

HIGH SCHOOL OF SECURITY AND ECONOMICS  
PLOVDIV

OPINION

by Professor Ivo Velikov Velikov, PhD,  
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Basis for the opinion: Order No. 35/31.10.2022 of the Rector of HSSE  
Number in the Register of Scientific Activities in the Republic of Bulgaria -  
31502

Field of Higher Education: 9. Security and Defense

Professional direction: 9.1. National Security

for the scientific papers presented in the competition for the academic position  
of "associate professor" in the Higher Education Region 9. Security and  
Defense, professional direction 9.1. National security (Environmental security as  
an element of national security), announced in the State Gazette no.  
56/19.07.2022

of the candidate:

assistant professor Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova, doctor,

Plovdiv

2022

The composition of the Scientific Jury for conducting the competition was appointed by Order No. 35/31.10.2022 of the Rector of VUSI. Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by only one participant within the legal deadline - assistant professor Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova, PhD.

The reference presented by assistant professor PhD Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova, for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor", in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, in the sense of art. 2b, para. 1 of the ZRASRB, with attached evidence by groups of indicators and number of points shows a total number of 510 points for all the required indicators. This exceeds the minimum required number of 400 points (including the sum of points in each individual indicator group equals or exceeds the minimum requirements for the group).

I personally know the candidate for this competition, PhD Tuntova. My impressions, as well as the presented biographical data, show that she is definitely a highly educated specialist, repeatedly qualified and with a variety of expertise (with an advantage, undoubtedly, on the topic of the competition - environmental security), and over a period of more than 30 years. Consequently, there is no reason to doubt her experience and qualities in this activity.

She is the author of numerous publications on environmental issues, as well as current social and security issues. Participant and organizer of numerous scientific forums, mainly in 2 directions, directly related to national security and the theme of the competition.

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

The works submitted for review (list of scientific works) of PhD Atanaska Tuntova are in the field and the issues of the specialty of the competition for the academic position "docent" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, professional direction 9.1. National security (b.a. - Environmental security as an element of national security). As. PhD Tuntova participates with sufficient quantity and quality scientific production of 16 works, which are offered for review for participation in the competition as follows:

- Monograph - 1 issue - independent with a total of 190 pages;

- Published independent book based on a dissertation - 203 pages;
- Articles and reports in indexed and referenced publications - 14 issues;

All own texts with a total volume of 493 pages (according to my calculations and if there is an error - it is minimal). There are no posts with shared authorship.

Only scientific production that was not submitted for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor" was proposed for review. In fact, 90% of this output is from 2022, the rest from 2021. The ONS "doctor" candidate acquires in 2020.

The attached reference with citations (17 items) (note - there is a difference of 1 item in the reference on the minimum requirements and in the reference of citations, probably omitted citation) gives an idea of the scientific value of the candidate's production (there are hardly any common similar results of an assistant). In addition, there are also citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific publications or in monographs.

The publications are divided into two main thematic areas (all of them in professional direction 9.1. National security, with which the candidate proves his grounds for participation in this competition), which I would call as follows:

- Environmental aspects of security – affected in 13 of the published publications, among them the monographic work;

- Theoretical and applied aspects of economic security – 6 publications, and the total number of publications exceeds the works presented by the candidate for review due to the mutual penetration of the two thematic areas.

Dr. Tuntova has been teaching "Goeconomics and Regional Development" since 2019 in both fields at HSSE - Administration and Management and Economics, in full-time and part-time study. She also held an administrative position at HSSE, related to the planning of the educational process and is also aware of this part of the organization of activities at the university. She teaches in various training organizations in Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna, where she has covered commitments of over 300 hours per year, as can be seen from the candidate's CV.

I find a clear correspondence between the author's publications and the disciplines taught and participation in training organizations.

The overall participation in the educational and teaching activity of the candidate is obviously sufficiently diverse, it covers the entire aspect of the topic of the competition, and gives an idea of her serious commitment.

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

Accepting the work "Environmental security as an element of national security" as a monograph, I also accept the other publications as original and correct, I fully agree with the declared scientific contributions in the two areas of the candidate's work, which I will refrain from quoting, simply to comply with the volume of the opinion as required.

Dr. Tuntova's scientific works contain numerous scientific contributions. Most of the developments also have great practical significance. The candidate has demonstrated his abilities to formulate and argue his scientific theses, having correctly divided taxonomically the contributions into theoretical and practical-applied ones. Knowledge of the latest and most significant publications on the subject, Bulgarian and foreign, and their correct citation makes a good impression.

I believe that the works and the results achieved in them are the independent work of the applicant and successfully defend the claims of contributions.

Of course, I will allow myself to be critical of the wording of some contributions, (e.g. No. 6 - A systematic approach is used and an analysis of the socio-economic aspects of ecology is made), where only the second part is completely sufficient as a contribution, and a systematic approach is used in all papers and in the formulation of all other claimed contributions. Also, with some contributions, it is necessary to show with a little more text the purpose of the research activity carried out and to show a connection between the individual contributions.

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

The high-quality and up-to-date research and teaching activities of Assistant Professor Atanaska Tuntova are evident from the materials provided to me for review. The high publication activity, the achieved scientific results show

that the candidate is constantly looking for the realization of his abilities and his scientific interests in the two separate fields.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The documentation and scientific production provided by the candidate, assistant Professor Tuntova, in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", fully meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Bulgaria.

In view of the above, I convincingly give my positive assessment and suggest to the members of the respected Scientific Jury to support the election of PhD Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova, to hold the academic position of "associate professor", in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, professional direction 9.1 . National security (with the theme of the competition "Environmental security as an element of national security"), at the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv.

07.11.2022 Member of the Scientific Jury:

Sofia (Prof. Dr. Ivo Velikov)