

GEORGY STOYKOV RAKOVSKI MILITARY ACADEMY

OPINION

from Assoc. Prof. Tihomir Spiridonov Trifonov,
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of the scientific papers presented at the competition for the occupation of the
academic position "Associate Professor"
in the scientific section "Doctrines, Concepts and Lessons from Practice" at the
Institute for Advanced Defense Studies at the Georgi Stoykov Rakovski
Military Academy; higher education area 5. "Technical Sciences"; professional
field 5.3. "Communication and computer technology,
Announced by Order No. OX-460 / May 16, 2019 of the Minister of Defense
and State Gazette no. 51 / 28.06.2019

of the applicant:

Lt. Col. Dr. Zarko Ivanov Zdravkov - Chief Expert in the Defense Capabilities
Division of the Strategic Planning Directorate, Ministry of Defense.

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

The candidate Dr. Zarko Zdravkov has worked and continues to work in the field of information technology, in particular in the field of automated information processing systems and data protection in information systems and databases. The submitted CV and the submitted publications show that in scientific terms the candidate is a distinguished researcher, implementer, expert and organizer.

2. Opinion on the presence or absence of plagiarism.

I believe that the publications submitted for participation in the competition are author's work and I have not found any elements of plagiarism in them.

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

The applicant's monograph work, publications and research are of a high professional level. Some of the publications are teaching-methodical.

For most of his work experience, the applicant has worked in research organizations. For this reason, he did not publish textbooks and teaching aids. He has developed three lecture courses: one for the CISCO Academy and two for the courses he has taught as a part-time lecturer at New Bulgarian University. He has participated in a one-year mission of the European Union to Georgia, as commander of a national contingent. Due to the fact that the candidate did not work for a state in an educational organization, he did not supervise doctoral students and graduate students.

4. Main scientific results and contributions.

The main scientific interests reflected in the publications presented are in the area of information security. Other scientific contributions to the wider field of information technology have been published. I classify contributions to publications as follows:

a) Enrichment of existing knowledge:

The monograph "Designing Secure Automated Information Systems" offers a comprehensive and systematic approach to creating secure AISs by ensuring appropriate selection, proper implementation and correct operation of security

technologies and facilities.

(b) Creation of new classifications, methods, constructions, technologies, preparations, schemes, etc.:

Different types and purpose of information security models and methodologies have been proposed (publications 2, 4, 11, 12, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24 and 26).

(c) Obtaining and proving new facts or obtaining confirmatory facts:

Surveys, analyzes and evaluations of technologies and information security tools have been carried out (publications 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 23).

d) Application of scientific achievements in practice:

Database models and automated processes related to the wider field of information technology have been developed (publications 6, 7, 15 and 16).

As a result of the work on a grant contract under the Operational Program "Administrative Capacity" of the EU, an information system for providing public access to spatial data has been established and implemented (publications 5 and 25).

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

The candidate Dr. Zdravkov has participated in over 25 scientific developments, most of which have been put into practice. Lt. Col. Dr. Zdravkov participated as an expert in a project co-financed by the Structural Funds and the EU Cohesion Fund for the development of an information system for providing public access to spatial data. In 2016, by order of the Minister of Defense, the system was successfully implemented for regular operation. The candidate's various publications are cited in 30 reports from scientific conferences in Bulgaria. Three citations are noted in a monograph. The citations are only from Bulgarian authors in Bulgarian publications. The documentation provided for the claims claimed, with certain exceptions, reflected in the critical notes, is complete and accurate.

6. Critical notes on submitted works.

a) The list of publications includes those with a publication year from 1997 to 2004, i.e. prior to the year in which the candidate obtained the PhD Degree (2005). According to the requirements of the Law for the development of academic staff in

the Republic of Bulgaria, the publications submitted for participation in this competition should not repeat those for the acquisition of the PhD Degree (Article 24, paragraph 1, item 3). From the documents provided, this cannot be determined.

b) Some publications concern the administrative and organizational aspects of information security and do not relate to the professional field of the competition.

c) The applicant has no scientific publications and citations in publications that are referenced and indexed in world scientific databases.

7. Conclusion.

I don't personally know the Lt. col. Dr. Zarko Zdravkov. Based on the evidence submitted, I believe that the applicant meets all the minimum scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" of the Rules for Implementation of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the relevant professional field, as well as all additional requirements for the occupied position set out in the Minister of Defense's order that announces the competition. Lt. Col. Dr. Zdravkov is a distinguished research scientist and possesses all the necessary qualities and competencies to occupy the academic position of Associate Professor.

8. Evaluation of candidates.

On the basis of the above, I **positively** evaluate the candidate Lt. Col. Dr. Zarko Ivanov Zdravkov and recommend to the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific section "Doctrines, Concepts and Lessons from Practice" at the Perspective Studies Institute on Defense in Georgi Stoykov Rakovski Military Academy; higher education area 5. "Technical Sciences"; professional field 5.3. "Communication and computer technology.

Date: 08.12.2019

Signature:

(Assoc. prof. T. Trifonov)