

OPINION

from

Assoc. Dr. Marin Stanchev Stanchev full-time teacher at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, habilitation in professional direction: 9.1. National Security

on

scientific works for participation in a competition for the academic position of associate professor,

professional direction 9.1. National security, field of higher education "Security and Defense", announced in the State Gazette (DV)

issue 28 of 02.04.2024,

with a candidate

Ch. assistant Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

The candidate for participation in the competition, for the occupation of the academic position of "associate professor" in the Department of "National and International Security" of the New Bulgarian University, in the field of higher education "Security and Defense", professional direction "National Security", chief assistant doctor Dafinka Vasileva Sidova has fulfilled the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Article 1a of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University, which is evident from the submitted documents.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

1. The monographic work.

The candidate participates in the competition with a habilitation thesis - a published monograph

"Human security through European territorial cooperation: benefits, challenges, perspectives (following the example of the Republic of Bulgaria)". The monograph has a clear structure and a message with a practical focus. It consists of an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion, appendices and a bibliography of 245 sources.

Checking the monograph with StrikePagiarism.com plagiarism detection software found 3.77% similarity in CS 1 and 0.77% in CS 2. This indicates that plagiarism is excluded within these indicators.

In the first chapter, entitled "Human Security - Deterrence and Development", the author explains the essence and main features of the Concept of Human Security and the key stages of its development. Here, the author makes a comparison with the concept of "broad security" and outlines human security as unit'. In the exposition, the focus is on the Concept of Human Security from a theoretical and historical perspective. The candidate presents a discussion of the strategic role of the Concept of Human Security in the Concept of National Security, the Concept of Human Rights and the Concept of Human Development. The author defends the subthesis that the Concept of human security, although "young" in terms of development, is being established as a generally valid and generally significant concept that has a direct relationship to every sphere of human life, development and well-being.

In the second chapter, entitled "Methodology for analyzing the provision of human security through European territorial cooperation", the candidate identifies two fundamental criteria on which to build the analysis in the remaining chapters. The first criterion is derived on the basis of theoretical analysis, from the First Chapter, and is linked to the theory of social constructivism. The second criterion related to the function that European Territorial Cooperation has the potential to fulfill in terms of human security has been analyzed – functionality. It refers to the three types of European territorial cooperation – cross-border, transnational and interregional. Their essence and specific characteristics, as well as spheres of activities and benefits, are clarified.

In the third chapter, entitled "Freedom from fear through cross-border cooperation", the author makes a general characterization of cross-border programs and analyzes the benefits of cross-border cooperation in relation to freedom from fear with its three dimensions - political security, personal security and health security. Challenges and prospects for ensuring human security through cross-border cooperation are indicated. The candidate analyzed twelve cross-border programs in which the Republic of Bulgaria participated within two program periods - 2007 - 2013 and 2014 - 2020. Then the cross-border programs in which the Republic of Bulgaria participated in the program period 2021 - 2027 were also examined. ., the aim being to outline challenges and perspectives for the role of cross-border cooperation in ensuring freedom from fear.

The fourth chapter, "Freedom from scarcity through transnational cooperation", author Dafinka Sidova, presents an interpretation of the prospects for ensuring human security through transnational cooperation. The possibilities for cross-border cooperation in the context of the developed topic are analyzed. The presentation of good practices is of interest. The sub-thesis defended here is that the transnational cooperation in which the Republic of Bulgaria participates develops a sustainable capacity to ensure freedom from scarcity.

The fifth chapter entitled "Freedom for a dignified life through inter-regional cooperation" has the greatest contribution to the research and its significance. Here, the candidate emphasizes the interregional cooperation programs in which the Republic of Bulgaria participates, as well as the comparative analysis of the role of interregional cooperation in ensuring freedom for a dignified life.

In this chapter, the author presents a unique analysis of the benefits of interregional cooperation. The criterion of functionality, through which freedom from scarcity is ensured, which is part of the criterion of constructivism, is indicated, with two adjacent dimensions - ecological security and community security.

The author's goal is to prove the sub-thesis that the capacity of interregional cooperation, in which the Republic of Bulgaria participates, is not utilized well enough to ensure freedom for a dignified life.

As the main hypothesis in the monographic study, the author points out that European Territorial Cooperation has the capacity to ensure human security, although it is not used sufficiently by us. This results in limiting the benefits for human security, cross-border and inter-regional cooperation.

2. The other attached publications

The candidate participates in the competition with a published book based on a defended dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" with the title: "Cross-border cooperation and "broad" security in the Mediterranean region at the beginning of the XXI century.", published chapter of a collective monograph, a number of studies, articles and reports, (which is reflected in the reference) published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes or in specialized publications for classified information. The publications consider various aspects of the issues in the monographic work.

3. Quoting from other authors. From the submitted reference, it is clear that the candidate has indicated citations by other authors in monographs and collective volumes within 65 points of the minimum required 50 points and citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals – 37.5 points.

III. Learning and teaching activity

The candidate is involved in program improvement and development of courses to programs. He participated in the organization and conduct of a scientific school, a university-wide scientific seminar, a scientific conference, a scientific congress, a creative festival at NBU. Collaborate with students on research and/or creative projects.

Regular participation in the meetings of the DS/PS, compliance with the reception time, regular conduct of the classes. Auditory and non-auditory employment, work in the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU", provision of student practices and internships, work with students.

IV. Administrative and public activity

The candidate is a member of the DNMS Program Board from 01.10.2017 to 30.09.2022, and from 1 October 2022 he is its director.

Actively participates in academic, administrative and public activities of DNMS - conferences, seminars, projects, accreditation working groups, working groups for internal and external audit, etc. In the majority of academic events, Dr. Sidova attracts as participants students of both DNMS and other departments of NBU - student conferences and colloquiums, youth forums, traveling seminars, meetings with experts from practice, etc.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I know the candidate Dafinka Vasileva Sidova in the capacity of a teacher (principal assistant doctor) at DNMS, NBU, and my opinion is that she has the potential for further academic development in her chosen field, such as in occupying the academic position of "**associate professor**".

Conclusion

Chief Assistant Doctor Dafinka Vasileva Sidova has her theoretical and practical experience in the field of teaching and scientific research, as well as the necessary published scientific output. I believe that she meets the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activities for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

I give my **positive assessment** to the participant in the competition announced in the State Gazette (SG) number 28 of 02.04.2024, and I recommend to the scientific jury to choose chief assistant doctor Dafinka Vasileva Sidova as "**associate professor**" in professional direction 9.1. National Security at the "National and International Security" Department of the New Bulgarian University.

Date: 23/07/2024

Signature Marin Stanchev