

OFFICIAL EVALUATION

BY

**Assoc. Prof. Boti Vidolov Vidolov, PhD,
Associate Professor at G.S. Rakovsky Military Academy**

of the application materials submitted for participation in the contest organised for Associate Professor candidates at Paisiy Hilendarsky University of Plovdiv in the following academic areas: 9. Security & Defence; Professional subdivision: 9.1. National Security (Migration, Border Control, and Counterterrorism)

1. Overview of the procedure and candidate

Ivan Dimitrov Stanchev, PhD, from Paisiy Hilendarsky University of Plovdiv, has applied for participation in the contest organised for Associate Professor candidates, as announced in Official Journal Issue 57 / 26 June 2020 and on the website of Paisiy Hilendarsky University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Economic and Social Sciences.

The set of application materials submitted on paper by Dr. Stanchev has been meticulously prepared in compliance with the Rules for Academic Staff Development of the University of Plovdiv (UP).

The candidate has enclosed a total of 17 research papers. The total number of research papers accepted for review is 17 (apart from the dissertation, and taken under consideration for the final result). The distribution of the research papers in the different sections, i.e. published nationally or internationally, is as follows: 17 national, and zero published abroad.

Dr. Stanchev holds a Master's Degree in Commanding Staff, Operational and Tactical Level (G.S. Rakovsky Military Academy), Master of Engineering, Internal Combustion Engines – Civil Sphere, Border Troops – Military Sphere (National Military University V. Levsky). He also has a PhD in Organization and Control outside material production (Security & Public Order), having defended the following dissertation thesis: 'Organization and Tactics for Detention of Armed Offenders'.

On 18 January 2020 the candidate was appointed as Assistant at the Department of Economic and Social Sciences and has been occupying this position to date. He oversees the training of students enrolled for National Security courses such as 'Civil-Police Relations in High-Risk Operations' and 'Border Security', and those involved in research in the field of national security (high-risk operations, counterterrorism, and border security). The submitted resume (CV) shows that Dr. Stanchev has experience in academic jobs on positions including 'Assistant', 'Chief Assistant', 'Associate Professor', whereby he covers all national and institutional requirements of the Bulgarian Academic Staff Development Act (BASDA) (Section 24, paragraph 1: point 1 and 2a), the rules for the implementation of BASDA (Section 53, paragraph 1: point 1 and 2a) and the Rules for Academic Staff Development of UP (Section

65, paragraph 1: point 2 and 3a) for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor.

The candidate has highly valuable practical experience on various positions as expert on issues of national security. He is fluent in English, Greek, and Russian, and a member of the Union of Researchers.

I know Ivan Stanchev both from his publications and personally – as one of the most qualified specialists and teachers. I cannot but share how impressed I am with his enthusiasm about work and the energy he invests in each new endeavour. I believe that Dr. Stanchev is a highly motivated and responsible researcher with great potential, and an excellent team player. Equally important is the positive feedback he gets from students who speak with great respect of his professional qualities and integrity.

2. General outlines of the work of the candidate

The current professional workload of Dr. Ivan Stanchev meets and exceeds the approved annual requirements effective in UP Paisiy Hilendarsky. His classes in academic year 2019/2020 amounted to 160 hours of lectures and other activities (converted into seminars). The planned scope of his classes for academic year 2020/2021 include 330 hours of lectures and other activities (converted into seminars), whereby he covers the requirements of the Rules for Academic Staff Development of UP, Section 64 (2).

Dr. Stanchev works actively with students. He has supervised two doctoral candidates, bringing their work to a successful result.

He has participated and overseen various national and international research and education projects.

Dr. Stanchev has a large number of publications (monographs, reports and articles), and his work has been cited in national and international research publications.

A perusal of said research publications can easily lead us to the conclusion that the research of Dr. Stanchev stands out with its unmistakable practical value. Some of his very prominent qualities include high erudition, analytical thinking and precise reasoning.

In particular, for the purposes of this contest, he submitted the following publications: 2 personal monographs, 2 studies, 5 research reports, 7 research articles and one textbook.

