transport.

4. The character of an *article* is also the publication **dedicated to bus transport and national security in the so-called "smart cities"**, as is its title.

As can be seen from the theme, the purpose of the article is to explore the state and rather the implementation of the global initiative for smart cities. In particular, it is about bus transport from the point of view of national security. As the author himself notes, the program "smart cities" is an initiative developed over the past ten years. It includes cities from all over the world. Special attention is paid to the criteria for determining cities as smart. It is about the fact that the wording for them is related to the fact that their infrastructure is made up of many different elements. This unique initiative aims to increase progress and balance from environmental and other perspectives to serve citizens. All this of the existence of a database.

It is emphasized that the main driver in this activity is the local government, which assumes the main duties and therefore bears the great responsibility. The importance and role of other institutions is also noted. There are also examples of cities with achievements in this direction, such as New York, Seoul and London. In this

way, there is also an emphasis on cities – examples, moreover with a very large population. In other words, along with the role of the institutions, the level of security is also highlighted. This is of importance both for the development of these settlements and for the level of protection of the security of the population in them.

In connection with the subject of the publication, it is noted that the main role in taking adequate actions to overcome the existing problems is the availability of opportunities for the development of this transport in the context of the protection of national security.

It is necessary to note another specificity of the "smart cities", which the author draws attention to, consisting in the implementation of many computer models transformed into a real urban environment. In addition to being part of our time and a necessity in almost every activity, this specificity helps real-time responses. For example, special sensors detect and show changes in temperature and time in general. This, in turn, allows for a timely response.

Central to the positives of this system is the possibility of feedback from citizens in these cities. In addition to having a role in the availability of the necessary information, this approach also allows the right decisions to be made to improve the level of service in public transport, hence the protection of security.

Other issues are also addressed, such as the level of vehicle traffic, especially those in which one passenger moves. It is noted that public transport is the solution to reduce car traffic. Overcoming this problem, however, goes through increasing the efficiency of the service in the mass inner-city transport, which means better service.

It should be especially emphasized that some conclusions have also been drawn in the work which can be defined, as contributions.

First, we will note the increasing population in larger cities. This, in turn, will create difficulties from the point of view of public transport, in connection with

overbuilding, and on this basis, difficulties in transport traffic. There will be a need to create new routes and to increase the number of vehicles in existing ones. All this will create problems both from an environmental and climatic point of view.

Another significant problem from the point of view of national security is the possibility of increasing theft and other criminal activity, which is explained by the increase in population.

In this regard, the increase in the use of energy by people and households is examined. A perspective is recommended to find the balance between economic and social functions.

In conclusion, it is noted that inner-city transport in "smart cities" needs to contribute to the overall development and vision of cities. The main role of transport is to improve lifestyles.

5. Quite in connection with the topic related to public transport and as a successful complement to the overall research activity is the *applicant's article* related to **green energy** and **bus transport and the trends for its development from the point of view of national security**.

It is of scientific and practical and applied value and is dedicated to the role, of one of the most important factors from the point of view, of the future development of this issue, which is directly related to the protection of the national security of the country. The purpose of the article is to analyze the state of bus transport and study the transition to green energy. Special attention is paid to the reflection of this transport, relative to the environment. In this way, the author wants to sharpen attention to this phenomenon and, at the same time, to appeal to the competent institutions with a view to taking the necessary measures. In this context, key points are also presented that are essential for the sustainable development of public transport and security both in it and in cities.

The fact that mass urban transport has a great impact on the development of cities is not overlooked. However, there are also some negative effects, which in turn adds some uncertainty to the population of the territory concerned, which can be prevented by finding innovative means.

Specific measures are also proposed to increase the efficiency of the work of the specialized bodies, with specific commitments on the issues under consideration.

The rest of the publications are equal or smaller in volume, but not in importance. In general, with his publications, the author shows us his affinity for pressing problems in our time, among which the problems of bus transport stand out. It is noteworthy that the candidate offers well-founded those who are not overly theorized, but rather practically padded. In this sense, they can be useful for both executives and managers from the sector. Many of the views are applicable and can serve for reflection and scientific approaches as part of the overall protection of national security.

IV. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE CANDIDATE'S WORK

I have no personal impressions of Mr. Kolev's work and qualities. I know it only from the publications on the basis of which I prepare the review. His teaching, scientific and managerial activity gives me the impression of a correct person, with clearly established qualities, who is aware of the practical activity on the issues studied and on this basis develops his scientific views. This impression is complemented by the many practical recommendations that have found a place in the publications with which he aims to improve the organization of work.

V. CONCLUSION

1
1

The teaching activity of Vasil Kolev Ph.D., as well as the scientific publications submitted for review, give me reason to CONFIDENTLY recommend to the ESTEEMED JURY to select and recommend him to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor".

13.11.2022

Sofia

Signature:

Prof. d.s. L. Timchev