

OPINION

by Associate Professor Stanimir Petrov Iliev, PhD

docent from the professional field "National Security", member of the scientific jury, the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025 for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National Security", "Modern models of security. (Security of electronic communication and intellectual property)" at the Academy of National and Information Security, city of Plovdiv

1. Review subject and candidate biographical data

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order reg. No. 104/05.01.2026 of the rector of the Academy of National and Information Security, city of Plovdiv in connection with a competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025 for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and defense", professional direction 9.1. "National security", "Modern models of security. (Security of electronic communication and intellectual property)".

By decision of a meeting of the scientific jury, I have been appointed to prepare an opinion.

One candidate, Dr. Alena Buzova, participated in the competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025.

To participate in the competition, the candidate has submitted the following documents:

- higher education diploma;
- diploma for educational and scientific degree "doctor";
- creative autobiography;
- reference to the candidate's scientific results and citations;

- list of scientific works;
- reference that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements set out in the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Habilitation thesis on the topic: "The effectiveness of electronic communication in the context of management activities".

The documents thus presented (on paper and electronic media) are in accordance with the requirements of Order Reg. No. 104/05.01.2026 of the Rector of the Academy of National and Information Security, city of Plovdiv regarding the announcement of the competition and in accordance with the requirements of the ZRASRB and the Regulations for its implementation.

In 2019, at the University of Košice, she successfully defended her dissertation on the topic: "Cross-border transfer of knowledge in the field of library collections", where she was awarded the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the scientific program "Security System Management". From 2009 to the present, Dr. Alena Buzova holds the position of Library Director and Continuing Education Coordinator at the University of Kosice.

2. Actuality and general characteristics of the scientific production

The candidate for the academic position of "associate professor", Dr. Alena Buzova, in connection with the announced competition, has submitted a correct list of her scientific production, after awarding the ONS "doctor", not submitted in other procedures for holding academic positions or obtaining scientific degrees. 8 scientific works have been proposed for review for the competition, 2 of them monographs.

The submitted scientific works meet the requirements for academic publication. Separation protocols for co-authored publications have also been correctly applied.

The problems considered in the scientific works of Dr. Alena Buzova are related to the problems of communication in security management both internationally and regionally.

The choice of the topic in the presented monograph is primarily determined by the candidate's long-standing scientific interests in issues of electronic communication. Professional interest is reflected in the entire study. As a scientific researcher, Dr. Buzova is distinguished by proven abilities for independent scientific thinking, critical analysis, logical and justified definition and defense of scientific theses. All these qualities are found in the scientific production submitted for review. It should be emphasized the interdisciplinary approach in the research, which is undoubtedly its great merit. The conclusions made by the candidate in the future could be of particular use in teaching a number of academic disciplines, as well as conducting individual courses. The monographic work is also characterized by the presence of practical value, which can be illustrated by real problems.

The monograph submitted for review on the topic: "The effectiveness of electronic communication in the context of management activities" is relevant especially with the advent of digital technologies, management communication is increasingly shifting to the virtual environment, increasing the requirements for the ability to clearly structure information, the use of digital platforms and maintaining clarity and accountability even in asynchronous forms of communication. Communication technologies are an integral part of the daily lives of individuals and organizations. Their presence permeates all areas – from personal life to the professional environment. Nowadays, information and communication technologies are an indispensable tool for modern interaction and organizational functioning.

According to the author, electronic communication has become an integral part of the information and organizational environment of modern

institutions - from small enterprises with limited human and material resources to large national or multinational corporations.

3. Pedagogical activity

The candidate has teaching experience at the University of Kosice, where she is actively involved in conducting courses related to security theory. She is also the scientific supervisor of a number of students studying at the OKS "bachelor" and "master".

I positively assess the teaching work of Dr. Alena Buzova, taking into account her administrative responsibility at the university.

4. Main contributions (scientific and scientific-applied) and results: characterization and evaluation

Doctor Alena Buzova demonstrates the necessary qualities as a researcher and expert. The main part of her scientific and applied research, studies and interests are devoted to the problems related to security issues in the field of electronic communication and the basic principles in security theory. In search of new approaches and even a system for practical implementation in the subject related to her competence, the candidate emphasizes effective communication by engaging the public, and not only the security services. The entire scientific production and activity of Dr. Alena Buzova can be attributed to the professional field of "National Security" with certain contributions related to:

- Study and analysis of trends and evolution in communications. Based on a review, the concept of "communication" and types of communications are examined in detail.

- In a practical and applied sense, an up-to-date list of literature in the field of electronic communication and its effectiveness has been prepared.

- An exemplary communication model is proposed, and the electronic applications used in the modern world for effective communication and their protection are examined in detail.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

Some well-intentioned remarks and recommendations could be made to the author without diminishing the scientific value of the scientific production proposed for review. They are related to:

- Unconsidered basic legal acts related especially to the protection of electronic communication. There is not a single legal act mentioned in the literature.

- The introduction almost lacks the methodology of the study, which is also related to the lack of basic conclusions and inferences. I would recommend that the author expand their analysis by emphasizing their influence on public life and the need for their adaptation in accordance with new approaches in the implementation of communication between individuals and in organizations.

- I would recommend that the author expand the list of literature used.

The remarks and recommendations made in no way affect my overall positive impression of the scientific production presented for review.

6. Conclusion

Based on the above and having in mind the legally defined criteria and indicators for holding the academic position of "associate professor", I allow myself to make the following conclusion:

The scientific production presented by the candidate, Dr. Alena Buzova, contains scientific and applied scientific results that represent an original contribution to science and fully meets the conditions and requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. The monographic work is confirmation that

Dr. Alena Buzova possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge, combined with practical experience. The entire scientific production is indisputable evidence of the professional competence of its author and his ability for original scientific research activity, characterized by significant and original scientific contributions. Evaluating the submitted monographic work and the other publications devoted to extremely topical and practically significant topics, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury, I give a positive assessment of the candidate, Dr. Alena Buzova, for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

Prepared:

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