

OPINION

by professor, DSc. eng, col. (ex) **Stoyko Dimitrov Stoykov**

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Register of Scientific Activity in the Republic of Bulgaria № 33078

<https://cris.nacid.bg/public/scientist-preview/13856>

Register for Academic Positions and Theses

<https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/13856>

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Web of Science Researcher ID: N-6268-2016;

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Higher education field: 3. Social, economic and legal science;

Research area: 3.7. Administration and Management

Scientific specialization: - 05.02.24.- "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (security and defence)".

Higher education field: 9. Security and defence;

Research area: 9.1. National Security;

Research area: 9.2. Military Science.

Scientific specialization:

- 05.02.24. „Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (Management of security and defence)”;

- 05.12.01. „Organisation and management of Armed forces”;

- 05.12.02 “Military-political problems of security”;

- 05.12.03 “Military applied aspects of civil protection”.

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for the scientific works of the main assistant **Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova** - the only participant in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense" by professional direction 9.1 "National Security", Faculty of Ministry of Finance, Department national and international security.

The competition was published in the State Gazette - No. 28/02.04. 2024. The composition of the Scientific Jury is given in Order 3- PK- 236/29.05.2024.

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by only one participant - chief assistant Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova within the time limit provided by the law.

With the decision of the Commission for checking the documents and admitting the candidate to the competition, Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova was admitted to participate in the competition.

The only candidate in the competition, chief assistant Dr. Dafinka Sidova, is a full-time teacher and director of the Program Board of the Department of National and International Security.

The research and teaching activity of the candidate in the competition, Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova, is mainly directed in the field of expansion by updating and modernizing the scientific knowledge of the Concept of human security, which, although "young" in terms of development, is confirmed as generally valid and generally significant a concept that has a direct bearing on every sphere of human life, development and well-being.

The topicality of the scientific and applied scientific problem developed by Dr. Dafinka Sidova in the works proposed for review for participation in the competition stems from the need to expand systematic scientific knowledge about the specifics of European territorial cooperation in ensuring human security.

Contributions in the scientific research carried out by the candidate in the competition contribute to increasing the role of human security in relation to sustainable urban development.

Through her scientific research and scientific applied activity, the candidate, Dr. Dafinka Sidova, expands the scope of the category apparatus, through which the scientific theory and practice of human security realize their interconnection with other fundamental sciences through concrete proposals and approaches to improve the three pillars (freedom from fear , freedom from scarcity and freedom for a dignified life) and the seven dimensions (political security, personal security, health security, economic security, food security, ecological security and community security) of the Concept of Human Security that contribute to its significant place.

1. Which works from those presented by the candidate are accepted for assessment

The scientific production provided by the candidate in the competition, Dr. Dafinka Sidova, fully meets the requirements of the evaluation system of the indicators for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" by activities and indicators: Group of indicators - A -50; Group of indicators - B - 100; Group of indicators - D - 255; Group of indicators - D – 102.5; Group of indicators - F - 60; Group of indicators - H - 100; Group of indicators - And - 90. Total required - 570 points, number of points from the applicant's activities - 757.5 points.

The amount of publications submitted for review is representative and I estimate it as sufficient for participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at the New Bulgarian University.

2. General characteristics of the scientific-research and scientific-applied and pedagogical activities of the candidate. In which scientific areas and problems the candidate has worked and continues to work.

The works of Dr. Dafinka Sidova submitted for review are in the field and the issues of the specialty of the competition for "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense" in professional direction 9.1. "National Security".

The publications are in specialized scientific publications. The candidate's style is academic, thorough, understandable and approachable.

The work of Dr. Dafinka Sidova continued on the topic of her doctoral dissertation "Cross-border cooperation as an instrument of the European Union to increase security in the Mediterranean region at the beginning of the 21st century" and this topic appears as central or as an aspect in some of the publications that followed the defense of the dissertation in 2018.

3. Evaluation of the pedagogical preparation and activity of the candidate

The teaching activity of the candidate covers both training: in the two educational qualification degrees of higher education (bachelor and master) and also for increasing the qualification of specialists.

The annual workload for the academic year 2023/2024 of Dr. Dafinka Sidova exceeds the required schedule of 180 classroom hours and 60 training hours - a total of 264 classroom hours and 420 extra-auditory/training hours.

