

## **STRATEGIC EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR "ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT" IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC SECURITY AND DEFENCE ENVIRONMENT**

**Original article**

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### **Abstract**

The main goal of the military education system, namely – to provide a high level of education in the field of security and defence, in particular the training and subsequent professional realisation of logistics officers, is based on providing effective training to the main target groups of the Vasil Levski National Military University – cadets and students. The main goal of this paper is to present educational aspects of the professional field for "Administration and Management" in the context of the international strategic security and defence environment in the Vasil Levski National Military University . As well as to show expected scholarly and educational results of international, national and local significance.

## **Introduction**

In a global context, strategy is the art and science of developing and using political, economic, socio-psychological and information resources to create effects that protect national and international interests, in cooperation between all actors - countries, business organizations, society. At the national level, it is a set of specific instruments of power to achieve the political goals of the state. At the organizational level, the strategy envisages drawing up a coherent plan to bridge the gap between today's realities and the chosen future, which is a disciplined establishment of common goals and which will create more favourable future results than could exist if the organization is left to itself in its development. All organizations strive to achieve their goals, which are the chosen end conditions, including survival, improving welfare, increasing productivity, establishing certain values. The role of the strategy is to ensure the protection of these goals in order to create favourable conditions for achieving them in a consistent and optimal way in an environment characterized by uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity, dynamic instability and volatility.

The concept of "strategy" and the understanding thereof is changing along with the transformation and complexity of the business environment. Different definitions are in use for the term. The organizational strategy can be defined as: a method for establishing the long-term goals of the organization and programming its actions in priority areas, according to the resources available; a method to react to changes in the external and internal environment of the organization; a method to set goals; a method to develop key competitive advantages for the organization, etc.; assessment of the alternative methods to achieve already selected tasks and goals and selection of one of the options for implementation; a plan for determining the long-term main tasks of the organization and the adoption of a course of action, provision and allocation of resources necessary for the implementation of the set goals; the course that the organization chooses, pursuing its goals and taking into account the opportunities and threats of the external environment, as well as its own capabilities and potential.

Educational aspects of the professional field for "Administration and Management" in the context of the international strategic security and defence environment.

The main goal of the military education system, namely – to provide a high level of education in the field of security and defence, in particular the training and subsequent professional realisation of logistics officers, is based on providing effective training to the

main target groups of the Vasil Levski National Military University – cadets and students. After a consultation with the users of personnel in various military formations of the Bulgarian Army, recommendations were given for improving the training in certain areas, which were reviewed by the teaching staff and reflected in the preparation and implementation of monographs, publications, textbooks and teaching aids which will be used to improve the training process for logistics cadets; strengthening the publishing activity; increasing international cooperation and establishing links with military universities and academies in the field of security and defence in Europe; providing recommendations and proposals to the users of personnel and the military formations of the Bulgarian Army, which should be consulted with and provided to the users of personnel.

Priorities in the training at the the Vasil Levski National Military University are as follows: training of cadets in the bachelor's degree for the regulated profession of officer at the tactical level of management, according to curricula approved by the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Education; training of students in Bachelor's and Master's degrees in specialties in accredited professional fields; training of doctoral students in accredited doctoral programs; postgraduate degrees.

The main goal in the field of professional training for "Administration and Management", in the context of security and defence at the Vasil Levski National Military University, Republic of Bulgaria, is to implement the concept of optimal harmonization of the training of future logistics officer in order to obtain basic competence, knowledge and skills in the field of management of logistics activities and formations for logistical support of the Bulgarian Army with established managerial and leadership qualities, with developed intellectual and physical capabilities, with knowledge and skills for resource management (material, financial, human and information), for the development and making of reasonable and economically appropriate management decisions.

The main task facing the central training unit is training within the bachelor's degree in the professional field of Military Affairs, specialty for Organisation and Management for Tactical and Professional Logistic Provision in accordance with the requirements for the regulated profession of tactical management officer, the Doctrine of Logistics and accompanying documents, Plan for development of Armed Forces and the formation of capabilities for independent logistics support, combined with centralized and multinational logistics.

In line with the implementation of the main goal and task of the Department of Security Logistics, the Vasil Levski National Military University performed the current

development in the context of the problems of training and professional realization of future logistics officers in their respective positions in their distribution by units within the military formations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria. The building, improvement and acquisition of leadership qualities by future logistics officers, who are current cadets, in the process of ongoing training at the National Military University, in conditions of physical, mental stress and stress in performing tasks in a real tactical environment is an important task encountered by the Department of Security Logistics.

The main principles of professional training in the context of security and defence provided in the Department of Security Logistics are as follows:

- management of the educational and scholarly activity in the field of logistics in accordance with the current legislation;
- efficiency and effectiveness of training;
- adequacy of the training according to the requirements of the applicants;
- compliance with national and union doctrines and standards;
- unity of training and education;
- systematization, consistency and continuity between the different levels of education and levels of qualification;
- responsibility, adaptability and competitiveness;
- development of academic potential and others.

Students at the Vasil Levski National Military University are trained according to a unified curriculum for each specialization, structured on a modular basis with military and civilian part. In the process of their training, the logistics cadets acquire the military and civilian specialty. The training has a basic interdisciplinary preparation for acquiring higher education in the professional field for "Military Affairs" in the field of higher education for "Security and Defence" and acquiring higher education in the professional field for "Administration and Management" in the field of higher education for "Social, economic and legal sciences". We believe that in this way we successfully identify not only the existing problems in the process of training and professional realization of students, providing possible solutions and guidelines for their improvement and realisation in practice, while taking into account the experience of already realized students and established command team.

