

**THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF SECURITY AND ECONOMICS**

**OPINION**

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of the dissertation of  
Ivanka Nenova Nikolova

„SYSTEM SECURITY FOR  
QUALITY MANAGEMENT“

presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree „doctor“ in  
the field of higher education: 9. „Security and Defense“,  
professional direction: 9.1. „National Security“

Plovdiv

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## **1. Relevance and significance of the developed scientific problem**

In scientific studies in the field of security, the potential threats to the security of the country and its development have been repeatedly analyzed. This dissertation explores the commonly accepted definition of national security, which states that security is the priority of all nations and is the foundation of both disarmament and societal development. The main statement is related to the statement that the security of the state is not only its territorial integrity and related military aspects, but also includes aspects of a political, economic, social, humanitarian, ecological nature, as well as issues related to the rights of the person. Looking at the factors that affect security, one that affects quality management systems also stands out. The need to increase and stabilize security in quality management systems in the conditions of great difficulties and shortages that have been observed in the countries' economies in recent years has been formulated. In turn, this gives rise to the need to direct scientific research to the possibilities of increasing the effectiveness of management approaches to security management in the quality of management systems. That is why the doctoral student puts emphasis above all on quality assurance, which occupies a significant part of the overall national security system, thus determining the main role of the human factor in its implementation.

The presented new vision for regulating security in quality management systems in organizations should be tested in a real environment using the Integrated Management System proposed by the author.

## **2. Evaluation of the scientific results and contributions of the dissertation work**

The achieved scientific results largely reflect the author's accumulated knowledge in the field of economic security, on the management and application of security in Quality Management Systems. The proposals for optimization of management processes are made on the basis of analytical research and correspond to good practices in the field of security. Two groups of scientific

contributions stand out, reflecting the achievements of Ivanka Nikolova. As a scientific contribution of the dissertation, I can define the analytical model of functionality of the Quality Management Systems, where their possibilities and the results of their implementation in economic organizations are presented.

As scientific and applied, the author's contribution in the development and justification of a toolkit for the implementation of an experimental model, including various tools for improving security and quality in economic organizations, stands out. In this group of contributions, the developed functional model of a Management System aimed at increasing the level of security in an organization from the field of security and public order can be placed. Standards tailored to the operation and functions of the integrated security system are also proposed.

The obtained results of the conducted research can serve for the development of state policy and changes in the legal regulation of individual elements of the security system.

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

I am not aware of any other development corresponding to the topic of the dissertation work, and I do not detect the presence of plagiarism in the dissertation and/or in the publications on it.

### **4. Critical notes**

I have no critical notes. I recommend to the author that the results of the research be publicly approved by publishing a book based on a protected dissertation work.

### **5. Conclusion**

The thesis proposed for defense by Ivanka Nenova Nikolova is in accordance with the norms of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the rules for its implementation and the rules of the Higher School of Security and Economics, it represents a completed study with

certain scientific and practical-applied results and meets the requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree „doctor”.

#### **6. Evaluation of the dissertation work**

I give my positive assessment of the dissertation work on the topic „Security in quality management systems” and I propose to the respected members of the scientific jury to make a decision to award Ivanka Nenova Nikolova the educational and scientific degree „doctor”.

25.09.2024 г.

Prepared the opinion:

Plovdiv

(Assoc. prof. Petar Todorov, PhD)