

## OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Milena Hristova Yorgova, PhD

About competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the area of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Studies, scientific field 3.4 Social activities (Demographic and socio-ecological aspects), announced in State Gazette No. 53/12.06.2020.

### **I. Details about the competition**

The competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" has been announced by Konstantin Preslavsky - University of Shumen about the needs of Department of Social and Special Pedagogy at Faculty of Education (State Gazette, No. 53/12.06.2020).

The opinion was drawn up on the basis of a decision from the first meeting of the Scientific Jury (Record No. 1/20.08.2020), appointed by Order № RD-16-083/05.08.2020 of the Rector of Konstantin Preslavsky - University of Shumen.

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by one candidate - Dr. Veselina Radeva Ivanova, lecturer in the Department of Social and Special Pedagogy at Faculty of Education at Konstantin Preslavsky - University of Shumen.

### **II. Details about the candidate**

Lecturer Dr. Veselina Ivanova was born on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1979 in the town of Isperih. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Geography and Biology (2003) and a master's degree in Public Administration (2008) in Konstantin Preslavsky - University of Shumen. In 2019 she acquired Educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the scientific specialty "Theory of education and didactics (Social Pedagogy)" in the same university, after successful defense of the PhD thesis "Social Ecology and Security". Since 2017

she has been working as a lecturer in the Department of Social and Special Pedagogy of the Faculty of Education at the Konstantin Preslavski - University of Shumen.

### **III. General description of the scientific works**

For participation in the competition Dr. Veselina Radeva Ivanova presents 12 scientific publications (total volume - 751 pages). They are structured as follows: by type: 1 monograph; 1 published books on the basis of a defended dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; 2 articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information; 8 articles and reports published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes, by authorship: in all publications included for participation in the competition she is independent author.

The presented scientific production is related to the thematic focus of the announced competition. The publications are in the field of:

- demography (demographic processes and demographic policy, migration and migration policy, demographic situation in Bulgaria, etc.);
- ecology (socio-ecological problems in modern societies, ecological risks and ecological security, etc.).

Scientific articles and reports are peer-reviewed and published in authoritative publications and scientific thematic collections and address current demographic and environmental issues.

The scientific publications submitted for review by the candidate cover the mandatory minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the area of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Studies, scientific field 3.4 Social activities.

### **IV. General characteristics of the scientific and teaching activity**

From the information presented in the competition it is evident that the candidate provides evidence of her scientific and teaching activities.

### Participation in scientific forums and projects

Lecturer Dr. Veselina Ivanova participates with reports in a number of scientific forums organized by the Konstantin Preslavski - University of Shumen. She has also participated in the national projects "Student Internships" and 6 university projects.

### Teaching activity

During the period 2017 - 2020 lecturer Dr. Veselina Ivanova participated in the teaching of students in the Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Conducts classes in disciplines: Demography, Social Ecology, Socio-demographic policies, etc. The thematic orientation of the research of Dr. Veselina Ivanova is successfully combined with the disciplines she teaches and allows the use of the obtained scientific results in the educational process.

Her scientific output testifies to her capacity for fruitful teaching. The presented monographic researches can be successfully used as basic teaching aids in some of the taught disciplines, and the developments in the form of articles and reports expand the possibilities for conducting problem-oriented training.

### Membership in scientific and professional organizations

Dr. Veselina Ivanova is a member of the National Association "Women in Science" - Section at Konstantin Preslavski - University of Shumen and of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - Section "Sociological Sciences".

## **V. Scientific contributions**

From the publications submitted for participation in the competition by lecturer Dr. Veselina Ivanova can be derived results of scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied nature, related to:

- research of socio-demographic problems and policies

The candidate in-depth follows the main demographic processes and outlines their impact on the economic and social life of the country.

She considers demographic policy as an integrated policy for balanced demographic and social development, emphasizing its importance for the development of other national policies.

- research on environmental issues, risks and security in the context of globalization

The ecological problems facing humanity in the 21st century have been identified. The good world practices and the ways to overcome them are analyzed. The ecological risk is analyzed and opportunities for improving the ecological security as a part of the national security and an obligatory condition for sustainable development of the society are outlined.

In the reference submitted for the competition the candidate indicates 7 citations in scientific publications of other authors. The style of scientific works is characterized by scientificity and accessibility.

### **Conclusion**

The competition procedure was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the applicable national legislation and university regulations. Sufficient scientific production is presented, containing contributions with the capacity to enrich the theory, rationalize the practice and carry out fruitful teaching work. This gives me reason to express a positive opinion and recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education to choose Dr. Veselina Radeva Ivanova for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the area of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Studies, scientific field 3.4 Social activities (Demographic and socio-ecological aspects).

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Opinion prepared by:

  
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