



**NATIONAL MILITARY UNIVERSITY "VASIL LEVSKI"**

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## **OPINION**

by Professor Ph.D. Sevdalina Ilieva Dimitrova,  
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<https://cris.nacid.bg/public/scientist-preview/14061>;

Registration number 14061 in the register of the academic staff -  
<https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/14061>;

Area of Higher Education 9. Security and Defense

Professional direction 9.1. National Security

Scientific specialty 05-02-24 "Organization and management outside the  
sphere of material production (defense and national security)"

of the scientific works presented in the competition  
to occupy an academic position "associate professor"  
in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense",  
professional direction 9.1. "National security (Environmental security as  
an element of national security)", announced in SG No. 56/ 19.06.2022.

The scientific jury was announced by order of the Rector of Higher School  
of Security and Economics No. 35 of 31.10.2022.

Veliko Tarnovo  
2022

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

The scientific-research, scientific-applied and pedagogical activity of the only candidate in the competition for the academic position "Associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, PF 9.1. "National security (Environmental security as an element of national security)" - Doctor Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova - is dedicated to one of the subsystems of the national security system, which is environmental security, its dimensions and risks.

The candidate with professional and practical experience, pedagogical abilities and research potential contributes to the formation of the necessary environmental capabilities in the security sector.

In confirmation is the list of scientific works presented by the candidate in the competition for the academic position "associate professor", numbering 16 titles, published after obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor". Dr. Tuntova's scientific works are distinguished as follows: monograph - 1 (one) issue; a book published on the basis of a protected dissertation - 1 (one) issue; scientific articles – 5 (five) items; scientific reports – 9 (nine) nos. All publications of Dr. Tuntova are author's. Two of them are in English, published abroad. Of the total number of publications, 6 (six) are in print, for which the necessary documents have been submitted.

The scientific works are published in prestigious national and international publications and are independently developed. They are directly related to the scientific specialty and the thematic area of the competition for the academic position "associate professor". The scientific results achieved in the works and in the research activities of Dr. Atanaska Tuntova define her as a consistent, goal-oriented scientist, researcher, who knows and develops modern trends in the fields she studies, distinguished by pragmatism, organization and management skills, combined with pedagogical experience with a view to the future development of environmental security in the dynamically changing security environment. This is confirmed by the fact that each of the scientific works is a transition and upgrade in the scientific research activity of doctor Atanaska Tuntova.

The scientific production presented by the candidate in the competition fully meets the scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position of " Associate Professor " in activities and indicators in PF 9.1. "National Security“

According to the report presented, the total point equivalent is 510 points (according to indicators from city A - 50 points, city B - 100 points, city D - 215 points and city D - 145 points) with a minimum required 400 points.

The publications submitted for review by the candidate are quantitatively representative and I believe that they are sufficient for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv.

The relevance of the developed problems in the works proposed for review, in a scientific and scientific-applied sense, stems from the need to expand the systematic scientific knowledge of security, with the emphasis on ecological security and the risks and threats of the imbalance in the ecoequilibrium for security as a management system.

Thematically, Dr Atanaska Tuntova's works are focused on addiction, which is relevant to PF 9.1. National Security. The main one among them is the monographic work "Environmental security as an element of national security" with the nature of a habilitation thesis (No. 1), with which the accompanying publications from the list of works for participation in the competition (No. 216) are related.

The defensibility of the research thesis formulated by the author is based on the systematization of existing research in theory and practice and the aspiration to generate new knowledge about effective mechanisms and tools for the implementation of innovative models for countering risks and security threats from the imbalance in the eco-equilibrium. This is also the main research contribution of the presented scientific work.

The main scientific and applied contribution of the monographic work is the proposed conceptual model for countering the risk through the European "green energy" package, with a legal-regulatory framework adequate to the dynamic changes of the security environment.

The papers submitted for review are distinguished by relevance, consistency, logical and analytical thought and are directly related to the scientific specialty and the thematic area of the competition. They present their author as a consistent researcher promoting scientific research and achievements in the theory and practice of sustainable development based on the humannature relationship as an element of the security system. They fill the gap in scientific knowledge about security.

