

## **OPINION**

by Professor Dr. Sc. Dimitar Iliev Nedyalkov

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of the dissertation of Albena Ivanova Popova on "Study of the effectiveness of airport security management system" for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" in the field of higher education: 9. Security and defense, professional field: 9.1. National Security.

The reason for preparing the opinion is the Order of the Rector of NBU № 3-RK-85 / 06.01.2022, for the appointment of a scientific jury on the defense of the doctoral dissertation of Albena Ivanova Popova.

### **1. Significance of the researched problem in scientific and scientific-applied relation.**

The doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova presents a significant problem that requires high levels of theoretical and professional training. Aviation security is the subject of constant efforts, given the escalating complexity of solving it with advancing technological levels. The significance of the development is also related to its preventive

determination. Despite the challenges of time and circumstances, air transport maintains the progression of its non-alternative for the development of a dynamic world. It increasingly implies taking advantage of airspace.

## **2. Justification of the goals and tasks in the dissertation.**

The dissertation of the doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova was proposed for defense before a scientific jury after a meeting of the Department of National and International Security. Albena Popova has the necessary level of education, qualification and practice in the field of airport security. The work presented by her has a volume of 162 pages, includes 7 figures, 26 tables and a bibliography with 96 sources. It meets the standard requirements and is built from an initial common feature, three logically related chapters that contain educational, research and contributing elements.

The purpose of the research - design and creation of a model for an effectively functioning airport security management system as an integrated part of the overall activity of an airport operator, is justified and significant. Based on the set goal, the tasks for its achievement are very correctly defined. From the presented materials it is necessary to conclude that the doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova has fulfilled the minimum requirements for educational and scientific degree "Doctor", according to the provisions of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

## **3. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation, including the presence of an original contribution to science.**

I accept the contributions proposed in the Abstract by the doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova in the sense of their content, defining them as scientific and scientifically applied.

Scientific contributions contributing to the development of knowledge in the field of the dissertation:

- generally accepted research methods such as PEST analysis, SWOT analysis and gap analysis have been adapted to carry out systematic research on airport security management;

- a model of the airport security management system is proposed, which creates conditions for further research in the problem area.

Scientific and applied contributions directly related to the implementation of the developed model in practice and are formulated as follows:

- a strategic map has been developed to describe the airport security management system;

- a balanced scorecard has been developed to measure the effectiveness of the airport security management system;

- a strategy has been developed to implement the model of airport security management system in order to increase its efficiency.

The obtained main scientific and scientific-applied results of the research in the dissertation are reduced to proving with new and known means of significant current aspects of existing scientific problems and theories. The results of the research conducted in the dissertation are a personal work of the dissertation and outline the importance of the contributions to theory and practice, while outlining the directions for further research work of doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova.

#### **4. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation: number, nature of the publications in which they are published.**

The doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova has pointed out five publications related to the topic of the dissertation, which testify to professional and scientific development in the research process.

## **5. Literary awareness and competence of the doctoral student.**

The doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova has used a large volume of Bulgarian and foreign language sources. They are a total of 96 sources. Their selection suggests a professional attitude to the problem and focus in its research and solution.

## **6. Evaluation of the abstract**

The Abstract presented by the doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova is developed in accordance with the academic requirements and reflects the structure and content of the dissertation.

### **- 7. Opinions, recommendations and notes.**

- The dissertation of the doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova is a completed and balanced development, to which I can make the following recommendations:
- There are paragraphs in the dissertation that need editorial intervention;
- Some of the conclusions can be more accurately related to the purpose of development and tasks. This would make it easier for the developer to justify their implementation;
- It is recommended that in works with such content to pay priority attention to the national reality and perspectives;
- I recommend that the study proposed by the doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova after the necessary additions be published in the form of a monograph and distributed for use by the relevant educational institutions and institutions concerning civil aviation.

The mentioned critical remarks and recommendation do not belittle the results achieved by the doctoral student Albena Ivanova Popova. I believe that in the future they allow us to be actively involved in national and international research projects and the development of adapted documentation in the field of aviation.

## **8. Conclusion**

The dissertation "Study of the effectiveness of airport security management system" by PhD student Albena Ivanova Popova meets the requirements of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The proposed development as content and arrangement gives me full reason to propose to the members of the scientific jury to award the author Albena Ivanova Popova educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" in higher education 9. "Security and Defense", Professional field 9.1. "National Security".

08.02.2022 г.  
Sofia

PREPARED THE OPINION:

  
(Prof. Dr. Sc. Dimitar Nedialkov)