

REVIEW

of submitted works for participation in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.4. Social activities (Demographic and socio-ecological aspects), field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, announced by Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen in the State Gazette, No. 53/12.06.2020

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Victoriya Sotirova, PhD,

Candidate: Lecturer Dr. Veselina Radeva Ivanova

Brief biographical data about the candidate

Veselina Radeva Ivanova acquired a Bachelor's degree (1999-2003), specialty "Geography and Biology", Master's degree (2007-2008) "Public Administration" and successfully defended her doctoral thesis and was awarded a PhD Degree (2016-2019) in the doctoral program "Theory of Education and Didactics", defended doctorate on "Social Ecology and Security" in Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen. Since 2017 she has been a lecturer at the Department of Social and Special Pedagogy, where she teaches disciplines in the following specialties: "*Social activities*" (Bachelor's degree) - "Demography" and "Social ecology"; "*Social pedagogy*" (Bachelor's and Master's degrees) - "Socio-demographic problems", "Socio-demographic policies", "Ecological-demographic problems", "Social ecology", "Training-communicative attitudes and skills", "Summer internship", "Pre-diploma pedagogical training and practicum" - first and second part, "Consulting teamwork", "Organization and management of social work"; "*Preschool pedagogy*" (Bachelor's degree) - "Social Ecology"; "*Pedagogy of education in technology and technology*" (Bachelor's degree) - "Social Ecology". She is a member of the National Association "Women in Science" - Section at the Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen and the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - Section "Sociological Sciences". Her erudition and scientific academicism are revealed in her participation in six intra-university and three national projects. Participates as a member of the editorial

board of the Yearbook of the Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen (Volume XXII D - Faculty of Education). Proofreader of two monographic works. The administrative and organizational skills acquired as a chief Specialist in Student Affairs (March-September 2006) and a chief Specialist in Human Resources (2006-2017) at the University of Shumen are manifested in the participation in the organization of three Scientific Conferences with international participation and three Doctoral conferences.

Characteristics of the scientific and scientific-applied production

Presented by the only participant in the competition for academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.4. Social activities (Demographic and socio-ecological aspects) Dr. Veselina Ivanova scientific, applied research and professional-academic activity complies with the regulations set out in the Law and the Regulations for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen. For the needs of the competition are presented: monograph in two parts, a book based on a dissertation and 10 published articles: 2 "in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases", 8 "in non-refereed journals with scientific review", all publications are standalone. The scientific production meets the minimum scientometric indicators for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", revealing undeniable professionalism and recognition in the academic community, which is evident from the 7 citations: 5 in "monographs and collectives" and 2 in "unreferred journals with scientific reviewing".

Main contributions in the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

"Modern societies" in the 21st century face ongoing demographic challenges that have a significant impact on both the economic and social functioning of states. Bulgaria is no exception to this trend. The social system "exhausted" by the unbalanced demographic situation. This issue is a priority in the works of Dr. V. Ivanova. The obtained theoretical and statistical results in its scientific

production in the field of demography, globalization and ecology enrich the interdisciplinary nature of social activity and correspond to the theme of the announced competition.

In "Socio-demographic aspects", a two-part monograph, presenting the essence of demography as a "science of population and its reproduction" (p. 11), presents "demographic statistics", "demographic analysis" and "population theories". The demographic indicators are considered in detail and thoroughly: "birth rate", "marriage and divorce", "migration", "mortality", as well as important for theory and practice "migration policy", "demographic policy" and "population structures". Statistical data of the derived indicators are analyzed in separate chapters. The factors that influence them are indicated. Each chapter ends with conclusions.

The social consequences of migration on human existence, studied in part of the scientific production, impose the need for countries to pursue as a matter of priority a policy that is "balanced", highlighting "the socio-economic benefits of immigration" ("Migration and Migration Processes", (2020), p. 207). The thesis is defended that "effective migration policy includes programs or means to achieve the set goal, and the concept determines the directions in which the policy will be implemented" ("Migration Policy", (2020), p. 101). Special attention is paid to the main aspects of migration, along with births and deaths as fundamental to demographic policy, to which education and healthcare are reasonably added ("Demographic policy in Bulgaria" (2019), p. 83). The structured priorities for demographic development and the directions in them confirm the need for political, economic and social balance for effective demographic development.

