
MILITARY ACADEMY "GS. RAKOVSKI."

O P I N I O N

from

prof. Vladimir Kostadinov Poulkov, DSc

Faculty of Telecommunications

Technical University of Sofia, Kliment Ohridski Blvd., 1756 Sofia, Bulgaria.

Tel: + 359 882 270402

on the scientific works, submitted to the competition for occupying an academic position "Associate Professor"

**in the field of higher education 5. "Technical sciences",
professional field 5.3. Communications and Computer Science,
and in the specialty Automated systems for Information Processing and Control"
published in the State Journal: ДВ бр.51/28.06.2019 г.**

of the candidate:

**Lieutenant Colonel Zarko Ivanov Zdravkov, PhD
Chief Expert in the department „Defense capabilities“,
Strategic Planning Directorate - Ministry of Defense**

This Opinion was prepared in my capacity as a member of the Scientific Jury as defined by Order No. SI29-PД03-255 / 13.11.2019 of the Head of the Military Academy "GS. Rakovski. "

The only candidate in the competition is Lieutenant Colonel Eng. Zarko Ivanov Zdravkov, PhD.

1. General characteristics of the applicant's research, scientific-applied and pedagogical activity.

The scientific works and developments presented by the applicant are in the field of information security. The overall evaluation of the results from the scientific research published in the presented papers and teaching materials on behalf of the applicant leads to the conclusion that Dr. Zarko Zdravkov is a researcher with pedagogical experience, combining these two qualities to the degree necessary for a leading lecturer in higher education.

His scientific research in this area is continuing and developing towards the area of ensuring information security in automated information systems.

2. Opinion on the presence or absence of plagiarism.

During the evaluation of the applicant's works submitted for this competition, I did not find plagiarism and did not receive motivated written signals for the availability of plagiarism.

3. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical preparation and activity.

There are 3 teaching materials presented for the competition. Conducting Master's courses in Cybersecurity at the New Bulgarian University, in the periods 2000 - 2009, 2005 - 2017 and 2015 - 2019, can be considered as a good certificate for the pedagogical activity and preparation of the applicant.

Data on the applicant's work with PhD students and graduates are not provided.

3. Main scientific results and contributions.

Summarizing Zarko Zdravkov's contributions, I consider that they are in the field of secure information processing and management in automated information systems. They can be categorized as enriching the existing scientific knowledge and practical achievements. They relate to the creation of approaches, methodologies and models to

ensure: access control in automated information systems [1]; information security and respective methodologies for their implementation [1] [2] [11] [12] [17] [18] [22] [26]; analysis of security technologies and approaches [1] [3] [9] [13] [14] [23]; database models and automated processes for military training information systems [6] [7] [15] [16]. In addition to the self-contained monographic work submitted in relation to the competition, out of the presented 20 scientific articles and reports, 6 are self-contained and the remaining 14 are co-authored.

4. Assessment of the importance of the contributions to science and practice.

From my review of the published works, I believe that the results achieved by the applicant are important for the development of the field of information security in our country and contribute to the education in this modern and extremely important for the society area. This is confirmed by the actual implementation of the scientific results in a number of practical applications, through the participation in research and applied projects and international working groups. The acknowledgment of the contributions and results achieved is also evident from the citations of the applicant's scientific publications.

The documentation submitted by the applicant fully complies with his claims.

5. Critical notes on the presented works.

Some critical comments could be made to the presented materials for this competition regarding the failure to provide sufficient details about the content and the way of conducting the training courses and the lack of teaching aids for the courses he is leading.

I believe that in his future scientific work the applicant should focus his efforts mainly on the research and development of models for ensuring security in automated information systems, where from the presented scientific papers can be seen that this is an area in which he has the necessary expertise and has achieved already certain scientific results.

A more focused research work in this direction will allow the applicant to achieve an overall higher quality of its scientific production and disseminate the achieved scientific results at an international level.

6. Conclusion.

The materials, submitted for participation in the competition, related to the research and applied activity of the applicant, by volume, structure and content, are in the field of the competition and fulfill the minimum required points for all groups of indicators for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor". In view of this, and on the basis of the analysis and evaluation of the presented scientific production, the related major scientific results, together with the evaluation of his pedagogical experience and his activity in the field of higher education, I consider that the candidate meets all the necessary the requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor".

7. Assessment of the applicant.

On the basis of all mentioned above, I confidently give my positive assessment to the candidate and I believe that Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Eng. Zarko Ivanov Zdravkov has all the necessary prerequisites for taking the academic position "Associate Professor".

Date 12.12.2019

Member of the Jury:

(signature)