## **2. Opinion on the presence or absence of plagiarism**

In the course of my work as a member of the scientific jury, there have been no signals, argued in accordance with the relevant legal order in writing, about the presence of plagiarism in the candidate's works submitted for review under the competition. I, as a member of the scientific jury, did not find elements of plagiarism and dishonest use of other people's scientific results in the candidate's works.

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

The main contributions of the candidate in the competition for the academic position "Associate professor" I define as scientific and scientific-applied, based on the main habilitation work, supplemented by the accompanying publications.

They can be summarized as follows:

#### ***3.1. Scientific results and contributions:***

- theoretical knowledge, historical approaches and the legislative framework for the development of ecosystems and their impact on security have been studied and systematized;
- the theory of security has been enriched by systematizing previous views on environmental security as a component of the security system and the interrelationship between man and nature and its place in security policy has been deduced;
- the concept of climate change and its impact on the ecosystem and its relationship with man is scientifically substantiated, and the principle dependencies with security, risks and threats from the disturbed eco-equilibrium are deduced;
- new knowledge has been generated on policy-based security on climate change, resource depletion and environmental security effects of implementing a European Green Package.

#### ***3.2. Scientific and applied results and contributions:***

- a conceptual model is proposed for managing the risk of the imbalance in the ecosystem and the reflection of ecological security;
- a methodology has been developed and proposed for effective regulatory regulation of environmental security in an environment of dynamic changes.
- the thesis about the risks and threats of the urbanization processes of the urban environment for ecological security is defended;
- the relationship between the concept of sustainable development and the national security strategy is proven.

The received scientific and scientific-applied results of the candidate's research reveal and emphasize the focus of her work on the development of the multifaceted nature of security as a management system in the context of environmental security. The papers present the candidate as an accepted and established scientist and expert on the mentioned issues, which is confirmed by his active teaching, research and publication work on these issues.

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

The scientific works of doctor Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova are distinguished by their scientific significance and scientific-applied value for the theory and practice of security in the context of environmental security. They serve as the theoretical and methodological basis of the educational process and research activity of other scientists and future research of the candidate. In confirmation is the attached reference for citations, according to which the applicant is cited in 17 scientific works of scientists in the field of environmental security, as a component of the security system.

#### **5. Critical notes on the presented works**

The notes to the research output and activity of Dr. Atanaska Tuntova, which are in the nature of recommendations for her future activity, are:

- it is recommended to justify the tasks, the subject and the object of the scientific research and the methodology used in the introduction of the monograph;
- expediency from verification of results and models;
- directing the publication activity to editions with scientific review and indexed in the international scientific network.

The mentioned remarks are more of a discussion nature and do not diminish the merits of the works presented by the candidate in the competition.

#### **6. Conclusion**

I believe that the scientific works submitted for review by doctor Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova are an independent work and successfully defend the scientific and scientifically applied contributions in them. These can successfully be used as a starting point for the candidate's further research and publications.

The documentation and scientific production submitted by the candidate, Dr. Atanaska Tuntova, meet the requirements of Art. 21, para. 1 and Art. 24 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, on Art. 47, para. 2 and Art. 48, paragraph 3 on compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2 of the Regulations for its application for the acquisition of an academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", PN 9.1. "National Security" and the regulations of Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv.

#### **7. Evaluation of candidates**

My assessment of the scientific works of Dr. Atanaska Ivanova Tuntova, the only participant in the competition for the academic position "associate

professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National security" (Environmental security as an element of national security) **is positive.**

The scientific research, teaching, pedagogical and expert activity of the candidate, her indisputable personal qualities as a scientist with significant results in scientific works give me the reason to propose to the respected scientific jury of the competition that she be selected and proposed to occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National security (Environmental security as an element of national security)", for the needs of the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv.

**08.11.2022.**

**Veliko Tarnovo**

**Member of the jury:**

**Prof. D.Sc. Sevdalina Dimitrova**