

## Opinion

of Prof. Dr. Stavri Yordanov Ferdov, Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, professional field 9.1. National Security for the scientific works of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordan Stoyanov Doykov under the procedure for occupying the academic position "professor" in the professional field 9.1. National Security in a competition announced by the New Bulgarian University in the State Gazette No. 95/08.11.2024

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

After reviewing the attached documents, I conclude that the scientific production of the only candidate in the competition Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordan Stoyanov Doykov fully complies with the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "professor" in the professional field 9.1. National Security and with the requirements of the NBU set out in Appendix 2 of the Regulation on the Development of the Academic Staff of the NBU. The candidate's activities total 795 points.

### II. Research (creative) activity and results

The main monographic work presented in the competition on the topic "War, military affairs and the army, (Social scientific approaches to their conceptualization) is an authentic and original scientific work of high relevance and significance.

The author has correctly defined the object and subject. The specific perspective for the analysis of the trinomial "war, military affairs and the army" is realized through basic concepts from sociology and political science. The perspective is original because war itself has a socio-political genesis and manifestation. The "de facto" scientific tools in both the analysis and the synthesis of the author are concepts such as "social action", "social relations", "social institutions", "social role", "role repertoire", "politics", "continuation of politics" and how they "work" to explain the essence of the military "field". The prism of sociology and political science is used by the author innovatively both in historical and substantive aspects. The candidate has argued the thesis that war is an integral part of the birth and development of man, social communities and society itself. The protoforms of "sociality" are permeated with battles and wars ("war of each against all"), and at a later stage the nation and the state are the result of a historical compromise in society: people delegate rights of association and institutions in order to achieve greater security in this same society. It is here that the "political field" is born, which is both the "birthplace", the background and manifestation of the results of war. A cycle is obtained: politics - the continuation and as war - the results of this "primary" policy (war).

The author has gone deep into the comparison between the Western and Eastern paradigms of scientific thinking about war (Clausewitz and Sun Tzu). The analyzed authors are very successfully and accurately selected and used for additional argumentation.

The author “imposes” sociological and political concepts on the very essence of war. They are presented by him as principles: (destruction of the enemy, denial of mass extermination, etc.) and as a continuum of organizational forms, as phenomenology (special military operation, strike, front, etc.). This in itself is an authentic and heuristic approach. This scientific approach does not glide over the surface of accidentality, but seeks the typical in the essence (in the substantiality) of war, military affairs and the army. This is a “scientific approach” woven from the dialectics of interdependence between the analyzed “pairs” and “triples” of concepts.

The used method of “case study” also bears an authentic and heuristic character, because the author defends the argumentative thesis that wars and battles from different historical eras can be typologized into the same group.

The above are for me the author's scientific contributions to the main habilitation work based on the conceptualized explanation of war, military affairs and the army.

The others are the scientific and applied contributions with multiplying research and didactic application.

Based on this research, ideas for a number of theoretical and empirical studies have been generated, because these problems are not only topical; they are malicious. In addition, our current social life encounters us with both general and individual and special cases of wars, armies and military preparation (construction).

The didactic application assumes that through the case studies included in the work, students can be successfully trained and assessed.

Other production submitted for review has been published after scientific review in reputable publications, which proves their scientific value.

The candidate has been cited in monographic works by other authors and the works are under scientific review.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Doykov has participated in research and creative projects (2 projects). The application of the obtained results in practice is implemented in the pedagogical practice of the candidate. He is a scientific supervisor and reviewer of numerous bachelor's and master's theses.

The work as the director of the laboratory for the study of risks and security at NBU further enhances the creative and research manifestations. The ongoing work on the presented titles in other volumes with other scientific perspectives is still in this direction, which in turn gives the contours of a sustainability, duration and stability of his research and creative projects. An additional argument for the assessment given by me is that the candidate is an organizer of two scientific conferences and has delivered four public lectures on behalf of NBU.

### III. Educational and teaching activities

As can be seen from the attached reference from NBU, the candidate has a high classroom and extracurricular employment, actively working with the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU". The candidate's authored materials here are: Levels of security; Society and security; Organization of international security. Crisis of values and asymmetric threats; International relations and security; Fundamentals of security; Defense security.

Five textbooks have been published.

The students' ratings in the "feedback" are high.

#### IV. Administrative and public activity

The additional materials attached to the competition prove the presence of high administrative and public activity both in terms of communication and interaction with the general and scientific public, the scientific and teaching staff of NBU, and with the students.

#### V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Yordan Doykov for 43 years. I have direct personal impressions as a cadet at the "Vasil Levski" Military University, Veliko Tarnovo. I know him in a "combat situation", which I claim is one of the most accurate indicators of the physical and moral-psychological qualities of a person. Yordan Doykov is a very good and reliable professional partner and colleague. Thorough, responsible and honest. After that, fate brought us together as regular students at Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski", majoring in "sociology". Possesses lasting and profound scientific interests. A distinguished and accomplished lecturer with high professional, methodological and rhetorical training.

#### VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the candidate's activities and achievements

1. I do not establish plagiarism
2. I recommend publishing future production in English and in refereed publications.
3. I have no questions and notes

I confidently vote positively for the achievements and results of the academic activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yordan Stoyanov Doykov and propose to the Academic Council to select the candidate for the academic position of "professor" in the professional field 9.1. National Security in a competition announced by the New Bulgarian University in the State Gazette No. 95/08.11.2024

20.02.2025.

Gave the opinion: Prof. Dr. Stavri Ferdov