

## REVIEW

Regarding a competition for the occupation of the academic position  
"Professor" in professional direction **9.1. National security /National Security  
and Public Transport/**

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- № 39480 - Register of scientific activity in the Republic of Bulgaria:  
<https://cris.nacid.bg/public/scientist-preview/29968>
- № 29680 - Register of academic positions and dissertations in NACID:  
<https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/29968>
- <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Valentin-Vasilev>
- [https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=J3V\\_gIAAAAAAJ&hl=bg](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=J3V_gIAAAAAAJ&hl=bg)  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0074-9578>

Basis for preparation of review: **Order №37/31.10.2022 of the Rector of the Higher  
School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv**

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## **1. A brief biographical description of the candidate**

The biography of the candidate Dr. Vasil Mitkov Kolev under the current competition procedure shows expertise and proven capacity in areas entirely relevant to the scientific field announced in the competition.

He has a PhD in law in the doctoral program "Criminal Process" of the PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" since 2018. His professional realization is related to public administration and is directly linked to his scientific research. Mr. Kolev is the head of the "Organization and Control of Public Transport" department in the Municipal Enterprise "Organization and Control of Transport" Municipality of Plovdiv, dealing with the organization of the Municipal Transport Scheme, as well as the regional and republican transport schemes related to the city. Plovdiv.

These data also suggest the high level of social commitment, professional experience and expertise, and accumulated experience in the research field. These findings make Dr. Kolev's candidacy suitable for the announced competition procedure.

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

The submitted documents meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

The candidate submits for review 15 /fifteen/ developments that were not used in obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

In total, according to the competition, the materials proposed for review can be classified as: 1 published dissertation based on obtained degree "Doctor"; 14 pcs. articles - / of which 1 in English/. All works are in publications in Bulgaria. 6 /six/ articles are in print and service notes are attached to them.

From the position of expert capacity, the candidate has presented the necessary autobiographical characteristics, in which it is evident that his expertise in the field of the competitive procedure covers the academic requirements and criteria with documented parameters.

### **2.1 Evaluation of the monographic work**

Vasil Kolev is participating in the competition for "associate professor" of HSSE - Plovdiv in the professional field 9.1. National security with an author's monographic work on the topic "National security and its connection with public transport", HSSE, Plovdiv, 2022, ISBN 978-619-7343-68-7, and the same is currently in print.

As the author notes, the work explores the connection between national security and public transport, which performs a very important function occupying a central place in society. Transportation of people, goods and services represents one of the most important

elements in the development of society. The importance of public transport can also be seen in the rapid and systematic development of this sector. The most important idea can be understood from the name "public transport", namely that transport is primarily at the service of society. Many places would remain isolated and difficult to access without the availability of public transport. The monographic work also touches on the topic of the so-called "sustainable city" that needs to have reliable and accessible public transport. Therefore, it is necessary to develop new policies and methods in the direction of achieving efficiency and quality at a high level. It is this moment, according to the author, that would change public perception towards using this type of transport, which is the main goal and task of public transport. A serious consideration by state, local government, the public and business of these processes and their importance, as well as the appropriate economic structure for them, is necessary to enable the public interest to be realized to the highest degree. I would point out the following as key components of the development. The key conclusion on page 42 is that "Perhaps it is a good practice to have a state policy in the direction of issuing certificates to different types of motor vehicles. Conventional fuels should take a backseat, such as coal-based fuels." Next, the author's stated conclusion on page 60 that "It is necessary to note that the new environmental standards represent a very big challenge and thus opportunities for this kind of industry", the same conclusion opens a new field for research in the field of public management. On page 89, the candidate notes "It is necessary to organize sustainable forms of transport, projects and measures to improve transport activity, as well as serious analysis and priority parameters in relation to the criteria for the transport sector and a significant set of characterizing general and specific thematic directions". In this context, a strategic approach to decision-making and implementation of innovative public policies at the local level would be useful. On page 116, the author notes "In relation to the sustainable urban environment, it is necessary to be able to maintain a database to categorize and improve the transport service, and the criteria themselves should be much higher", which finding is a new option in the field of public management.

