

## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

**For scientific activities of Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov in respect his participation in competition for acquisition academic degree „Assoc. Prof.“ in higher field education 4. Natural science, mathematics and informatics, professional orientation 4.4 Earth sciences (Social and economic geography) announced by Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen in State Gazette, vol. 20/10.03.2020**

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The only one candidate in this competition for academic degree „Assoc.Prof.“ in Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen is Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov. He works in the field of Social and Economic geography. He is an author of 32 scientific publications also, author and co – author of the monographs – „Cultural tourism, tourists, destinations in Bulgaria“ and „Geography of the population, towns and villages and regions in Bulgaria“.

For this competition Dr. Petkov submits 34 scientific studies (32 scientific publications and 2 monographs). They are published in thematic symposiums, magazines and annual books in Bulgaria and abroad, 16 are in Latin alphabet and other 16 in Cyrillic alphabet. From all applied publications 10 of them are published in foreign editions – Romania, Portugal, Croatia, Brazil, India, Chili, Greece and North Macedonia. From all of his publications, 12 are in the world base data - Web & Science also and in Scientific Journal Impact Factor, Cosmos Impact Factor, Eurasian Scientific Journal Index, Scholar Article Impact Factor. The other 21 publications are published in unindexed editions and for 10 of them are as result of delivered reports on national and international forums. Dr. Veselin Petkov provides a reference for 59 noticed and quoted publications.

The publications are in regards to issues of Geography and population of towns and villages (12), geography of tourism (11). The other publications are mainly for issues of planning, execution and analysis of the field of geographical practices in Public geography, Cultural geography and geo- economic aspects of Bulgaria in EU and as a part of Balkan cultural-geographic and economic area and also Medical geography.

The scientific studies of Dr. Petkov are a result individual and collective researches with Bulgarian scholars. The candidate represent rich experience in the work in scientific programs and projects – 7 projects in national level and 11 projects in Shumen University.

The lecturer's activity of Dr. Petkov is determined according the curriculums and programs developed for specialties and disciplines in Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen. He leads seminars and laboratory for Bachelor degree (specialties „Geography and biology“, „History and geography“, „Geography and regional policy“) in disciplines – Geography of the population and towns and villages, Geography of production and world economy, Social-economic geography of Bulgaria, Cultural geography, Territorial development and towns and villages structure of Bulgaria etc.

Cultural geography is scientific manager and consultant of 3 student which diploma researches are in fields of Geography of the population and towns and villages, Social-economic geography of Bulgaria, Cultural geography.

In 2018 and 2019 years he participated in the program ERASMUS has teaching in Porto University.

Dr. Penchev is a member of Bulgarian geographical society and in Association of professional geographers and regionalists.

In result of his research work Dr. Penchev has contributed mainly in: 1) Researches on area organization of tourism in Bulgaria with render an account on the territorial disproportion; 2) Determination of socio - cultural profile of Bulgarian and foreign tourists, who practice cultural tourism in Shumen region; 3) Research the main problems in village areas in Bulgaria; 4) Deep researches in settlement and demographic issues in Dobrudja region; 5) Ranking of the towns and villages in researched areas in their level of depopulation this way is implemented the scheme for the relation of the towns and villages in different quality groups according their level of depopulation.

The review of his scientific studies confirms my position that Dr. Petkov is an innovative, productive young scholar with knowledge, skills and rich research experience in field of Social-economic geography specialized in Geography of the population and towns and villages. All this is confirmed from his scientific publications.

**Conclusion: The nomination of Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov responds to all law requirements for the academic degree „Assoc. Prof.“. He has clear determined profile for research work.**

**In view to the abovementioned I recommend to Honor Jury to vote election of nominee Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov for academic degree „Assoc. Prof.“ in higher field education 4. Natural science, mathematics and informatics, professional orientation 4.4 Earth Sciences (Social and economic geography) in Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen.**

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Shumen

  
Prof. Svetla Stankova, PhD