

OPINION

by Associate Professor Stanimir Petrov Iliev, PhD

docent from the professional field "National Security" in the Academy of the Ministry of Interior, member of the scientific jury for a competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025 for the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional field 9.1. "National Security" (Institutional Security and Prevention of Organized Crime) at the Academy of National and Information Security (ANIS), Plovdiv

1. Review subject and candidate biographical data

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order reg. No. 103/05.01.2026 of the rector of the Academy of National and Information Security in connection with a competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025 for the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional direction 9.1. "National Security", (Institutional Security and Prevention of Organized Crime).

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

In the competition announced in the State Gazette No. 49 of 17.06.2025, one candidate - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ing. Peter Lušonczi - Rector of the University of Security Management in Košice, Slovakia, participated.

To participate in the competition, the candidate has submitted all required documents, such as:

- a higher education diploma;
- diploma for the educational and scientific degree "doctor";
- certificate of the scientific title "associate professor";
- creative autobiography;
- summary of scientific works;
- certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the National and Information Security of the Republic of Bulgaria
- certificate of the candidate's scientific results and citations;
- certificate of professional experience;

- list of scientific works;
- other documents certifying participation in activities directly corresponding to the requirements of the competition.

The documents submitted in this way (on paper and electronic media) are in accordance with the requirements of Order Reg. No. 103/05.01.2026 of the Rector of the Academy for National and Information Security regarding the announcement of the competition and in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the National and Information Security of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

Assoc. Prof. Ing. Peter Lušonczi is a Doctor of Business Administration. Since 2000, the candidate has been involved in the creation and development of the "Security Management" at the University of Košice at the University of Žilina. In the later period, he focused on the field of information protection as a specific part of security management. In his research, he consistently favors the idea of pragmatic protection of this intangible protected interest and the need to rethink the dogma that "information security" is suitable exclusively for information and communication technologies. He has participated in many projects in the field of personal data protection and is currently dealing with this problem within the University of Security Management in Košice.

It should be noted that, in parallel with the professional and pedagogical growth of the candidate, he has also been significantly active in the management and organization of the activities of individual units, holding various positions such as rector, first vice-rector, vice-rector for informatics and development, and head of the Department of "Information Security". He has extensive professional and teaching experience.

2. Actuality and general characteristics of the scientific production

The candidate for the academic position of "professor", Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ing. Peter Lušonczi, in connection with the announced competition, has submitted a correct list of his scientific production after the awarded scientific degree of "associate professor", not presented in other procedures for holding academic positions or for obtaining scientific degrees.

The habilitation work with which the candidate applies is related to his professional interests and experience. Entitled "Methodological approaches in criminology", the author consolidates the theoretical foundations and applied methods of criminology with a clear operational goal: to ensure a quick, complete and lawful clarification of criminal events. It

combines a general theory (subjects of study, traces, identification, methodology) with standardized investigative procedures for the main categories of crimes. The monograph also focuses on the transfer of scientific knowledge in police practice and the feedback from practice to theory. The main emphasis of the scientific publication is on the differentiation of components (types of crimes, characteristics of the perpetrator and the victim) and their relationships. Since legal categories can include behavior with very different harmfulness and motives, the methodology of the investigation must go beyond the usual categories of crimes.

The text identifies factors relevant to Slovakia, including depreciation of value, sudden weakening of state control, weak informal control, legal instability and gaps, abuses by the state, low level of clarity and exposure of imported, often professional crimes. Various working methods are used, such as analysis, synthesis, deduction, modeling, which are adapted from other sciences and methods specific to the crime. All of them are limited by legality, scientific validity, verifiability and practical acceptance. The key part of the publication is the methodology of criminal investigation: structure and principles. In more in-depth chapters, the structure common to all types of crimes is also considered.

In the presented other scientific publications such as: "Mechanisms for state management for the exchange of information on cyberattacks, cyberincidents and incidents related to information security", "Modern information and communication technologies in the digital economy in the economic security system of the enterprise", "Selected aspects of information security", "Internet safety for the elderly" and others, the candidate examines the problems related to one of the most pronounced forms of manifestation in the modern world, characterized by rapid spread, information security which has unlocked unknown forms of threats, almost unpredictable and impossible to control and legal regulation. The relevance is contained not only in the rapid transformation of cyberspace, but also in the urgent rethinking of the principles of cybersecurity, due to the rapid spread and artificial intelligence.

