

## OPINION

By Prof. Doctor of Legal Sciences Kostadin Bobev, lecturer at the South-west university "Neofit Rilski", for the scientific works and academic activity of Chief Asst. Prof. Iskra V. Vladova-Nedkova, PhD, participant in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.6 Law /Criminalistics/

### **I. General characteristics of the applicant**

Chief Asst.Prof. Iskra Vladkova Vladova-Nedkova, PhD was born on 05.06.1982. She was graduated from the National High School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics "Acad. L.Chakalov" and from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" as a master of law. She is fluent in English, Russian and have very good level in Greek. She has worked as a legal advisor at Ciela Soft and Publishing and at the Sofia Police Department as an investigative police officer. From 2011 to the present she has been an assistant professor and chief assistant professor at the Department of Criminal Law of the Faculty of Law at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

### **II. Evaluation of the scientific and applied contributions of the submitted products**

The scientific production of the Chief Asst.Prof. Iskra Vladova-Nedkova, PhD is presented in 6 titles: one monograph and five scientific articles. All scientific researches, except one article, are related to the computer crimes. Immediately after her doctoral dissertation Iskra Vladova-Nedkova participated in an international conference with a report, focused on the problems of expert examination and evidence of drugs and precursors. This scientific report addresses important issues of drug distribution and drug abuse - crimes against public health which are often accompanied by the commission of other criminal and economic crimes such as assassination, armed robbery, sexual assault etc.

The monograph "Investigation of Computer crimes" is 232 pages, structured in an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. The high scientific level of the research is supported by important and significant practical conclusions and guidelines for the work of police, prosecutorial and judicial authorities in carrying out investigative and forensic investigative actions. The experience that Iskra Vladova-Nedkova has acquired as an investigating police officer reflects positively on the content of the monograph, distinguished by concreteness, professional competence and scientific substantiation of the conclusions and de lege ferenda proposals. In addition to in-depth research on the problems related to the collection and examination of evidence, Iskra Vladova-Nedkova makes a comprehensive criminal, forensic and criminological characterization of computer crimes and tactical organization in the application of certain means of evidence such as crime scene investigation, searching and seizure, interrogation and forensic examination. As a specific forensic method, the candidate presents us with an original approach to building and verifying investigative versions and investigation planning.

In the presented 5 scientific articles various approaches related to the investigation of computer crimes are examined in chronological order. New methods and technical means of collecting physical evidence and fixing it by photographing and preparing a report are thoroughly evaluated (article 4). The requirements for the training of the investigative groups, the specific qualifications they must possess and the knowledge in the field of the economic and financial operations often affected by the commission of computer crimes have been professionally identified and systematised ( Articles 2 and 3).

Some terminological concepts such as information systems, computer program provider, computer virus, electronic evidence, modem, router, etc. are discussed and explained in accessible language.

### **III. Participation in scientific conferences and seminars**

For the period from 2008 to 2022 Chief Asst.Prof. Iskra Vladova-Nedkova, PhD participated in nine scientific conferences with her reports on the problems of criminal legislation and European perspectives for its development and improvement. She received special training at the International Law

Enforcement Academy in Budapest, Hungary in the "Investigation of computer and electronic crimes".

The monograph, as well as the rest of the scientific production, are extremely useful for the implementation of the general legislative policy for counteracting computer crimes, corresponding to the European directives for raising the level and professionalism in the investigation of new forms of organized and international crime, such as computer and drug crimes. The use of Iskra Vladova-Nedkova's developments and scientific concepts in the educational process will contribute to raising the level and mastering new scientific knowledge and practices.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

The scientific and scientific-applied contributions, as well as the professional academic activity of the Chief Asst.Prof. Iskra Vladova-Nedkova, PhD are indisputable and convincing. Her scientific and creative work and teaching can be highly appreciated. I give a categorically positive conclusion and I strongly believe that the esteemed scientific jury should propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Law of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Chief Asst.Prof. Iskra Vladkova Vladova – Nedkova, PhD to be elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.6 Law (Criminalistics) at the Faculty of Law of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Opinion prepared by

Prof. Doctor of Legal Sciences Kostadin Bobev

Sofia, May, 2023