According to the White Paper on Defence and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria, logistics is one of the most serious challenges in adapting the Armed Forces to the requirements of modern operations. The review of the structure of the forces imposed the requirement for transformation of the logistics system into an integrated, mobile, unified

system for peacetime and wartime for logistical support of the Armed Forces, adequate to the structure, missions and tasks of the troops and forces, with opportunities for efficient and effective use of material resources for defence. To achieve this result, the priority of the logistics system is the development of the ability to optimally combine the independent logistics support of military formations with centralised logistics support, with multinational logistics and using the capabilities of the host country. This requires improvement of the structures for logistical provision at all levels and optimization of the activity thereof.

In accordance with the stated normative documents, in accordance with the National Strategy for Development of Scholarly Research in the Republic of Bulgaria and in accordance with the conducted research, the training in the professional field solves at least several specific tasks, namely:

- Provision of a high level of education in the field of security and defence.
- Provision of high qualification and effective career development of scholarly experts, based on a high level of research.
- Development, maintenance and effective use of modern scholarly infrastructure and provision of necessary access to European and international scientific infrastructure, including by receiving assistance from the university management to improve the material and technical base used in the training process.
- Assistance for restoration of the international positions in quantity and quality of the internationally visible scholarly production.
- Increasing the quantity and quality of research related to issues of regional and national importance.
- Expanding the participation of the Bulgarian scholarly community in the European Research Area, including by receiving assistance from the university management for the implementation of domestic, national and international projects.
- Intensification of the relations of science with education, the users of the personnel of the National Military University, the state bodies and the society as a whole, as well as active involvement of the trainees in the processes of raising the scholarly-educational level.

Expected scholarly and educational results of international, national and local significance.

Education is the greatest meaning for any action or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. It is a process through which society consciously passes on its accumulated knowledge, skills and values from one

generation to another. Providing the process of transmission of socially valuable and personally significant experience, as teachers and educators we are called to organize optimal conditions for the development of the human individual as a personality and to support this process. The level of readiness for the exercise of the military profession by the future officers as well as the profession of logistics on the part of the civilian trainees refers to their upbringing, their professional training, the received education and professional training. It is considered as a condition of the individual for her/his ability to perform certain professional activities.

The university is a centre that builds its graduates morally, mentally and physically, integrates them into the ideals of patriotism, duty and honour, forms them as individuals and leaders capable of developing and applying scholarly knowledge, managing social and special structures in peacetime and crises, to participate in national and multinational projects to maintain security and peace and the development of society. The main goal of the National Military University is to prepare highly qualified officers and specialists with higher education who are able to carry out active cognitive activity, to have established positive moral and volitional qualities, with developed intellectual and physical abilities and with knowledge and skills of management of human and material resources and scholarly research.

Considering learning as a purposeful, organized, conscious, guided and managed process, as a cognitive process, complements its essential characteristics. Like any other process, learning is movement, change, development. Learning during the educational process is a purposeful and rationally organized activity for the acquisition of social experience, as a result of which there are certain changes in the mind and behaviour of students, mental and personal qualities are formed.

The expected specific scholarly and educational results of international, national and local significance are as follows:

1. Achieving international and national priorities of the military-educational system in building the logistical defence capabilities as a set of regulations, organization, training, material resources, leadership and education, personnel, infrastructure and interoperability.
2. Improving the training of future logistics officers and students as they will be involved in research and implementation of international cooperation, international exchange of ideas and international publications, including by giving cadets and students the opportunity to engage in scholar work and to present and publish their achievements, realization of scholar cooperation and assistance in scholar activity by the lecturers, directly aimed at the students of different universities, support of the educational process, with emphasis on the

practical and applied part of the educational activities, which are carried out in the department.

3. Improving, developing and qualitatively enhancing the level of military-scholar work and scholar research of the academic personnel in order to achieve significant creative results and optimizing the unity of the educational and research activity, including through: analysis and diagnostics of the effectiveness of training in the field of logistics in the process of acquiring knowledge and skills, including analysis and diagnostics of the acquired key and special competencies by the logistics cadets and their influence on the career orientation and professional realization of the students, conducting research and reflecting their results in relevant scientific developments, participation in national and international scholar conferences and forums.
4. Improving the academic institutional compatibility between the different universities by: sharing the military academic and pedagogical experience; enhancing the professional skills of teachers and students; raising the level of bilateral cooperation; analysing the possibilities for future scholar cooperation; discussing opportunities for joint academic activities.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the presented theoretical analysis with practical and applied aspects, we believe that it is possible to reach the required accreditation criteria for the professional field for "Administration and Management", including through:

- Developing a policy for ensuring the quality of training;
- Improving the policy for the implementation of the relationship between research and training within the national and institutional context;
- Improving the management of the quality of the educational process and the related teaching activity;
- Comprehensive implementation of the rules of a code of ethics to ensure academic unity, as well as procedures for preventing and sanctioning exam fraud and plagiarism;
- Improving the development, approval, monitoring and updating of educational documentation (qualifications, curricula, etc.) with the assistance of representatives of partner organizations, students and other stakeholders;
- Improving the system of rules and activities related to stimulating the motivation and active position of students in the process of training in the respective professional field, including by involving students in practical activities that stimulating their creative activity

and using clear modern and publicly announced methods for assessing student achievement;

- Improving the organization for attracting, admitting and adapting Bulgarian and foreign students and Ph.D. students;
- Enhancing the quantity and quality of educational resources and supporting students;
- Improving the material and technical and information base necessary for the teaching, research, artistic and sports activities in the professional field/ specialty of the regulated professions, as well as a suitable environment for distance learning;
- Enhancing the access to information for the public about all activities related to professional training;
- Monitoring, self-monitoring and updating of the curricula, according to the evolution of the scientific knowledge and technologies, in the training in the professional field/specialty of a regulated profession;
- Self-assessment and external assessments of all curricula in the professional field.