REVIEW

by **Prof. Dr. Ilin Alexandrov Savov**, Academy of the Ministry of Interior, Faculty of Police, Department of Operational Search

**Author of the dissertation:** Lubomir Slobodan Petrovich

**Topic of the dissertation:** "Modern system for counteracting the production and trafficking of drugs", presented for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, professional field 9.1. National Security.

**1. General characteristics of the presented dissertation**

The dissertation "Modern system for counteracting the production and trafficking of drugs" with a volume of 240 pages, structured in an introduction, three chapters, general conclusions, conclusion, references and application is proposed for review by the doctoral student of self-study, entitled to defense in the doctoral program "Security Strategies and Policies", NBU, professional field 9.1. National Security, scientific specialty Security Strategies and Policies for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

The dissertation presented to me for defense is undoubtedly relevant to the theory. The topic of the research is correctly and precisely formulated - there is a complete correspondence between the title and the content of the dissertation. Along with this, the research is characterized by a balanced combination of theoretical knowledge and skills for practical analysis. The structure of the dissertation is logically structured and fully meets the stated research objectives and tasks.

The formal and substantive merits of the dissertation research can be summarized in the following:

• Correctly outlined subject - "the identity, features, structure, functioning and results of the functioning of a modern system for prevention of drug production and trafficking in the Republic of Northern Macedonia and a functioning system from 2010 to 2019,";

• Precisely stated main goal, research tasks, research issues to be addressed in the analysis process; the defined tasks are not self-serving and abstract, but determine the structure of the research and the methods used;

• The main thesis of the dissertation research is clearly formulated - “the modern system for counteracting the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs must necessarily correspond to the general conditions under which the production, distribution and sale of narcotic substances take place in view of the socio-economic conditions, the legal system as well as the technical and technological means used in the production, transport, trade and use of drugs. ";

• The used literature is satisfactory in terms of volume and time relevance - 173 sources;

• Correctly stated and used methodological tools, adequate to the research objectives: analysis of normative, strategic and other documents were used; comparative analysis of theoretical developments and information sources related to current trends, benefits and problems in the studied matter;

• Logical integrity and internal consistency of the analysis;

• Scientific correctness in the use of literary sources and in citations;

**2. Content analysis of the dissertation research**

The Introduction reflects all the necessary attributes: relevance of the topic, purpose and thesis of the research, namely - the scientific and social goal; five tasks of scientific development are highlighted; a hypothetical framework is outlined in which the general hypothesis and five special hypotheses on which the research is based are highlighted; the research methods are described; the methodology is indicated - modeling, historical-comparative method, statistical method; the individual procedures through which the information will be collected, analyzed and evaluated are indicated - research, interview and survey; the practical significance of the research is outlined in a scientific style; the limitations of the dissertation are described.

In the **first chapter** "DEFINITION OF THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN DRUGS, ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING" the following problems are set and competently analyzed / developed in a logical sequence:

• the main theoretical categories characterizing the production and trafficking of drugs, organized crime and money laundering;

• trafficking in certain drugs and emerging forms of drug crime in the Republic of Northern Macedonia;

• review of international criminal law on drug crime and important conventions that have emerged within the mechanisms of the UN system;

• the location of the Republic of Northern Macedonia in drug trafficking and abuse;

• the bodies and institutions responsible for counteracting the production and trafficking of drugs in the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

In the **second chapter** "FUNDAMENTALS OF THE EXISTENCE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM FOR COUNTERACTION OF PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING WITH DRUGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH

• the anti-drug system;

• the constitutional bases and the objective elements of the establishment of a system for counteracting drug abuse;

• the findings on the practical functioning of the system for counteracting the production and trafficking of drugs in the Republic of Macedonia until 2010

• the activities of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Commission and penal policy, such as drug abuse prevention and the Macedonian experience in drug abuse prevention;

• anti-drug strategies and guidelines and objectives of the national drug strategy;

• drug legislation in the Republic of Northern Macedonia and the planned activities and results of a strategic nature in the field of drug supply reduction;

• the criminal-legal characteristics of the crimes related to drugs and the organizational scheme of the bodies, institutions and organizations for combating drug abuse.

In the **third chapter** "CREATION OF A MODERN SYSTEM FOR COUNTERACTION OF PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA" the doctoral student has performed the following analysis, evaluation and systematization:

• the main findings on the existence and functioning of the existing system for counteracting the production and trafficking of drugs in the Republic of Northern Macedonia;

• the thematic concepts of the modern system for counteracting the production and trafficking of drugs, social subjects and the ways for realization of the prevention for counteracting the production and drug trafficking;

• an effective model for prevention of drug abuse and the establishment of a new directorate for combating drug production and trafficking in the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

**3. Evaluation of scientific and applied scientific contributions**

In the dissertation the author has made an analysis of the relationship between the presumed conditions and the results of the study.

The doctoral student also outlined the main features of the modern system for counteracting the production and trafficking of drugs, which are expected to be based on the following characteristics: a dynamic system with predominant preventive functions, almost fully integrated into the international concept of drug harm prevention , as the system also has national peculiarities, deriving from the socio-economic structure of the specific state and the respective legislation.

**4. Evaluation of the dissertation publications**

On the topic of the dissertation the author has indicated a total of four publications.

I positively evaluate the scientific and journalistic activity of the doctoral student. Literary awareness in publications can be accepted. I accept without a doubt that the publications are the personal work of the candidate.

The abstract to the dissertation faithfully and accurately reflects its content, results and contributions. Its content follows the structure of the dissertation.

I believe that the number and content of the publications of the author of the dissertation meet the requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

**5. Critical remarks, recommendations and questions**

I recommend the PhD student to expand his / her research in the field of national security, based on the analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction, and evaluation of the research results, to formulate specific conclusions that contain guidelines and intentions for further research and developments and their application in the activity of the security structures. This will enable the candidate to expand his vision in the field of combating drug-related crime in national, regional and international aspects.

**6. Conclusion**

The presented dissertation for review meets the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application for awarding the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

I give **a positive assessment** of the dissertation on the topic: "Modern system for combating drug production and trafficking" presented by Lubomir Slobodan Petrovich, PhD student at the Department of National and International Security of the New Bulgarian University and I recommend that the distinguished scientific jury be awarded an educational and scientific degree "PhD" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, professional field 9.1. National Security.

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(Prof. Dr. Ilin Savov)