

## OPINION

by Prof. Krasimir Stoyanov Levkov, PhD,  
member of a scientific jury, determined by Order No. RD – 16 - 101 / 28.08.2023  
of the Rector of " Episcop Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen

regarding the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor", field of higher education 3.Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.9.Tourism (Geography of tourism, regional economy and development).

**1. Data about the competition.** The competition was announced in the State Gazette, no. 49/06/06/2023 Participation documents were submitted by one candidate - Sevjan Fikri Sabrieva, PhD. The documents and materials provided are in accordance with the requirements of the competition procedure according to Art. 24 (1) of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 53 (1) and Art. 54 (1) of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Section III of the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of " Episcop Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen.

**2. Data about the candidate.** Sevjan Fikri Sabrieva, PhD was born on November 12, 1979. She received her secondary education in her hometown of Dobrich. In the period from 1997 to 2002, she was a student at "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" University, where she graduated with a degree in "Geography and Biology" and obtained a master's degree. From 2003 to 2005, S. Sabrieva worked as a geography and biology teacher. From 2006 to 2018, she held the positions of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" University, conducting seminars and practical exercises with students majoring in "Tourism". In 2018, S. Sabrieva defended her dissertation at the University of National and World Economy on the topic "Influence of regional policy on tourism" and obtained a doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences in the scientific specialty "National Economy" (regional economy and administration). Since then, until now, S. Sabrieva, PhD holds the position of lecturer in the Department of Information, Qualification and Continuing Education at Shumen University.

**3. Educational and teaching activity.** Sevjan Sabrieva's academic internship at Shumen University began 17 years ago. It is primarily related to teaching activities in the

professional field 3.9 Tourism. Since 2018, S. Sabrieva, PhD has been conducting seminars and practical exercises with students in the majors "Tourism", "Geography and Biology", "History and Geography", "Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and Biology" and "Pedagogy of Teaching history and geography". In addition, she teaches students in the Additional Vocational Qualification "Geography and Economics" and conducts course guidance for the "Biology and Health Education" and "Chemistry and Environmental Protection" courses.

The educational and teaching activity of the candidate is complemented by scientific supervision and review of diploma theses of students majoring in "Tourism", educational qualification degree "Bachelor". S. Sabrieva, PhD participated in the EU academic exchange program Erasmus+, lecturing to students and teachers at the universities of Klaipeda, Lithuania in 2018 and Nevsehir, Turkey in 2022. In 2022-2023. she takes part in a specialization under the national program "Young scientists and postdoctoral fellows - 2".

**4. Scientific research activity.** Sevjan Sabrieva's scientific interests cover a wide spectrum. They are implemented in several main thematic areas:

- tourist infrastructure and superstructure;
- hospitality and restaurant industry;
- specialized types of tourism;
- tourist resources;
- territorial specifics in the development of tourism at the national, regional and local level.

This is confirmed by the thematic scope of her scientific output.

36 scientific works with a total volume of over 340 pages were submitted for review, including:

- monographs – 1 issue, co-authored with V. Vasileva;
- articles - 35 articles, of which 1 published in a scientific publication, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 34 published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes, incl. 10 individual and 25 – in equal co-authorship.

A declaration of authorship by the candidate and two declarations of co-authorship by Prof. Kabakchieva, PhD and Associate Professor V. Vasileva, PhD are attached.

**Citations.** Attached is a list with a total of 8 established citations of the candidates' scientific works in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes published in Bulgaria and abroad. Two of the citations are of Dr. Sabrieva's independent works, and the rest are of co-authored works.

**Participation in projects.** In the period from 2010 to 2023, Dr. S. Sabrieva participated in a total of 15 scientific projects, of which 14 were at Episcop Konstantin Preslavski University and one was national. He is the head of two of the internal projects.

#### **5. Scientific contributions.**

According to the candidate's personal assessment, contained in the submitted statement of original research contributions, the contributing elements of her research are in several main directions:

- 1) theoretical enrichment of tourism science;
- 2) development of study and study-support materials for students studying in the specialty "Tourism";
- 3) revealing the essential features of the various specialized types of tourism and their transformation into a tourist product;
- 4) a regional review and a relatively comprehensive description of the tourist infrastructure and superstructure in the country were made;
- 5) practical-applied direction of the studies that can be useful in the formation of the tourism policy of Bulgaria in relation to its current and potential tourist markets.

The statement in item 1 needs clarification, and materials under item 2 have not been submitted for review.

The reading of the presented scientific production gives grounds for the following **conclusions:**

- The candidate knows and correctly uses the main scientific research methods applicable in tourism science and regional studies, selecting them according to the nature of the problem and its manifestation in time and space.
- A significant contribution to tourism literature in our country is the monograph "Tourist infrastructure and superstructure" (published by "Chimera", Shumen, 2019). In this sense, chapter V of the monograph, independently developed by the candidate, has a contributing character. It traces in detail the origin and development of the tourist infrastructure and superstructure in Bulgaria and outlines the normative framework regulating its current state. The regional differences and specificities of tourism infrastructure and superstructure in the six planning regions are presented. The author's analysis could have been even more valuable if, instead of planning areas, the marketing tourism regions announced by the Minister of Tourism back in 2015 had been chosen as a territorial basis.

- The remaining publications submitted for review complement S. Sabrieva's research profile and establish her among the researchers of tourism and regional development in our country.

### **Critical notes and recommendations.**

Considering the need for greater visibility of the candidate's scientific output, I recommend expanding cooperation with other authors from Bulgaria and abroad, as well as an active presence in Bulgarian and global scientific networks.

### **Conclusion.**

I know Sevjan Sabrieva as my former student and I have very good impressions of her professional and personal growth. I believe that she possesses a number of qualities necessary for every young scientist - a conscious and responsible attitude to work, targeted scientific interests, knowledge of foreign languages, teamwork skills.

During the inspection of the submitted materials for the competition, no violations in the procedure were found. The formal requirements of Art. 24 (1) of ZRASRB, art. 53 (1) of PPZRASRB and section III of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" University.


The presented list for fulfilling the minimum requirements shows that the applicant reaches or exceeds the required number of points in all groups of indicators.

The fulfillment of the legal requirements for educational and research activity shows that Lecturer Sevjan Fikri Sabrieva, PhD can occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 3.9.Tourism (Geography of tourism, regional economy and development).

**Based on the findings, I propose to the respected scientific jury to give the participant in the competition Lecturer Sevjan Sabrieva, PhD a positive evaluation and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" University to vote on her selection for the academic position "associate professor" in professional direction 3.9.Tourism (Geography of tourism, regional economy and development).**

30.10.2023

Sofia

Prepared the opinion: 

(Prof. Kr. Levkov, PhD)