

REVIEW

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of the scientific works submitted by the candidate Associate Professor PhD Peter Lošonczi in the competition for the academic position of “professor” in the field of higher education 9. “Security and Defence”, professional area 9.1. “National Security” (Institutional Security and Organised Crime Prevention), State Gazette No. 49/17.6.2025

1. Which of the candidate's works are accepted for review?

To participate in the announced competition, the candidate has submitted the following scientific publications:

- monograph – habilitation work comprising 167 pages;
- monograph not presented as a main habilitation work – one title comprising 117 pages;
- articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases – 8 titles, co-authored;
- articles and reports published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals – 2 titles, single-authored;
- published chapters from collaborative monographs – 3 chapters in co-authorship;
- published university textbook or textbook used in the school network – 2 titles in co-authorship.

2. General description of the candidate's research and applied research activities.

The publications presented focus on the study of current theoretical and applied topics in the professional field of “National Security” in three main areas: criminology; civil protection and management in humanitarian crises; economic security.

Criminology occupies a significant place in the candidate’s scientific research and applied scientific activities.

The monograph “Methodological Approaches in Criminology” (2025) provides a comprehensive overview of the methodological foundations of criminological processes in various areas of investigation. The first chapters of the monograph specify the scientific approach to the methodology of criminal investigation. It then examines the basic principles and procedures in criminology and forensics. Finally, it analyses specific cases and methods of investigation and evidence collection. The book offers a comprehensive overview of judicial procedures and their specifics in the context of contemporary scientific and practical methods of investigation.

In his research, the candidate builds the pedagogical framework for basic and advanced training in criminology, linking criminal analysis with applied security technologies.

Civil protection and management in humanitarian crises is a distinct subject area in which PhD Lošonczi has long-standing research interests.

The 2021 habilitation thesis, which looks at the risk factors in paramedics’ work, suggests taking systematic steps as part of an integrated emergency response system. The book reveals and analyzes the safety risks for people in this specific profession. The study mainly uses qualitative methods such as text analysis, case studies, practical research, and controlled interviews. Quantitative methods include statistical analyses, systemic results, and measurements. As a result, key risks have been identified and procedures and technical measures have been proposed to mitigate or eliminate them.

This topic is the subject of several publications indexed in the *Web of Science* and *Scopus*, which combine the forensic and operational approaches to the assessment of occupational risks and thus complement the candidate’s contribution.

Creative research in the field of crime prevention, civil protection, and fire safety demonstrates active engagement with pressing issues of internal security for the state, society, and individual citizens. In this area, there is a clear desire to apply an interdisciplinary approach and closely link theory with practice.

For example, the article on collaboration between rescue and fire brigades and medical rescue services explores the prospects for creating a single rescue system in Slovakia.

Economic security is examined in several studies indexed in the *Web of Science* and *Scopus* databases. The publications address the economic security of enterprises in the context of digitalisation, pricing policy formation, analysis of threats to the sustainable development of regions, or the resilience of economic systems to external influences. Some studies examine the relationship between modern information technologies and the security of economic processes (digital economy, economic security of enterprises, or sustainable economic development). A characteristic feature of these publications is the study of technological challenges to the economic aspects of security.

There is another related field in which the candidate has made significant scientific and applied research contributions, namely information security and cybersecurity. The candidate's research papers testify to his sustained interest in the problems of digital environment vulnerabilities, wireless network security, attacks against mobile devices, and the compromising of corporate and university IT systems. The practical and applied sides of the research include risk analysis and the development of effective protection measures.

2. Teaching and pedagogical activities of the candidate

Mr. Lošonczi held the position of Associate Professor in the professional field of 3.8. "Economics" at the University of Insurance and Finance in Sofia, where he taught courses in economics and IT security. He then served as Associate Professor, Vice Rector, and Rector of the University of Security Management in Košice, Slovakia.

The documents presented show that PhD Lošonczi was the academic supervisor of three doctoral students who successfully completed their studies at the University of Security Management in Košice.

In his work, the candidate demonstrates a desire to apply his scholarly achievements to the educational process. He has co-authored two textbooks, which are used within the university's internal network: "Informatics" and "Practical Forensics".

3. Main scientific results and contributions

The candidate's main scientific results and contributions have been achieved in the specified areas and can be defined as substantial and significant.

They can be summarised as follows:

1. A real contribution has been made to the development of the theory and practice of private security guard services management and forensics.

The contemporary applications of signal security technology in the protection of objects and the possibilities for improving technical protection measures have been studied. The results obtained represent a methodology for detecting vulnerabilities in the security guard systems used.

Conclusions have been drawn that are of theoretical and methodological significance for future research in these important areas.

The candidate has contributed significantly to the systematisation of methodological approaches in criminology and to the enrichment of the content of criminological processes at various stages of pre-trial proceedings.

2. New knowledge has been created in the field of humanitarian emergency management.

The studies have actually contributed to improving the safety of persons providing emergency medical assistance by identifying crime-generating factors and suggesting possible measures to prevent criminal attacks against them.

In addition, the author has contributed conceptually to the model of the Single Rescue Service as an important element of the National Crisis Management System.

3. New methods and approaches have been formulated to ensure the economic security of enterprises in the context of the intensive implementation of IT and the onset of the “digital economy.”

The candidate examines the potential risks and threats to the security of facilities, including the security of communication and information systems and networks, from a practical and applied perspective. The results can be used to improve countermeasures against cyberattacks and malicious cyber incidents.

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

The candidate's contributions to science and practice also originate from his participation in four scientific research and applied science projects, three of which are at the national level, as follows:

1. Participation in a national scientific or educational project: “Crime Map of Košice” of the Council for Crime Prevention. Duration: June-December 2013.

2. Participation in an international scientific or educational project: DELOGFLOOD- START. Objective: To improve the decision-making mechanism for the logistical support of activities to overcome the consequences of flooding caused by the rise in the level of the Danube River. Duration: April-December 2015.

3. Participation in a national scientific or educational project: “Identification of factors and analysis of the security of the physical elements of the geolocation information system” under a programme of the Ministry of the Interior. Duration: November 2018-March 2019.

4. Participation in a national scientific or educational project: Safety of elderly citizens on the Internet. Programme of the Council for Crime Prevention. Duration: December 2019-March 2020.

5. Evaluation of the extent to which the contributions are the work of the candidate

The attached Declaration of Authenticity and Credibility proves that the works submitted in the competition and the contributions therein are the personal work of the candidate.

6. Critical notes on the reviewed works

I have no critical comments on the presented works.

I would like to recommend that the candidate prepare more textbooks and teaching aids in the future to convey to students his rich experience and accumulated knowledge in topical areas of security.

In addition, it would be useful to produce more single-authored publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases.

7. Conclusion

The documentation and scientific output provided by PhD Peter Lošonczi meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation for holding the academic position of “professor”.

8. Candidate evaluation

My evaluation of the scientific works presented by the candidate Assoc. Prof. PhD Peter Lošonczi in the competition for the academic position of “professor” in the field of higher education 9. “Security and Defence”, professional area 9.1. “National Security” (Institutional Security and Organised Crime Prevention), State Gazette No. 49/17.6.2025, is **positive**.

I propose that the distinguished academic jury select Mr. Peter Lošonczi and recommend him for holding the academic position of “professor” at the Academy of National and Information Security in Plovdiv.

4 February 2026

Plovdiv

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Stankov, PhD