As a development gap, we can point to the lack of a research thesis, an object of research, a scientific hypothesis, which focus the scientific research and create an opportunity to follow scientific ideas in fullness and integrity. A recommended element is the inclusion of a research part aimed at developing the problem and the scientific areas in which the research works on. It can also be recommended that in future developments of the candidate, they end with consistent conclusions and derivation of contributing moments.

The literature used in the presented version of the monographic work is from 18 /eighteen/ sources, with those in English being 5 /five/, and the authors whose works are cited are mainly three. The foreign authors used are two, which allows us to mention them by name: Ari Lampinen and Paul Sullivan. In the cited sources and in the bibliography, there are no references to Internet sources, as well as to normative and strategic documents, which are

usually present in this kind of development, with the exception of the Road Transport Act, which is repeatedly cited in the text.

## **2.2 Evaluation of the main features in the remaining publications submitted for review**

In addition to the monographic work, the candidate submits 15 papers for evaluation and review. publications /completely independent/, as follows: 1 /one/ published dissertation work for the degree "Doctor"; 14 /fourteen/ articles - /of which 1 /one/ in English/. All works are in publications in Bulgaria. 6 /six/ of the articles are in print, with 5 /five/ of the publications being in the "National Security" magazine, Of the published materials provided for review, 3 /three/ of the reports from a conference held on 30.09.2022 at HSSE and 2 /two/ from a conference held on 27.10.2022 at Vasil Levski National University, Veliko Tarnovo. Official notes from the organizers of the scientific events have been submitted for the mentioned participations.

The articles and reports have been published or are to be published in referred scientific publications after the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor". The publications correspond to the subject of the professional direction 9.1. National Security (National Security and Public Transport).

Some of the publications have an interdisciplinary nature and are from the field of professional direction 3.7. Administration and Management.

In summary, the candidate's scientific works are aimed at indicating with new means essential aspects of an already existing scientific field, such as national security, with a focus on its interdisciplinary aspect related to the problems of managing urban public transport, as well as on the environmental aspects of this type of public management, which can be summarized as it meaning a purposeful policy on the part of state and local authorities regarding the provision of quality and efficient public transport.

Emphasis is also placed on the improvement of the legal framework related to the procedures in this direction regarding the challenges facing the whole world. As part of the solutions for them are the sustainability of populated areas, the "smart cities" initiative, and also the quality of the atmospheric air. The last question is of serious importance because it directly affects the health and life of citizens. Air pollution remains one of the most serious risks to humanity.

An important part of the research is the planning of public transport in populated areas in the Republic of Bulgaria, and at the same time the improvement of the country's road transport infrastructure. These are issues that are interrelated, and when discussing these topics, it is necessary to approach the issues as a whole.

The analyzes made and the results presented in the candidate's work create prerequisites for application in the education of students and doctoral students studying in specialties from the professional direction 9.1. National Security at HSSE - Plovdiv.

### **2.3 Evaluation of additional scientific-research and scientific-applied characteristics relevant to the current procedure / citation; project, expert activity and other relevant/.**

A key point in assessing the candidate's recognition in the scientific community is the citations and references to his publications. In this regard, the applicant provides a detailed reference with correctly indicated authors citing his works, cited publications and pages of the citation.

The citations indicated in the reference for the competition procedure are 30 /thirty/, and the citations are in different editions and in points dimension exceed the requirements of the normative rules for this component of the assessment procedure for the competition. The quoting authors are Bulgarian, and some of the citations are in upcoming publications in editions in Bulgaria /publications in print/.

In summary, we can state that there is research experience and accumulated expertise, and those individual professional characteristics can be applied in modern management practice and can be the basis for pedagogical and scientific achievements in the future and be used with high utility by the Higher School of Security and Economics.

### **2. 4. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical training and activity.**

In the attached documentation for the procedure, no documents certifying teaching experience and accumulated such experience have been attached.

