

OPINION

by Professor Sevdalina Ilieva Dimitrova, PhD, phone +359 887 395 307; sevdalinaid_bg@mail.bg Registration number 45970 in the scientific activity register - <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 Ivanka Nenova Nikolova's dissertation on "SAFETY IN QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS", submitted 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"

Veliko Tarnovo

1. Relevance and significance of the developed scientific problem

The strategic security environment in the modern globalized world is marked by ever-increasing dynamism, uncertainty and unpredictability of risks and threats to world peace. Humanity hardly imagined that in the XXI more than two decades crises of a different nature, distinguished by their high-intensity manifestation, would mark its daily life. The threat of instability and the deepening of opposition processes put the security system in international, regional and national aspects to serious tests. Moreover, the boundaries between external and internal security are narrowing, and the impact of external and internal factors on the security system is increasingly uncertain.

In this context, scientific thought is directed to the study of various aspects and factors of impact of the security system, some of which are more popular and more often the object of scientific research, and others in which gaps in scientific knowledge provide opportunities for scientific research. research, one of which is security in quality management systems.

On this basis, the scientific problem is brought out and the purpose of the scientific research is formulated in the dissertation work of doctoral student Nikolova, the basis of which is the defensibility of her scientific searches for the possibilities of improving the security management model of the quality management systems. The research tasks to support the achievement of the research goal are also specified.

The working hypothesis regarding the quality policy of modern organizations and the correlation strategic security management - quality management systems has been scientifically proven. In accordance with this, the permissible restrictive conditions of the scientific research work are also defined.

The decisiveness of scientific research tasks and the achievement of the goal of scientific research is through the applicability of appropriate methodology and tools of scientific knowledge - theoretical and empirical. Final results of the research in the dissertation work are indicated in a finished form using Excel and Word.

The obtained scientific and scientific-applied results are a confirmation of the correspondence of the topic of the dissertation work with the content of the development.

2. General characteristics and structure of the dissertation work

The defensibility of the scientific research of doctoral student Nikolova in the dissertation work developed by her is in the volume of 158 pages, illustrated in 12 figures, 4 diagrams, 2 tables. 214 sources were used, of which 155 are in Cyrillic, including 53 books and 102 online sources and 59 online

sources in Latin, the scientific-applied value and authority of the authors cannot be doubted.

The dissertation is structured in an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, bibliography. The applied classical structure of the dissertation work corresponds to the purpose and the specified scientific research tasks. The summaries and conclusions at the end of each chapter support their determination and provability of the working hypothesis.

The studies, analyses, models and proposals of the doctoral student are in support of the compliance of the dissertation work with the requirements of problematic and proof of novelty in the derivation of the scientific and scientific-applied results of the research in it, the positive assessment of which is not subject to doubt.

3. Characteristics of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the dissertation work. Credibility of the material

The dissertation is a completed work with an achieved research goal and solved research tasks. The exposition is in a logical sequence, based on relevant specialized literature and factual sources, whose well-intentioned critical analysis supports the scientific research of PhD student Nikolova. The necessary and sufficiently specialized literature and standards on risk security and quality management, corresponding to the investigated issues, were studied. The research is based on good practices, trends and security priorities for quality management systems in organizations. On this basis are the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results in the dissertation work and the proposals made by doctoral student Nikolova.

3.1. Scientific results:

3.1.1. The theory of security based on the systems approach, critical reading and analysis of knowledge and achievements on the issue of security of quality management systems has been further developed and enriched..

3.1.2. New knowledge was generated and a conceptual platform was created for the security of quality management systems with an emphasis on their economic nature, purpose and functionality.

3.2. Scientific and applied results:

3.2.1. Our own experimental research was conducted and the need for a scientifically based toolkit to increase the security of quality management systems in economic organizations was proven.

3.2.2. A functional model of the Quality Management System was created and its security increased by adapting the EFQM model (Excellence Model) and the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

3.2.3. An Integrated Quality Management System is proposed, adaptable to quality standards and contributing to increasing security in security organizations.

The scientific and scientific-applied results of research in the doctoral thesis of Nikolova are based on proving with new means essential and new aspects of existing scientific problems and theories. They enrich the theory of security in the context of the security capabilities of Quality Management Systems in organizations.

The developed models for improving security in quality management systems are the basis of the proposed Integrated Management System, which creates conditions for a coordinated system of quality management in the field of security.

The results of the research carried out in the dissertation represent the personal work of the doctoral student and outline the significance of the contributions made to the theory and practice of security in quality management systems in organizations, which proves the inseparable connection "security - economy". They can serve as a methodological basis for the further research work of doctoral student Ivanka Nikolova.

Three publications in scientific works of Higher School of Security and Economics are indicated on the subject of the dissertation work. The publications are independent and are in the direction of the author's scientific research. They show depth and comprehensiveness of the research process. On this basis, the total point equivalent is 80 points, with 80 points required under the National minimum requirements for the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

In the course of preparing the opinion, I am not aware of received written motivated signals of plagiarism and I have not detected plagiarism in the materials provided under the procedure within my competences and available sources.

4. Assessment of the auto-referral

The abstract contains the main problems and ways to solve them, indicated in the dissertation work. It gives a full picture of the scientific value and practical applicability of the achieved scientific and scientific-applied results and contributions, in support of the defensibility of the working hypothesis.

5. Critical notes

The positive aspects of the dissertation work do not exclude some admitted omissions in it, systematized rather as recommendations:

- it is appropriate to draw general conclusions from the scientific research after the conclusions of the third chapter;
- in the future, PhD student Nikolova should focus her publication activity on publications referenced and indexed in the global scientific network;
- it is recommended that the research in the dissertation work be published in book form to make it accessible to a wider audience.

The mentioned notes have a technical, discussion and recommendation nature and they do not reduce the merits of the dissertation work., but their non-admission would contribute to greater concreteness of the research and conclusions.

6. Conclusion.

The dissertation work, developed by PhD student Ivanka Nenova, Nikolova, is a completed and structured scientific work from the study of an actual security problem related to the quality management system in organizations. Significant scientific and scientific-applied results have been achieved, proving the ability of doctoral student Nikolova to independently develop issues important for theory and practice, related to the possibilities of increasing the security of quality management systems. The dissertation was developed in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the Acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor", the Regulations for its Implementation and the Narrative Regulations of the Higher School of Security and Economics.

7. Evaluation of the dissertation work

Taking into account the achieved scientific and scientific-applied results in the dissertation work and the rational proposals made by doctoral student Nikolova, I give my **positive assessment** of the dissertation work on the topic "Security in quality management systems". **I propose to the respected members of the scientific jury** the award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Ivanka Nenova Nikolova in the field of higher education 9. "Security and defense", professional direction 9.1. "National security".

01.10.2024
Veliko Tarnovo

Member of the scientific jury:
Prof. DSc Sevdalina Dimitrova