As a whole, the publications are dedicated to highly relevant but so far insufficiently researched areas and issues, such as:

- Operations in response to terrorist acts – [1], [6], [8], [10], [13];
- Special police tactics – [2] [7], [9], [14];
- High-risk police operations – [2], [3], [4], [17];
- Training to respond to high-risk situations – [4], [7], [16];
- Security and border police operations – [2], [5], [11], [12], [15].

I accept the division of the research input but I would like to highlight some of the more important results and contributions in the following general areas:

- Operations in response to terrorist acts – the author has laid the

conceptual basis for counterterrorist raid operations; demonstrated the essence and substance of counterterrorist raid operations; classified them per type and design; summed up the prerequisites for success of counterterrorist raids; developed a theoretical model of the environment in counterterrorist raid operations;

- Special police tactics - the author has given a characterization of special police tactics; demonstrated the subject, components, and tasks; developed a theoretical model of the specialised tactics system;

- High-risk police operations - the author has made a theoretical review of the essence, characteristics, and elements of high-risk operations, thereby revealing and differentiating the factors of the external and internal environment influencing the preparation and deployment of high-risk operations; analysed the concepts of command and control in high-risk operations, the structure of the stages of planning, organization, and control; proposed command and control technology to be employed in the operations; studied the concepts of tactical thinking, dangerous zones, areas of responsibility, intersections for completion of tasks in high-risk operations.

- Training to respond to high-risk situations - the author has made a theoretical analysis of high-risk operations involving police squads, including detention of armed offenders, counterterrorism operations, restoring public order in civil disturbances, special characteristics of the preparation and deployment of such operations; establishment of the basic parameters of the analysed operations: place and time of deployment; number of participants; duration of active tactical operations; tactical and other methods employed; laid the foundations of the methods of training for response in high-risk operations, including specific principles;

- Security and border police operations (including border guards and border troops) – the author has demonstrated the prerequisites for success of the operations of the border units: detailed intelligence, secrecy in the preparation of the operations, the element of surprise, high psychological and physical resilience of the human resources, use of highly maneuverable combat equipment, support by the local population, wide use of engineering and technical equipment in the bases and of combat positions, use of long-range fire support; analysed the conditions for collection and analysis of information about the setting, planning, organisation, deployment, and completion of operations of security and border police units; presented a technical characterisation of the operations of security and border police units.

The general conclusion that can be drawn is that the research deliverables of the candidate are consistent with and even exceed the quantitative parameters of the national criteria and departmental requirements for occupying the position of Associate Professor in an academic setting.

An unequivocal demonstration of the recognition of the quality of research done by the candidate is the rate at which it is cited. The total number of detected citations of his works is 14. In academic terms, this goes beyond the minimum threshold set in the rules for the implementation of BASDA.

It must also be mentioned that the candidate is capable of striking a very good balance between teaching, research, and administrative work.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no remarks based on principle or form with reference to the research papers or teaching activities of Dr. Stanchev.

CONCLUSION

The application documents and materials submitted by Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Stanchev **meet all** requirements of the Bulgarian Academic Staff Development Act (BASDA), the rules for the implementation of BASDA, and the relevant system of rules of UP Paisiy Hilendarsky.

The candidate **has** submitted **sufficient** research papers published after the materials he used in the defence of his doctoral dissertation for the purposes of taking on the position of 'Chief Assistant'. The work of the candidate contains original theoretical and practical contributions which have been recognised accordingly, and a representative part of them have been published in magazines and research almanacs issued by recognised academic publishers. His theoretical work is practically feasible, and some of it is directly pertinent to the university activities. The academic and teaching qualifications of Dr. Stanchev **are indubitable**.

The results achieved by Dr. Stanchev in his academic and research work are **fully** consistent with the specific requirements of the Department of Economic and Social Sciences adopted in connection with the system of rules of UP for the implementation of BASDA.

Having reviewed the materials and research papers submitted by the candidate, and having analysed their significance and contributions in the fields of science, research, and general academia, I believe that I have every reason to give a **positive evaluation** and **to recommend** to the Esteemed Members of the Academic Jury to draft a report for the Council of the Department of Economic and Social Sciences in support of the appointment of **Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Stanchev as Associate Professor at UP P. Hilendarsky in academic area 9. Security & Defence; Professional subdivision 9.1. National Security (Migration, Border Control, and Counterterrorism)**.

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Evaluation prepared by:

/Assoc. Prof. Boti Vidolov/