### **3. Assessment of the significance of contributions to science and practice**

The presented works, in addition to making a significant contribution to the enrichment of theory in the field of security, also have practical value, in view of the significance of the challenges facing modern management and, in particular, of security systems related to the complicated conditions for the management of transport systems in urban environment.

From this position, it can be confidently noted that the significance of the works proposed for review is clearly specified.

With a highlighted contribution to security, the following points of contribution in the applicant's work, distributed by area, can be supported:

Contributions with a theoretical-scientific focus and contributions with a scientific-applied character, among which we would highlight the following:

- Studies of the role and importance of public transport and its contribution to national security;
- The knowledge about the national transport system and the way it influences on national security are systematized in a new way;
- A specific system has been developed for evaluation and analysis of the specific changes in the considered transport methods;
- Different types of computer systems were examined, which through the use of artificial intelligence can contribute to the development of ecological and sustainable transport.

The points of contribution are presented correctly and professionally and are fully relevant to the documentation attached for the evaluation of the competition procedure.

#### **4. Recommendations to the candidate**

I have the following recommendations and scientific-methodological considerations for the candidate Dr. Vasil Kolev:

- ✓ It is recommended to increase publication activity in publications outside Bulgaria, with a view to expanding and popularizing the creativity and ideas of his scientific research, as well as those with higher citation indices;
- ✓ Innovative for the scientific community would be the search for new scientific solutions in the relationship "security policies and strategies at the European level" in the direction of finding proximity between the author's views on effective management with strategic management and development in a management context and the interweaving of the so-called "Concept for sustainable development"/ here are the Worldwatch Institute publications that are absent in the candidate's work/ <https://www.papertiger-bg.com/SOW.html> , which unfortunately has not been translated in Bulgarian for more than 5 years /;
- ✓ In the future developments of the candidate, it is necessary to widely advocate components of the so-called "smart governance" and "smart cities". In his developments, they are touched upon fragmentarily and superficially. In this direction, a number of works and authors that became classics were translated into Bulgarian, among them: Y.N. Harari; P. Dixon; R. Van Hooydonk; J. Harry and others;
- ✓ An extremely important matter, which must be part of the candidate's future research activity, is *corporate social responsibility /social responsibility/*. It is extremely close to his research interests and relates to the challenges of environmental and sustainable management;
- ✓ It is necessary to expand the application possibilities of the candidate's research, as well as to include them more widely in the studied academic disciplines of the majors at the university;

- ✓ The text and the author's overall future development concept of the subject would benefit from including in it the clearer proximity to public policies and public management that is lacking in his research. In this matter, there are a number of remarkable publications by Bulgarian authors, among them - T.Tanev, N.Arabadzhiyski; St. Stoykov; B. Borisov; Al. Valkov and others. Scientific publications with a similar focus can also be found in the publications of HSSE in recent years.
- ✓ It is recommended to significantly expand foreign and Internet sources of reference and use in the applicant's future developments;
- ✓ In the future, it is recommended to use and apply good practices from other countries, cities, etc. In this context, comprehensive methodological frameworks would be useful such as: – GAP Analysys; Improvement Roadmap; A3 Thinking; PDCA Cycle; RACI MATRIX; KANO Analysys; and others, and of course, the moderate use of the Benchmarking methodology;

The indicated possibilities and recommendations do not detract from the merits of the reviewed works and do not affect the scientific contributions, but will contribute to their more precise implementation.

## **5. Conclusion**

The documentation and scientific production provided by the candidate in the competition Vasil Mitkov Kolev meet the requirements of Art. 21.(1) and Art. 24 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 47.(2) and Art. 48.(3) for compliance with the minimum national requirements and with the requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2 of the Regulations for its application. My assessment of the overall readiness, proven in the attached documentation, by Dr. Vasil Mitkov Kolev, the only participant in the competition for the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR", is entirely "positive".

I propose to the respected Scientific Jury of the competition to rank the candidate, Dr. Vasil Mitkov Kolev, and to propose to the Academic Council of the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv that he be elected and occupy the academic position " ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR " in professional direction 9.1. National Security (National Security and Public Transport).

