

## **EXPERT OPINION**

*by Prof. Tvetan Iliev Petkov, PhD*

*of the academic scientific-applied activity of Peter Losonczi*

*in connection with the competition published in the State Gazette issue 22/18.03.2022 from the Higher School of Insurance and Finance – Sofia for “Associate professor” in the field of higher education 3” Social, economic and legal sciences”, professional filed 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty” Economic and Information Security”*

The opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations for its application (RALDASRB), as well as in connection with Order 128/30.05.2022 of the Rector of HSIF scientific jury. It consists of three parts and a conclusion, including requirements for the candidate and his teaching and research activities.

### **Requirements for the candidate**

(Art.24 LDASRB and Art.53 RALDASRB)

Peter Losonczi was born on April 29, 1977 in Slovakia. In the period 1995-2000 he completed his higher education at the Technical university of Košice where in 2004 he acquired a pedagogical qualification in engineering. He acquired the ESD “PhD” in 2006 at the University of Žilina in PhD program “Security Management” (Diploma №11/2006). In 2014 he completed a course in information security at the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. In 2015, he obtained a Master’s degree in Business Administration within the joint program of the Higher School of Warsaw (Poland) and the University of Security management in Košice (Slovakia). In 2018 he obtained a Master’s degree from a joint program of the IPE Management School – Paris (France) and the University of Security Management in Košice (Slovakia). He has a Certificate of information security managers according to ISO 27000.

Peter Losonczi's academic career began in 2008 as an assistant. At the moment he is Deputy rector for Informatics and Development at the University of Security Management in Košice (Slovakia). He speaks German and English.

Peter Losonczi is the only candidate in the competition. The inspection of the documents show that no violations have been committed in the competition. The legal requirements and rule of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance – Sofia have been met.

### **Requirements for the educational activity**

(Art.24 LDASRB and Art.53 RALDASRB)

At the moment, the candidate in the competition Peter Losonczi holds the position of First Deputy Rector of the University of security management in Košice (Slovakia). He has 14 years of professional experience in the academic field. He a member of a number of prestigious university research organizations.

The study load of the candidate corresponds to the norms adopted by HSIF, as well as to the requirements of LDASRB for holding the academic position of "Associate professor".

### **Requirements for scientific and research activity**

(Art.24 LDASRB and Art.53 RALDASRB)

Peter Losonczi has participated in the development and implementation of 18 research projects in the period 2010 – 2021. Scientific and publishing activities of the candidate in the competition include a total of 120 publications, which are divided into the following categories:

- ✓ Articles - Web of Science 5 pcs.
- ✓ Articles – SCOPUS 13 pcs.
- ✓ Monographs and chapters in monographs 13 pcs.
- ✓ Textbooks and curricula (Textbooks and Scripts) 14 pcs.
- ✓ Articles in magazines 24 pcs.
- ✓ The Articles in scientific proceedings and monographs 17 pcs.
- ✓ Scientific reports (Articles in conference proceedings) 34pcs.

The list of publications of Peter Losonczi has presented in the documents for participation in the competition includes a total of 29 materials, including 13 articles and scientific reports in refereed and indexed editions in Web of Science and SCOPUS, 15 in non-refereed editions and 1 author's textbook. All this testifies to a serious scientific output, which I can consider as fully adequate to the requirements of the legislation in the Republic of Bulgaria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". Moreover, the majority of publications are in English, which have found a place on the pages of prestigious Slovak and international publications. Some of the scientific works are co-authored, and for this purpose data on the author's contribution are presented. All publications interpret various aspects of the nature of information security and related issues.

The **main monographic work**, with which Peter Losonczi participates in the competition, is on "Selected aspects of information security in universities". The volume of the study is 123 pages. The monograph is structured in an introduction, a three-chapter presentation, a conclusion, a summary in English, a glossary of terms, an explanation of the abbreviations used, a bibliography and three appendices. The list of used and cited literature includes 30 titles by Slovak authors, 24 normative acts and 6 projects in which the author has participated. Many of them are quoted in the main presentation. The citation is correct. Numerous figures and tables have been used to illustrate the author's statements. The tabular and graphic material contains the correct indication of the sources of information.

I can define the presented monographic research as topical in view of the research field outlined in it. In particular, it puts on the agenda the issues related to:

- the theoretical and methodological basis of information security in universities;
- the regulatory framework as a determinant of information security;
- characterization of the main risks to the security of information in universities;
- presentation of the forms in which information is stored and provided in university circles;

- addressing the challenges that universities face in presenting information on the Internet and on social networks;
- assessment of the possibilities for ensuring the security of information in the modern conditions of digitalization of processes and procedures in universities.

The research problems outlined in this way, in my opinion, presuppose a comprehensive view of the scientific field of information security in university circles within the current perspectives of the digital economy.

The following merits of the peer-reviewed work deserve positive evaluation: clearly set goal and tasks of the research, as well as a well-formulated scientific hypothesis; detailed structure of the research – the included issues in the content shed full light in the theoretical and methodological aspects of information security in universities; modern data cited by authoritative sources, etc. were used.

Regarding the scientific and publishing activity of Peter Losonczi in general, I can conclude that it covers many current issues of information security – the search for methodological approach to ensuring information security in universities, the need for changes in the regulatory regime in this area in line with current and future guidelines for implementing principles of digital the digital economy. With the importance of an important scientific-applied contribution in the publications I consider the application of a complex approach to risk management of information security in society in general, and higher education in particular. One part of the risk circumstances is addressed to the activities of the security management of the universities themselves, and another – to external factors, which, as the author emphasizes must be properly identified.

The importance of the publishing activity is evidenced by the fact that the majority of the articles are in English and have found a place on the pages of prestigious international publications. In support of this conclusion are presented in the citations 10 references and citations of publications of Peter Losonczi by Slovak and foreign authors.

The data from the reference with the scientometric indicators, presented in the documents of the candidate for participation in the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor”, clearly show that Petr Losonczi exceeds the required minimum values.

## **Conclusion**

On the basis of the submitted documents on the competition and the evaluation of the accepted for review publications, the following conclusions can be made for the candidate:

- 1) Peter Losonczi is the only candidate in the competition;
- 2) He holds the scientific-educational degree “PhD”;
- 3) He has the necessary extracurricular and curricular employment;
- 4) He has published a monograph directly related to the competition;
- 5) He lectures on disciplines in the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, which are directly related to the competition;
- 6) He has participated in a number of research projects;
- 7) Scientific production was presented and accepted for evaluation, including 1 monograph, 13 articles and scientific reports in refereed and indexed edition in Web of Science and SCOPUS, 15 in non-refereed editions and 1 author’s textbook.
- 8) Some of the presented works have been published in English and in co-authorship, and for which the author’s participation is correctly reported.

In conclusion, I believe that the papers proposed for the review in their qualitative characteristics, contribution moments and number of publications fully meet the requirements of the Law of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The diverse social, lecture, methodological, scientific and international activities of the candidate give me reason to believe that Peter Losonczi meets all the criteria and the requirements for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in higher education 3.3 “Social, economic and legal sciences”, professional filed 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty “Economic and Information Security” in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application.

**Sofia, 14.06.2022**

**Prepared the expert opinion:**

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