4. Basic scientific and scientific-applied contributions

The main contributions of the candidate are of a scientific and scientifically applied nature and can be summarized in several main thematic areas:

- generating new knowledge and skills related to updating and modernizing knowledge about existing challenges to human security through European Territorial Cooperation. A central place in the works presented for participation in the competition in this thematic area belongs to the Habilitation work - published monograph - Sidova, D., 2023. Human security through European territorial cooperation: benefits, challenges, perspectives (following the example of the Republic of Bulgaria). Sofia: Scientific and Technical Union of Mechanical Engineering "Industry 4.0", ISBN 978-619-7383-32-4;

- further development of the theory and practice of scientific research through generalized and extended theoretical statements about the meaning and value of human security in the context of the ecological dimension:

- scientific article - Sidova, D. (2021). HUMAN SECURITY CONCERNS RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN INTEGRATION OF THE WESTERN BALKANS IN NATO AS A GUARANTEE FOR REGIONAL STABILITY. Skopje: Center for International and Development Studies Skopje. ISBN 978-608-245-725-3 pp. 66-79;

- scientific studies - the protection of cultural values through the prism of the legal and strategic documents of NATO - Sidova, D. (2022). The role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the protection of cultural heritage. In Dimitrov, Vl. (comp. and scientific ed.) Cultural heritage - state and perspectives. Collection of reports from a conference in honor of the 90th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Lyuben Prashkov, NBU, S., 416-435, ISBN 978-619-233-229-7;

- creation of a coherent system of theoretical summaries and proposals on the problems of the role of human security in relation to sustainable urban development:

- chapter from a collective monograph - Sidova, D. (2021). Human security. In Staykova, Ev. and Yule. Hadjichoneva (comp. and scientific editor.) Sustainable urban development - lessons for Sofia (collective monograph), NBU, S., 267-292, ISBN 978-619-233-176-4 (print edition), ISBN 978- 619-233-177-1.

5. Evaluation of the significance of contributions for science and practice.

In the review materials provided to me, the application of the results of the scientific research and regulatory activity of the candidate, Dr. Dafinka Sidova, is evident. The presented reference for citations in indexed editions shows the significance of the developed scientific problems.

6. Assessment to what extent the contributions are the work of the candidate

The candidate - Dr. Dafinka Sidova is the main author in the majority of joint publications.

In fulfillment of the requirements of Art. 4.(11) and Art. 10.(2) of the ZRASRB, I have not ascertained and I have not been informed of a written report of the presence of plagiarism or unreliability of the presented scientific data in the publications submitted for assessment.

7. Critical notes on peer-reviewed works

Some critical remarks can also be made to the materials submitted for review:

- the list of used literature (bibliography) in some of the publications is not formatted according to the requirements of the Standard for Bibliographic Citation – BDS/ISO 690:2021;
- in the design of some of the works there are inaccuracies, repetitions and editorial errors, which do not reduce their scientific value, but worsen the possibilities for quick perception;
- the main part of the published scientific works unfortunately concern a strictly specific audience - New Bulgarian University - city Sofia, which narrows the possibilities of the candidate in the competition for active participation in the scientific exchange, presentation and protection of innovative scientific ideas before the scientific community in the field of security.

The indicated omissions are of a technical nature and do not diminish the value of the results achieved by Dr. Dafinka Sidova, proving her ability to successfully develop independently and in a team issues important to the theory and practice of human security.

8. Personal impressions and other matters on which the reviewer considers it necessary to take a position.

I personally know Dr. Dafinka Sidova from her active participation in scientific conferences at the "V. Levski" - town of Veliko Tarnovo. The submitted works for participation in the competition demonstrate her as one of the prominent scientific researchers and leading teachers in the construction of scientific knowledge in the field of human security.

I believe that the works are the independent work of the candidate in the competition and successfully defend the claims for scientific and scientifically applied contributions.

I have no joint publications with the candidate.

9. Has a creative environment been created to transmit the accumulated experience and knowledge

The scientific results achieved by the participant in the competition, Dr. Dafinka Sidova, confirm and build on the high evaluation of the built scientific and educational environment for the creation and transmission of scientific knowledge and professional experience in the Department of "National and International Security" at the New Bulgarian University.

10. Conclusion

The documentation and scientific production provided by the candidate in the competition, chief assistant, Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova, meet the requirements of Art. 24.(1) of ZRASRB and Art. 53 of the Regulations for its implementation.

My assessment of the scientific works of the main assistant, Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova, the only participant in a competition for the appointment of an academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", by professional direction 9.1 "National Security" is "positive".

11. Evaluation of candidates

I propose to the respected Scientific Jury of the competition to rank the candidate, chief assistant, Dr. Dafinka Vasileva Sidova and to propose to the Council of the Master's Faculty of the New Bulgarian University that she be elected and occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9 "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National Security", in the "National and International Security" Department of the New Bulgarian University.

07/11/2024

Veliko Tarnovo

Scientific Reviewer:

Col. (ret.), Prof. Ph.D., Eng. Stoyko Stoykov, DSc.