Publications related to the consideration of crises and their management are also presented. Such as: "Education and training of crisis management and civil protection officers in the Slovak Republic", "Comparison of professional training for crisis management in Slovakia and the Czech Republic", "Notification of people and the population in floods as a security issue", "Cooperation between rescue and fire brigades and the medical rescue service, representing the basis for an effective integrated rescue system in the Slovak Republic" and others.

The modern state of security suggests that crisis management should be organized, with increased attention to the unconventional use of all available forces by national services

and state administration with competences in the field, as well as their good interaction. In this sense, crisis management places extremely high demands on teams for planning, providing and coordinating the country's forces and resources in crises.

The submitted scientific works meet the requirements for academic publication. The candidate has indicated 110 citations in monographic and other scientific publications. Of these, 58 are cited in Scopus and 52 in WoS. The separation protocols of the co-authored publications have also been correctly applied.

The submitted publications, the indicated citations and the participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lušonczi in various scientific groups for the development of strategic and doctrinal documents in the field of security are in accordance with the requirements for minimum national requirements, according to the provisions of Art. 2b of the Law on the Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria from the State of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that I have not identified and have not received any signal of plagiarism or unreliability of the scientific publications submitted by the candidate in the competition.

3. Pedagogical activity

The candidate is a leading lecturer at the University of Security Management in Košice in subjects providing basic knowledge, skills and competencies in information and computer security and risk management. As a lecturer, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lušonczi, in addition to the dominant area of information security, also focuses on private security services and their quality (as part of his doctoral studies) and safety in the implementation of Emergency Medical Care as a related area of study. He has professionally participated in several research projects, ranging from institutional to projects within international schemes, e.g. 7th Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, projects supported by the Government Prevention Council of the Slovak Republic, etc.

I positively assess the teaching work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lušonczi, taking into account his classroom work, as well as scientific supervision of doctoral students.

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

Associate Professor Dr. Peter Lušonczi demonstrates the necessary qualities as a teacher, researcher and expert. The main part of his scientific and applied research, studies

and interests are devoted to problems related to national security in the field of information security and crisis management. In search of new approaches and even a system for practical implementation in solving information security problems, emphasizing the analysis and assessment of risk by engaging more security services, and not just individual services. The candidate's overall scientific production and activity can be attributed to the professional field of "National Security" with certain contributions related to:

- Study and analysis of risk trends in information exchange. Based on a review of a number of literary and legislative sources, the concepts of "information security" and "crisis" have been examined in detail. Dependencies between these concepts have been established and their interrelationship has been examined in detail.

- In a practical and applied sense, an up-to-date list of the main legal acts at the international and national levels regarding information security has been prepared. A proposal is made to change the concepts used by imposing established concepts in EU legislation.

- Basic methodologies and forensic procedures applied in practice are presented.

- A methodology for investigating individual types of crimes is presented.

I would like to draw the attention of the members of the scientific jury to the merits of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lušonczi, which testify to the deepening of his scientific research. In them, the candidate has studied the theoretical and legal aspects of the indicated problems of information security, summarizes the main definitions, makes original classifications, substantiates ideas for organizing the activities of the competent services for identifying the main risks and threats to security and differentiating the types of risk analysis, etc.

The reasoning of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lušonczi, published in authoritative publications, has a high applied value. Written during his creative and scientific development, they are always focused on current issues and are related to the candidate's specific commitment as a scientist and researcher.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

Taking into account the candidate's many years of professional experience on the research problems already mentioned in this review, as well as his overall creative activity, the advantages and contributions mentioned in the review, I would like to recommend to the author to expand the subjects of the research problems.

6. Conclusion

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

The scientific production presented by the candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lušonczi 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 the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

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 scientific publications presented collectively, dedicated to extremely topical and practically significant topics, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury under Art. 29a, para. 1 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, I give a positive assessment to the candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lušonczi for holding the academic position of "professor".

Prepared:

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15.01.2026

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