

## STATEMENT

**From** prof Bozhidar Ivkov, DSc

**For** the scientific works and activity of Head Assistant Dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova, the only participant in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of science 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences and scientific specialty Sociology for the needs of the section "Public policies and social changes" at the IFS, announced in SG No. 67 / 28.07.2020 and Protocol № 22 of 24.09.2020.

### **1. General description of the submitted materials**

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" Dr. St. Stamenova applied with 2 monographs, 7 studies, one chapter of a collective monograph and 13 articles. Dr. Stamenova's research interests are positioned in such problematic fields as social inequalities, interethnic relations, identity, policies and political relations, ethical issues and values, etc.

From the attached reference for the quantitative requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" at the IFS at BAS it is evident that Dr. Stamenova meets all mandatory requirements of the Law on the Defense of Dissertations and Academic Positions in the IFS ( former IIOZ) at BAS. It is noteworthy that according to the indicator "citation rate, Dr. Stamenova exceeds more than 3 times the required minimum.

### **2. General characteristics of the scientific, scientific-applied and pedagogical activity of the candidate**

Head Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova is a graduate of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ", Department of Sociology, where in 1987 he became a Master of Sociology. In 1994 she graduated with a master's degree in political science from the Central European University, Budapest. She is pursuing a doctorate at the Institute for Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences, where she successfully defended her dissertation on "Structural and axiological determinants of political support. Comparative Analysis between Poland and Bulgaria " in 1999.

Dr. Stamenova's professional career and realization is related to the Institute of Sociology, the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge and more recently to the IFS at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. From May 2004 to October 2005, she specialized at the University of Warwick, Great Britain, as well as at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Dr. Stamenova has extensive research experience gained during the conduct of many empirical sociological studies and the implementation of numerous projects funded by Bulgarian and foreign donors.

### **3. Educational activity of the candidate from the beginning of her career**

Head Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova has, albeit modest, teaching experience. She has given a course of lectures "Theories and Concepts of Post-Communist Systemic Change" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (two semesters), at SWU "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad (one semester) and at the New Bulgarian University (one semester) in the period 1999-2001.

### **4. Content analysis of the scientific achievements of the candidate, clear characteristic of the scientific contributions**

The scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions are adequately formulated and reflect the achievements of Dr. Stamenova. What makes an impression is the fact that she managed to establish that the mass consciousness of the Bulgarian ethnic majority does not distinguish between political and ethnic national identities. These two types of identities - in theory opposite, are mixed in the national consciousness. In this direction, it is important to note the established fact that the ethnic identity of Bulgarians not only does not reduce their social tolerance towards ethnic minorities in our country, but on the contrary - reduces social distances to them.

Of interest is the comparative analysis of the significant differences in the type of post-communist transformation in Bulgaria and Poland, as an effect of the cultural and historical heritage of these countries. I find especially important the comparative analysis between Bulgaria and Romania, on the one hand, and the countries of Central Europe - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, etc., which significantly faster and more comprehensively overcame the problems associated with structural changes in the early 90- those years of the twentieth century. What makes a particularly strong impression in the work of Head Assistant Dr. S. Stamenova, is the fact that all her theoretical summaries and analyzes are based on empirical material from empirical sociological research conducted by her.

The social significance of the analysis and debate on the sale of Bulgarian land should be emphasized - a very sensitive and painful topic for many Bulgarians. Dr.

Stamenova argues a global trend, policy and aspiration of other, richer countries to buy and conquer the lands of poorer countries. The main consequence is the destruction of the agriculture of the last and many ruined and left without livelihood local farmers.

It seems to me that the established systematization of the views of many leading world scientists in the social field, who seriously criticize the neoliberal and globalist ideology and practice, as well as the adopted and implemented laws against the majority of people, deserves special attention. A covert and specific eugenics.

Against the background of some events in the last 3-4 years at the IFS, my meeting with the work and scientific work of Head Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova is a real pleasure, because it is a meeting with a real, responsible, knowledgeable and capable social researcher who creates real knowledge about society and the trends and processes taking place in it. I am very impressed by the lack of paradoxical alogisms in the works of the candidate.

#### **5. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in our and foreign literature**

Head Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova presents 21 citations, which are mainly in international peer-reviewed publications, which is impressive. This can probably be considered as a good visibility of the candidate's work among the world scientific community.

#### **6. Critical remarks**

I have two critical remarks about the work and her results, which, however, have no effect on my final assessment. It is about the following:

1. Often Dr. Stamenova, working on one or another problem, "forgets" or neglects the achievements of Bulgarian authors and Bulgarian sociology in the relevant problem area.
2. It is not uncommon for Dr. Stamenova to be too categorical in accepting or rejecting certain theses or hypotheses. Such an extreme, at least in me, creates the tension inherent in doubting the veracity of statements.

#### **7. Personal impressions of the candidate and other data not mentioned in the previous points**

I have known my colleague Dr. Stamenova for several years, with whom I have the honor to work in one section. She has proven to be a serious and responsible researcher and colleague who can be relied on.

## **8. Reasoned and clearly formulated conclusion**

Based on the above, I confidently and without any doubt call on the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury of the competition to vote unanimously on the Scientific Jury to recommend to the National Assembly of the IFS at BAS that the candidate Head Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova be appointed to the scientific position of "Associate Professor", in the section "Public policies and social changes" at the IFS at BAS.

**Prof. Bozhidar Ivkov, DSc: .....**

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