

# OPINION

By Assoc. prof. Miloslava Yankova  
for Assoc. Prof. Veselina Nikolaeva Ilieva Ph.D.  
for her participation in a competition for the occupation of the academic position of  
"professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,  
professional direction 3.4. Social activities (Sociological aspects of social work)  
at Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen

## ***1. Brief information about the candidate***

Assoc. Prof. Veselina Nikolaeva Ilieva, Ph.D. was born on February 25, 1985. In 2011 graduated with a degree in "Social Activities", Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen, Faculty of Education, Shumen. She graduated from the master's program "Regulation and control in the system of social activities", Konstantin Preslavski in 2014. In 2018 acquired the scientific and educational degree "doctor" in Theory of Education and Didactics (Social Pedagogy). From 2020 holds the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.4. Social activities (Sociological aspects of socio-pedagogical activity at the Faculty of Education of the Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen, Shumen. From July 2008 until December 2011 works as a technical assistant in "Megaboard Bulgaria" Ltd., Sofia. From April 2013 until October 2013 works as a senior inspector in the Metropolitan Inspectorate of the Metropolitan Municipality, Sofia. From May 2015 until April 2016 works as a social worker in the association Information and consultations - Day center for people with mental disabilities "Sveta Marina", Sofia. From May 2016 until now he works as a teacher in the Faculty of Education of Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen. From September 2014 until now, she is the manager of the international scientific refereed online journal "SocioBrains". She is currently the head of the "Social Work" department.

## ***2. Meeting the minimum national requirements***

Assoc. Prof. Veselina Nikolaeva Ilieva Ph.D. fully satisfies the required minimum scientometric indicators in professional direction 3.4. Social activities. Of the required 550 points, the candidate applies 650 as follows: group of indicators A - 50 points, group of indicators V - 100 points, group of indicators G - 230 points, group of indicators D - 130 points, group of indicators E – 140 points).

## ***3. Analysis of scientific production.***

In the competition for the academic position of "Professor", Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ilieva Ph.D., who is the only candidate, participated with two monographs, two textbooks and thirteen articles.

The first monograph is the habilitation thesis of the candidate and is on the topic "Socialization in the postmodern situation", 2022. In it, the author reveals in detail the essence and stages of socialization as a basic process that takes place in society. She draws on traditional conceptions of her, supplementing them with more modern understandings, including those of her colleagues at Shumen University. Then, following their philosophical logic, he analyzes the two important eras for the development of humanity - Modernism and Postmodernism, thus building his "springboard" for the development of his theses. Assoc. prof. Veselina Ilieva Ph.D. extremely scientifically and comprehensively examines the Postmodern situation, relying on the main source for it - Jean-Francois Lyotard's famous book

"The Postmodern Situation", 1996. Thus, she analyzes an entire era in which the principles of individualism rise, the other - the different dominates, and feminism also dominates. In this context, she examines the socialization that takes place in society outside its traditional agents – family, school and upbringing. In relation to the age in which we live, completely new agents are presented that are inherent only to this age - mass media, the Internet, social networks, digitalization, etc. Attention was also paid to the transformation of the family and educational institutions.

The second non-thesis monograph is "Toward the Theory and Practice of Social Work", 2022. It is issued on CD. In it, Associate Professor Veselina Ilieva Ph.D. reveals various features of social work that complement the traditional understanding of it. It is noteworthy that she substantiates her theses with citations of her colleagues from the Department of Social Work and related departments in other higher education institutions.

The textbooks are: "Sociological aspects of social work, Shumen", 2019 and "Futurology. 12 educational lectures", 2022.

The first textbook presents the sociological foundations of social work. It is indirectly emphasized that social work is a kind of practical sociology.

In the second textbook, basic knowledge of the science "Futurology" is presented. It should be noted with pride that this is the first Bulgarian textbook on this science, and this corresponds to the fact that since 2015, Futurology has been taught in the Social Work Department of Shumen University, again for the first time in a Bulgarian higher education institution. With the publication of the textbook, the study of this science acquires a complete expression.

Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ilieva Ph.D. also presents 13 articles in the competition, which complement with knowledge the curricula of the "Social Activities" and "Social Pedagogy" majors.

*As a reviewer I can state the following:*

1. According to my general impression, the scientific output of Assoc. Dr. Veselina Ilieva is maintained at a high professional level with adequate orientation and reference to sources related to the epistemological issues of sociology and social work.
2. It is fresh, written in clear language and with clear statements. No room is left for linguistic misunderstanding and hence for discussion based on misunderstandings. Logical precision impresses, and in some places gives real pleasure.
3. Scientific production is well-structured and logically arranged scientific writings that open the doors of students to serious knowledge of social activities.
4. The knowledge contained in this scientific production is extremely important for the formation of the competencies of the students from the "Social Activities" and "Social Pedagogy" majors.
5. The scientific production abounds with discussion material and the position of an excellent specialist and teacher, such as Assoc Dr. Veselina Ilieva, is defended.
6. The specific research and teaching activity of the author naturally and naturally leads to the posing and solving of essential problems in the field of sociology and social work.
7. The relevance of the overall scientific production is dictated by the need to fill the void in the specialized scientific literature related to sociology and social activities and complements various aspects of sufficiently complex scientific research in these areas.
8. The content of the scientific production is also of interest to people who work in NGOs, political parties and civil movements and all those who work in the field of social activities.
9. The scientific production was developed with great skill and professional sense of the author - Associate Professor Dr. Veselina Ilieva.

10. The scientific production will contribute to raising the quality and overall scientific production of the academic community of Shumen University.

#### ***4. Conclusion***

I give my POSITIVE evaluation and recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury that we extend to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education of the Konstantin Preslavsky – University of Shumen to elect Associate Professor Veselina Nikolaeva Ilieva Ph.D. to occupy the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, 3.4. Social activities (Sociological aspects of social work).

**17/10/2022**  
**Shumen**

**Prepared the opinion:**  
**Assoc. prof. Miroslava Yankova Ph.D.**