

Opinion

by

Prof. Dr. Vasil Georgiev

regarding the competition for the academic position of “Professor” in professional field 9.1. National Security (institutional security and prevention of organized crime), announced in the State Gazette (SG), Issue No. 49/17.06.2025, with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lošonci

Grounds for preparing the review:

Order No. 103/05.01.2026 of the Rector of the Academy of National and Information Security

Dear Members of the Scientific Jury,

I hereby submit my opinion on the documents and works presented by the sole candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lošonci, in the competition for the academic position of “Professor” in professional field 9.1 “National Security” (institutional security and prevention of organized crime), announced in the State Gazette (SG), Issue No. 49/17.06.2025.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order No. 103/05.01.2026 of the Rector of the Academy of National and Information Security, I was appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury in the competition for the academic position of “Professor” in professional field 9.1 “National Security” (institutional security and prevention of organized crime), announced in the State Gazette (SG), Issue No. 49/17.06.2025.

At the first meeting of the jury, held on 06.01.2026, I was assigned to prepare and present an opinion.

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lošonci, is a specialist with long-standing experience in the academic environment and in the management of educational and information processes in the field of security.

In 2000, Assoc. Prof. Lošonci graduated from the Technical University of Košice, EQF 7.

In 2006, Assoc. Prof. Lošonci defended a doctoral degree (PhD) at the University of Žilina, Faculty of Special Engineering, in the field “Protection of Persons and Property”, with a dissertation on qualitative methods of security management aimed at improving asset protection.

His teaching activity began at the external unit of the University of Žilina in Košice—as an assistant (2002–2006).

Since 2008, he has been teaching at the College of Security Management as an assistant (June–July 2008), combined with responsibilities in IT and institutional development. The qualifications and research interests of Assoc. Prof. Lošonci are in the area of information security. In July 2022, Assoc. Prof. Lošonci acquired the academic rank of Associate Professor in Economics (profile “Economics and Information Security”) at VUZF, Sofia.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lošonci has substantial administrative experience. Since 2002, he has been involved in the activities of an external unit of the University of Žilina (Faculty of Special Engineering) in the city of Košice, Slovenia [sic], initially as an assistant (until 31.07.2006), while in parallel with his teaching commitments he also performed functions related to substitution/support of the unit’s management. In the period 01.08.2006–31.05.2008, he assumed leadership as head of the external unit in Košice.

Since 2008, Assoc. Prof. Lošonci has worked at the College of Security Management in Košice (VŠBM)—initially as an assistant, subsequently (2008–05.09.2019) as Vice-Rector for Informatics and Development with a profile in “digitalization and institutional development”, Acting Rector (2019–2020), First Vice-Rector (2020–2022), Acting Rector (2022–2023), and Rector since 2023, which is also his current position.

2. Compliance of the quantitative results of the candidate’s research and teaching activity with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the professional field “National Security”

The works proposed for review in the competition include issues related to the field of security.

The reports, diplomas and other documents attached to the procedure certify that the candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lošonci, has met the requirements of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), relevant to holding the academic position of “Associate Professor” in professional field 9.1 “National Security”.

The candidate has submitted evidence of teaching activity as an Associate Professor at the College of Security Management in Košice, Slovakia, from 2022 to the present, which exceeds the minimum required period of 2 years under Art. 29(1), item 2 of LDASRB.

The candidate has submitted evidence of having acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, thereby certifying compliance with the requirement of Art. 29(1), item 2 of LDASRB and with Indicator A of the minimum national requirements for holding the position of “Professor”.

To establish compliance with Indicators B and G of the minimum national requirements for holding the position of “Professor”, the candidate presents 14 publications that were not used for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”.

The publications proposed by the candidate for an opinion may be classified as follows:

- Habilitation work – published monograph – 1 item, which certifies compliance with Art. 29(1), item 3 of ZRASRB and Criterion B of the Requirements;
- Published monograph that is not presented as the main habilitation work – 1 item.
- Articles and papers under Indicator G (outside the monograph) – 12 items.

The submitted publications exceed the minimum national requirements under the LDASRB Rules of Implementation for Indicator G (325 points with a minimum required 200).

The candidate has submitted a citations report, which shows that the reported citations exceed the minimum national requirements under LDASRB Rules of Implementation for Indicator D (105 points with a minimum required 100).

