

STANDPOINT

from

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regarding scientific works presented for participation in a competition for the academic position “Associate professor” in the Department of Political Science and National Security at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

field of higher education 9. “Security and defense”, professional field 9.1. “National security“ (Migration, Border control and Anti-Terrorism), published in State Gazette issue 57/26.06.2020 and on the Internet site of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

by the candidate:

Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Stanchev,

Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science and National Security at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

Plovdiv

2020

1. General information about the procedure and the candidate

By order № P33-4133 from 25.08.2020 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in PU in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional field 9.1. "National Security" (Migration, Border Control and Anti-Terrorism), announced for the needs of the Department of Political Science and National Security at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

The only candidate is Dr. Ivan Stanchev - Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and National Security at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate has submitted for participation in the competition a set of materials on paper, which are in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of PU, and include all required documents.

Dr. Ivan Stanchev has presented a serious scientific production - a total of 17 papers with a volume of 1092 pages. **I accept for evaluation all the proposed works**, which are as follows: monograph - 2; studies - 2; textbook - 1; articles - 7; presentations at scientific conferences - 5. He is the author of all the submitted works, one article is presented for publication in a scientific journal, referenced and indexed in a world-famous database of scientific information Scopus and Web of Science. There is also a document certifying compliance with the additional faculty requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor", adopted by a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences with protocol № 134 of 22.04.2019, as well as documents for compliance with the requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff and the Regulations for its implementation, and also other references, declarations and appendices.

My personal assessment of the research and pedagogical preparation and activities of the candidate is very good. I have known the candidate for more than ten years and I have a lasting opinion of him as a serious scientist, a good specialist in the

field of internal security, and an established researcher on counter-terrorism, public order, border security and others.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's work

Dr. Ivan Stanchev has 11 years of experience as a border officer, and then in the Academy of the Ministry of Interior. During the past 26 years he has been intensively engaged in pedagogical and scientific activities, initially as a lecturer, senior lecturer and chief assistant at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior; later he held various managerial positions at the Academy - Associate Professor, Head of Department, and Deputy Dean. He was a part-time lecturer at the University of Ruse. Since January 2020 he has been an assistant at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The analysis of the presented works shows that the candidate Dr. Ivan Stanchev has worked thoroughly and purposefully in the last 20-25 years on very important issues related to the fight against organized crime, illegal migration, border security, organization and conduct of high-risk operations, as well as methods of training police, counter-terrorist, security and border units for counter terrorism, law enforcement operations, tracing smuggling channels, rescuing abductees, etc., with a focus on operations management, preparation and use of forces and the interaction with the other structures of the national security system.

According to the quantity and quality of his works, the candidate can be characterized as a serious researcher in a very specific field of police theory and practice, while purposefully working to implement scientific results in practice, and as a proven educator he successfully promotes his research on decision-making processes and the organization of activities related to ensuring internal security, public order, border protection and counter-terrorism in all its forms and dimensions.

Submitted documents show that during the last semester his horarium was over the regular number, and for the next school year he is planned to have 330 teaching hours. The documents also say that the candidate was a successful research supervisor

of two doctoral students, he supervised and participated in a total of three national and international scientific and educational projects.

The candidate's main contributions are focused on research and achievement of scientific results of scientific and scientific-applied nature.

Scientific contributions:

- The theory on the possibilities for organizing and conducting high-risk and counter-terrorist operations is enriched, the conditions for success are set out and the influence of various aspects of the environment on the preparation, planning and conduct of anti-terrorist raids is revealed; methods of training of specialized police, security and other forces within the special police tactics were confirmed, and the relevance of the already known aspects of some of the models, approaches and methodology for preparation of counter-terrorist raid operations have been proved (works 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 17 of the List of Scientific Papers);

- The role, place and tasks of the specialized police training are scientifically substantiated, in particular of the special police tactics as a basic educational discipline in the preparation of the forces for participation in high-risk operations; the methods, principles, techniques and procedures for their implementation are pointed out; conditions for conducting complex police, gendarmerie, border, military-police and other joint operations are considered, some requirements for training are described and modern approaches and models for preparation and conduct of high-risk police operations are proposed (works 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16 and 17 of the List);

- New and unknown aspects of border security in conditions of mass migration have been revealed, the reasons and conditions for the application of new methods and forms of terrorism, such as mass jihadist attacks, ransom kidnappings and cyber-attacks are described, and modern requirements for the organization, the preparation and the structure of the forces necessary for their counteraction are formulated, and a conceptual model for decision-making in crises as a result of a terrorist incident with kidnapping or hostage-taking is presented (works 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 of the List of Works).

Scientific and applied contributions:

- Ways are proposed to increase the capabilities of the counter-terrorist forces, for border security, to counter jihadist attacks, etc., the phases and stages of preparation and conduct of operations to counter them are outlined, the current trends for joint border police, counter-terrorist and security, military-police and other types of operations, modern models and methods for improving the effectiveness of special police tactical training are proposed (works 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the List of Scientific Papers);

- some guidelines and possibilities are proposed to support the decision-making process in the event of crises resulting from terrorist acts, hostages or kidnapping, as well as other high-risk situations that require modern approaches to collecting and analyzing information, identifying and assessing risk, planning, organizing and conducting operations, and the relationship between the effectiveness of police operations and the available information, the preparation of forces and the tactics and methods used for counteraction (works 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the List).

I assess the scientific and applied contributions as unique in nature. They fill a serious gap in the theory and practice of police science, as well as in the training and use of modern specialized police, security, military police and other forces to counter terrorism, to deal with crises and to minimize the risk of encroachments on the security of citizens and the state.

They are further research and enrichment of the knowledge system, as well as a successful attempt to illuminate possible ways to increase the effectiveness of special police training, through the use of active training methods and decision-making by the management. It becomes clear from the submitted documents that they are being used in the educational process of "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv.

According to the scoring system of the indicators for holding the academic position of "Associate professor" by activities and groups of indicators, **the candidate collects 675 points, whereas the required are 400.** In addition, he also meets the additional faculty requirements for the academic position of "Associate professor" adopted by decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Social

Sciences with Protocol № 134 from 22.04.2019. Therefore, it can be argued that in quantitative terms the teaching, scientific, research and expert activities of the candidate Dr. Ivan Stanchev not only meets the minimum national and faculty requirements, but in general **significantly exceeds the requirements** for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

3. Critical notes and recommendations

There are some weaknesses and critical remarks in the reviewed papers. In some works, there are findings or statements for which not enough evidence is presented, or there is no clear author's position or opinion. It is also noteworthy that there are no textbooks as research papers, and there is no scientific output in English or French, which, in my opinion, limits the candidate's opportunities to participate in the exchange of scientific knowledge and to present his ideas for discussion by the expert community.

CONCLUSION

The evaluation of the scientific and pedagogical works of the only participant in the competition - Dr. Ivan Stanchev shows that he meets the requirements of the Act on development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the additional faculty requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor". I have no evidence or suspicion of plagiarism and accept the works as his personal contributions.

All this gives me reasons to render a positive assessment and support to Dr. Ivan Stanchev to be elected as Associate Professor.

30.09.2020

Author of standpoint: .