



OPINION

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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 (National Security and Public Transport)", announced in SG No. 89/ 08.11.2022

The scientific jury was announced by order of the Rector of VUSI No. 74 of 08.02.2023.

**Veliko Tarnovo
2023**

1. General characteristics of the candidate's research, applied science and pedagogical activities

The only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, PN

9.1. "National Security (Economic and Financial Security)" is Eng. Dr. Martin Maslan . The candidate's research and applied scientific activity is in the field of risk management in the context of economic security. The candidate for the competition submitted for review 13 (thirteen) scientific papers published after obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor". In terms of structure, the scientific works of Dr. Martin Maslan, with a total volume of 603 pages, are separated as follows:

- monographs – 1 (one) issue. in a volume of 202 pages.;
- book based on a dissertation - 1 (one) volume of 193 pages.;
- scientific articles and reports - 9 (nine) issues in a volume of 78 pages.;
- textbooks – 2 (two) volumes of 170 pages.

Two issues of the scientific articles are in print, for which a properly formatted document has been presented. Of the total number of scientific papers for review, 6 (six) are authored and 7 (seven) are co-authored, and the candidate's contribution is clearly distinguishable in terms of percentage of the number of co-authors. The scientific works have been published in prestigious publications and are directly related to the scientific specialty and the thematic area of the competition for the academic position of "associate professor". Each of the scientific works is a transition and upgrade in the research activity of Dr. Maslan, which circumstance presents him as a young, consistent, purposeful researcher and scientist.

The scientific production presented by the candidate in the competition fully meets the national minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "docent" in activities and indicators in PN 9.1. "National Security". A reference is submitted with a total point equivalent of 455.8 points with a minimum required 400 points.

The amount of publications submitted for review by the candidate is representative and I believe that they are sufficient for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at VUSI, 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 economic security as part of the security system.

Thematically, Dr. Martin Maslan's works are focused on the relationship risk management - economic security, which is relevant to PN 9.1. National Security. Main among them is the monographic work "Risk management options affecting the economic security of economic entities" with the nature of a habilitation work, with which the accompanying publications from the list of works for participation in the competition are related.

The defensibility of the research thesis formulated by the author is based on the systematization of existing research in theory and practice with the aim of generating new knowledge about effective security mechanisms, tools and models, in particular about economic security and business risk assessment from the positions of actions for its prevention and impact.

The main scientific and applied contribution of the monographic work is the proposed conceptual model for the assessment and prevention of investment risks and risks for financial flows, with an emphasis on audit principles as the basis of economic and financial security.

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 economic security as a component of the security system. On this basis, it can be argued that Dr. Maslan's scientific research, results and contributions in his works contribute to filling the gap in security scientific knowledge.

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. And 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 scientific and scientific-applied results and contributions of the author's scientific research are based on the in-depth knowledge and creative adaptation of modern scientific theories, concepts and publications on the investigated issues, the analyzed problem areas in public transport, refracted through the prism of national security in a dynamically changing environment . The scientific results obtained on the basis of the systematic approach and following the logic of the author's research are sufficient grounds for defining the following scientific and scientific-applied results and contributions.

3.1. Scientific results and contributions:

- the theoretical framework of the applicability of risk management from security positions has been enriched and further developed with an emphasis on the economic security of business entities;
- the role of financial security as a prerequisite for the solvency and liquidity of business structures has been proven;
- new knowledge was generated based on effective innovative mechanisms and tools for risk management in the context of economic security.

3.2. Scientific-applied results and contributions:

- the scientific-expert platform for creating a conceptual model for risk management of business organizations, with a legal-regulatory framework adequate to the dynamic changes of the security environment in Slovakia, with a contribution to the economic security of business entities, is scientifically based and provable;

- an algorithm for an integrated approach to risk management for business entities through the use of information systems, refracted through the prism of economic security as a component of Slovakia's national security system, is proposed;
- a methodology was proposed to increase the financial stability of business entities and the financial discipline of borrowers;
- the role of transport systems for the efficient functioning of the logistics activities of business structures is defensible, as the reasons for the existing disparities and the approaches to protecting the personal data of the subjects in the logistics system have been revealed.

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

The contributions in the papers submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" are distinguished by their scientific and scientific-applied significance for the effective management of risk in the context of economic security and its connection with national security. They serve as a methodological basis for the diagnosis of the dimensions of economic and financial security and their connection with the sectoral policies of national security.

The significance and effect of the contributions to science and practice, which are the personal work of the candidate of the competition, are proven in his scientific works and do not tolerate refutation, which confirm him as a scientist in the field of security science.

A reference is presented for a total of 20 (twenty) numbers cited by other authors, including 3 (three) issues in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 17 (seventeen) issues in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

5. Critical notes on the presented works

The notes to the research output and activity of Dr. Martin Maslan, which are in the nature of recommendations for his future activity, are:

- verification of results, models and risk management algorithms in the context of economic security is recommended;
- directing the publication activity to editions with scientific review and indexed in the international scientific network.

The mentioned notes are 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 Dr. Martin Maslan are an independent work and successfully defend the scientific and scientifically applied results and contributions therein. 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 for the competition meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, for 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 VUSI, Plovdiv.

7. Evaluation of candidates

My assessment of the scientific works of Dr. Martin Maslan, 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 (National Security and Public Transport)", **is positive.**

The academic style, the professional and expert experience of Dr. Martin Maslan with the potential for adaptability to change and the formation of scientific research abilities, confirm him as a scientist and researcher who knows the researched issues, applies a critical approach and knows how to derive and generate new knowledge and practical justifications. This gives me reason **to propose** to the respected scientific jury of the competition that Dr. Martin Maslan be elected and **proposed to occupy the academic position of "associate professor"** in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National Security (National Security and Public Transport)", for the needs of the Higher School of Security and Economics, Plovdiv.

22.02.2023
Veliko Tarnovo

Member of the jury:
Prof. D.Sc. Sevdalina Dimitrova

