

О P I N I O N

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Field of higher education: 9. "Security and Defense"
Professional field: 9.1. "National Security"

For the scientific papers submitted in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor", in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional field 9.1 "National Security" ("Migration processes and risks for national security" (In the context of cybersecurity and information security), announced in issue No. 49/17.06.2025 of the "State Gazette".

Candidate in the competition: Dr. Miloš Svrček, – lecturer at University of Security Management in Košice, Slovakia (sole candidate in the competition).

Grounds for submitting the opinion – participation in the composition of a scientific jury, determined by order of the Rector of the Academy of National and Information Security – Plovdiv No. 105/05.01.2026.

Plovdiv, 2026

1. Brief information about the candidate in the competition

The only candidate participating in the competition is Dr. Miloš Svrček, who holds a doctorate in international relations from the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. The main scientific fields in which he has published are diplomacy, international relations, security sciences, international law. Prominent in practice as a qualified lawyer, political scientist and diplomat with experience in legislation, lawmaking and sectoral construction law are evidence of the candidate's high expertise.

It is evident from the submitted documents that the only candidate in the announced competition possesses scientific research and administrative capacity in accordance with the requirements of the procedure.

2. Compliance of the quantitative results of the candidate's scientific and teaching activities with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

The materials submitted in the current competition for the academic position of "associate professor" Dr. Miloš Svrček meet the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

He has submitted the following scientific papers for review, which are distributed as follows:

- one independent monograph in English – 100 points;
- one published monograph that is not presented as a main habilitation work - 100 points
- one independent book based on a defended dissertation work – 75 points
- articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collections:
12 independent and 6 in co-authorship – total 150 points.

The indicated citations in monographs and collective collections with scientific review are 2 pcs. – 20 points, and the citations in non-refereed scientific journals with scientific review are 6 pcs. – 30 points.

From the general analysis of the publications, I believe that the candidate has the qualities of a scientific worker, with broad-ranging knowledge in the field of his research, and the published materials are of interest not only to narrow specialists.

The scientific production of Dr. Miloš Svrček is thematically focused, and the works created by him are distinguished by interesting author's theses. In their entirety, his scientific works fully correspond to the topic of the announced competition and present their author as a consistent researcher with prominent interests in the field of security and legal sciences. A thorough analysis of the candidate's production shows that the titles submitted for review meet the academic requirements and standards.

The certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National Security" for Dr. Miloš Svrček shows 525 points, with 400 required.

His teaching activity is related to conducting lectures and exercises in commercial law, diplomatic law, jurisprudence, geopolitics and other legal disciplines. The candidate's academic profile shows solid pedagogical training combined with mastery of legal matters, as well as his necessary practical experience, establishing him as an authoritative lecturer.

3. Main scientific results and contributions

The publications proposed for evaluation by the candidate correspond to the subject area of the announced competition, and the main scientific results and contributions of the works presented by the author are related to the development of existing and generation of new knowledge in the undoubtedly significant and

fundamental field of security. In this context, the original scientific contributions of the candidate, which he realizes in two directions - scientific and scientific-applied, can be found both in the submitted monographs and in the publications attached for review.

The contribution share of the candidate's scientific production is presented in works of different formats (according to the List of scientific research works and publications), formulated in two main directions:

- *theoretical contributions:*

1. A comprehensive analysis of organized crime as a major global security threat has been made, including a critical review of the lack of a unified definition of “organized crime”, which hinders effective countermeasures and risks an overly broad application of state powers at the expense of civil rights and freedoms. This constitutes a major scientific contribution to the monograph “Organized Crime – Challenges for the Development of Security within the European Union”;

2. A systematic classification and in-depth analysis of selected forms of organized crime (violent crime, economic crime, money laundering, human trafficking, drug trafficking and corruption) has been made, highlighting their characteristics and evolution in the EU and Slovak context;

3. An assessment of national (Slovak criminal law) and international legal instruments against organized crime has been made, with an emphasis on forms of international cooperation (UN, EU and Council of Europe conventions and frameworks);

4. A definition of security education as a “protective barrier” is formulated. The author develops the innovative thesis that specialized *security education* is not just a pedagogical process, but an element of national security, acting as a preventive barrier against terrorism and hybrid threats.

- *applied contributions*

1. The monograph proposed for review serves as an educational resource for students in curricula such as “Protection of Persons and Property” and “Security

Sciences”, providing new knowledge to the wider academic and professional community and supporting the training of security professionals dealing with transnational threats.

2. The author proposes an integrated model in which social (poverty, crime) and natural (climate, resources) threats are viewed as interrelated consequences of demographic expansion.

3. The topicality of the issues analyzed encourages professional discourse and further deepening of knowledge in the field of security studies and EU security policy.

I believe that all the contributions in the reviewed works were obtained with the personal participation of the author. The analysis of the thematic areas that are traced in the candidate's overall scientific production gives an accurate idea of his scientific interests and his authorial participation.

4. Opinion on the presence or absence of plagiarism

Within the scope of my competence and the sources available to me, I have not identified any plagiarism in the submitted publications. I have no information that any non-anonymous and motivated written reports of plagiarism were received during the procedure.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the materials submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition. It is evident that the author presents the researched objects and subjects in depth and comprehensively, striving to offer practically applicable models. I consider it appropriate to suggest that he promote his future publications in publications that are refereed and indexed in global databases such as Scopus and Web of Science, as well as to provide the opportunity for employees of the security and public order services in the Republic of Bulgaria to familiarize themselves with them.

6. Conclusion

Based on the legally defined criteria and indicators for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" and the scientific production presented by Dr. Miloš Svrček, I give my positive assessment and propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury of the competition to rank the candidate and to vote for awarding the academic position of "associate professor" to Dr. Miloš Svrček in a competition for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. Security and Defense, professional field 9.1 "National Security" ("Migration processes and risks for national security" (In the context of cybersecurity and information security), announced in the State Gazette No. 49/17.06.2025.

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Plovdiv

Prepared the opinion:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petar Todorov)