The candidate has submitted evidence of participation in projects, supervision of PhD students and the publication of textbooks; the evidence exceeds the minimum national requirements under LDASRB Rules of Implementation for Indicator E (235 points with a minimum required 100).

In summary, the evidence presented by the candidate establishes compliance with the national minimum requirements, in accordance with the requirement of Art. 29(1), item 5 of LDASRB.

The submitted works are original works of the author, and no plagiarism or unreliability of the scientific data presented in the scholarly works is found or has been established under the statutory procedure; thus, the requirements of Art. 29(1), item 6 of LDASRB are met.

From the above, supported by the report submitted by the candidate, it is evident that with the presented publications and citations, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lošonci has fulfilled the requirements of LDASRB and the minimum required points by groups of indicators for the academic position of "Professor" in professional field 9.1 National Security.

I present a compliance table:

Criteria	Indicators	Minimum required points by criterion	Candidate's points by criterion
A	1	50	50
B	3	100	100
G	4–10	200	217.8
D	11–13	100	105
E		100	235
	Total	550	707.8

3. Assessment of the works submitted for review

3.1. Habilitation work

The title of the submitted habilitation work is "Selected risk aspects of performing the profession of a paramedic affecting its safety" (Bulgarian: "Подбрани рискови аспекти при упражняването на професията парамедик, засягащи нейната сигурност").

The habilitation work has a volume of 171 pages, structured into an introduction, nine chapters and a conclusion. The volume of the monograph meets the

minimum volume requirement pursuant to §1, item 10 of the Additional Provisions of LDASRB.

The monograph examines security risks accompanying the practice of the “paramedic” profession within the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) of the Slovak Republic. The aim of the monograph is to identify and assess specific risks that are known in the literature but in practice often remain insufficiently measured or managed, and for which risk-reduction measures prove to be of limited effectiveness.

Predominantly qualitative methods are used (analysis of sources and case studies, surveys and controlled interviews with experts and practitioners), supplemented by quantitative data (statistics, measurements from exercises and practical activity). Part of the quantitative data does not relate to the Slovak Republic; therefore, the study also accounts for regional specificities and their impact on risk.

The monograph examines risk in several main thematic cores, consistently developed by chapters:

In Chapter One, the theoretical framework of risk is substantiated, and external and internal risk areas are distinguished.

In Chapter Two, the professional role of the paramedic within the Integrated Rescue System of the Slovak Republic is characterized and a spectrum of specific risks is formulated (aggression, road traffic accidents, personal data, procedural risks, deficits in communications and ICT, hazardous substances/infectious environment, deficits in training, etc.), with an emphasis on the non-medical and organizational aspects of these risks.

The specific risks (aggressive behaviour against teams, transport risks during emergency runs, risks related to personal data protection, exposure to hazardous substances and an infectious environment (including specific risks during Covid-19), as well as risks in communications and the informatization of emergency medical services (interaction 112–operations centre–team; technological failures; incompatible systems; lack of prior information, etc.) are presented in the subsequent chapters. The risk analysis is supported by a risk register describing manifestations, causes and sources of the risks.

In Chapter Eight, which examines the education of paramedics, the risk of insufficient/asymmetric preparation and the lack of a sustainable safety training model is addressed, including as a systemic factor for inadequate assessment and response in risky situations.

Chapter Nine structures proposals for risk reduction across the topics of the previous chapters and supplements them with horizontal (systemic) measures for the entire Integrated Rescue System. Of particular importance is the conclusion regarding a deficit of relevant data and the need for at least partial

systematized data collection (initially within EMS—an abbreviation for Slovak emergency medical services), as well as the introduction of functions/roles for security management with measurable indicators and regular accountability. The need for effective feedback on performance (e.g., periodic reports, management discussions and measures) is also emphasized, along with public and educational interventions (first aid, communication applications) that indirectly reduce risks for rescuers.

According to the study's findings, risk for the paramedic is systemically conditioned rather than merely situational; it accumulates from the interaction between the social environment (aggression), organizational regimes (procedures, coordination), technical infrastructure (ICT/communications, navigation), regulatory requirements (personal data/liability) and deficits in training. The most difficult deficit to manage is the lack of data and an overall picture of risk: without a defined data structure and integrable information support, risk remains "invisible" and measures are fragmented.