Significant for the theory and practice are the conclusions and recommendations made, based on the factors - social, economic and demographic, influencing the birth rate. The understanding that "even small steps" in the derived "directions" "can lead to significant results" ("Condition and Factors Affecting the Birth Rate in Bulgaria", (2020), p. 182). Birth rate and aging, indicators that play a key role in the creativity of the candidate to one degree or another reflect on the social system in societies. It is argued that in the long run, aging will have "demographic consequences", requiring the implementation of effective and efficient demographic and migration policies,

reflecting the "labor force, pension and insurance systems", which will inevitably lead to the need to change "in pension insurance, healthcare and social services" ("Population age in Bulgaria - trends and policies" (2019), p. 79, p. 81). There is an appeal for collaboration at all levels and systems, which will contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the population and reduce the consequences of the demographic crisis ("The demographic crisis in Bulgaria - tendencies, factors and measures to overcome it", (2019)).

Demographic and migration problems find a logical continuation in the topic of aggression and violence, studied under a project funded by the University of Shumen. The presented types of aggression, aggressive behavior and their forms of manifestation have a significant social-applied aspect. The emphasis is on "the influence of family and peers on the development of aggression" ("Aggression - a problem of society", (2019) p. 61).

Globalization and ecology, phenomena with social consequences for society and human existence, are also part of the candidate's scientific production. The book "Globalization and Environmental Problems" (2020) skillfully presents the "problems of globalization" and "crises in the global world" and devotes a significant place to the "environmental crisis". The focus of the research is on "anthropogenic pollution" and the need to address it by applying "good world practices and ways to overcome socio-economic problems" (p. 8). Globally, societies face the problem of the purity of the air they breathe Bulgaria is no exception. An in-depth review of the topic concludes with the conclusion that "demand" and the use of "alternative energy sources" are a prerequisite for "solving environmental problems" („The Anthropogenic Air Pollution and Human Health“, (2020) p. 3061). The essence and types are skillfully presented "Environmental risk", a product and consequence of human lifestyle. It is necessary to conclude that the implementation of effective risk assessment and management through the application of "approaches", "principles" and "solutions" will have a beneficial effect on man and the ecosystem, and the belief that "a necessary condition and basis for environmental management "risks" is the structuring of "an effective, adequate regulatory framework by the state" ("Environmental risk. Management and assessment", (2020), p. 100), which will lead to increased environmental security at the global and national levels.

("Environmental security - a factor for sustainability at a global and national scale", (2020), p. 107).

The review of the presented scientific production justifiably allows to draw a logical conclusion regarding the rich palette of knowledge and competencies that Dr. V. Ivanova has in the field of demography, ecology and globalization, as well as her deep interest in the problems of fertility, aging, marriage, demographic and migration policy, the ecological crisis and anthropological pollution, brought out in 17 contributing moments - carriers of new and / or further developing the available theoretical knowledge and practical results, which can be synthesized as follows:

➤ *demographic aspects*: "science Demography" is "*defined*"; "*identifies*" demographic analysis as a concept "; "*considered*" "demographic policy as an integrated and as a synthesis of elements of regional, economic and social impact"; is "*argued*" "The demographic crisis as a deteriorating state of the ongoing processes"; "*indicates*" a policy on balanced demographic and social development; "*justifies*" the "birth rate as a component of the natural movement of the population" and displays the "negative consequences in the economic and social life of the country as a result of the aging population"; "migration as a demographic process" is "*justified*", "a phenomenon" which, through the application of well-functioning mechanisms for managing migration processes, has a positive effect on security risks"; "migration policy is "*analyzed*" as a structure of elements, organization, forecast, analysis, provision of information, development of programs";

➤ *socio-environmental aspects*: "environmental problems" are "*identified*"; "Problems related to the global environmental crisis" are being "*clarified*"; "*Analyze*" the environmental risk as the probability of change and/or destruction of the ecological site as a result of changes in the environment"; "*shows*" the "likelihood of adverse effects on environmental resources from all changes in natural factors and sites as a result of human activity"; "Anthropogenic air pollution" is "*defined*"; "*considered*" both "environmental security" in the globalizing world "as a system of conditions that reflect the occurrence of environmentally hazardous events and phenomena and their resulting effects on the environment" and "the case of" social ecology-globalization-security".

Conclusion

Dr. Veselina Ivanova is a well-read and erudite person, recognizable on a national and international level. She is a bearer of unceasing enthusiasm and potential for development - personal, professional and academic. Prerequisite and basis for a positive assessment is the presented significant, valuable and current research, teaching and administrative activities, as well as the derived scientific and theoretical-applied contributions.

Strongly recommends that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury award the academic position to Lecturer Dr. Veselina Radeva Ivanova "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.4. Social activities (Demographic and socio-environmental aspects).

Date:

18.09.2020

Member of the scientific jury:

Assoc. Prof. Victoriya Sotirova, PhD