According to the study, risk reduction requires a package of measures rather than single solutions: de-escalation and communication techniques; methodological protocols for operators/reporters; educational and organizational measures on transport risk; standards, control and procedures for hazardous substances; technological and organizational improvements in communications and informatization; targeted safety training (including self-protection and interaction with the police). Optimizing safety, according to the study, would have a direct effect on system effectiveness: reducing risk for teams lowers the likelihood of incidents, loss of personnel (exhaustion, injuries, occupational diseases), errors and delays in rescue interventions.

3.2. Opinion on the other works submitted for assessment.

The works submitted for assessment may be classified into several scientific directions related to security.

The first direction lies within the security sciences with an emphasis on methodology and practical applicability: how risk is defined, how management decisions are structured, and how knowledge is translated into functioning procedures in real organizations and response systems.

The second direction is in the field of information security and cybersecurity, where the focus is on vulnerabilities of and within the digital environment and on the fact that the human factor is often the decisive "weak link" —from habits and behaviour, through organizational discipline, to the need for training and process control.

The third direction is practice-oriented and related to the operational safety of rescue and medical teams (paramedics) - analysis of workplace risks, necessary

protective measures, and the need for solutions that are not reactive but systemic and planned in advance.

The fourth direction covers crisis management (including pandemic situations and public preparedness), where the main thesis is that a crisis is not “managed” only through one-off measures, but through sustainable coordination mechanisms, lessons learned, and clear rules for action.

4. Contributions

4.1. The habilitation work has the following contributions:

a. Scientific

1. The monograph conceptualizes the paramedic as a “protected interest” within the security sciences and systematizes the main risk areas through a risk management framework and risk registers applicable to emergency medical services and the Integrated Rescue System.

2. A risk matrix is systematized, indicating the risk area (internal–external), risk type, mode of realization and cause/source of risk, applicable to each of the risks classified in the monograph.

b. Scientific and applied contributions

1. A practically oriented package of measures for risk minimization is developed, arranged by thematic directions (aggression, transport, personal data, hazardous substances, communications/ICT, training), linking them to concrete mechanisms of manifestation and management decisions.

2. Systemic recommendations are formulated for a management and information infrastructure: phased data collection, definition of measurable indicators, introduction of safety management, and regular feedback on the quality of the rescue service (of the Integrated Rescue System) as a prerequisite for sustainable risk reduction.

4.2. The following contributions can be identified in the works submitted for review:

a. Scientific:

1. Contribution to the methodology of security research through works that connect theoretical models with applicable frameworks and the transfer of knowledge into practice.

b. Scientific and applied:

1. Scientific-and-applied solutions and analyses are substantiated for technical protection of facilities, including evaluation of effectiveness and models/approaches for countering the circumvention of technical protection.

2. Practice-oriented results are derived regarding information security and the safety of medical rescuers/paramedics, including procedural measures and

organizational solutions in a risk environment (including in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic).

5. Plagiarism and reliability check of the presented scientific data

I have not identified, nor have I received any indication of plagiarism or unreliability of the presented scientific data.

6. Personal impressions of the candidate

I do not know the candidate personally, but having reviewed his overall scientific and professional activity, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Lošonci has excellent prospects for further development as a researcher in the field of security.

7. Recommendations and remarks to the candidate

I have no recommendations regarding the study; I consider it an exhaustive study of the risks in the paramedic profession. There are also other risks—psychosocial and cognitive—related to the specific workload on the paramedic; research into their impact would enrich the habilitation work.

8. Reasoned proposal

1. Based on the findings and conclusions set out above, I accept that the works submitted for assessment correspond to the subject matter of the announced competition for the academic position of “Professor” in professional field 9.1 National Security.
2. I consider that the candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lošonci, possesses the necessary qualifications, work and professional competence, and personal qualities, and meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and its Implementing Rules for successful work in the academic position of “Professor” in the specified professional field.
3. In view of the above, I express a positive evaluation of the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Lošonci and propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury elect the candidate to the academic position of “Professor” in this competition.

02.02.2026

Plovdiv

Prof. Dr. Vasil Georgiev

Signature: