

## REVIEW

**From:** Professor Dr. Maria Georgieva Stoyanova, University of National and World Economy, Lecturer in the Department of Economic Sociology, specialty Sociology.

**Subject:** competition for “docent” in the professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences, scientific specialty "Sociology" in the section "Public policies and social change" of the IPS at BAS

### **1. Information about the competition**

The competition was announced in SG no. 67 / 28.07.2020 for the needs of the section “Public policies and social changes” of the IPS at BAS, according to Protocol №22 of 24 .09.2020 of the Scientific Council of the IPS. I participate in the team of the scientific jury of the competition according to Order № RD 09-463 / 28.09.2020, issued by the Director of IPS.

### **2. Information about the candidates in the competition**

Dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova, Section "Public Policies and Social Changes" at the IPS, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, participated in the announced competition as the only candidate research associate I degree (chief assistant). The candidate is a graduate of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", she graduated in "Sociology" in the two degrees - "Bachelor" and "Master" in the period 1982-1987. In 1994 she studied at the Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary and became a Master of Political Science in the Department of Political Science, Program in Politics and Political Economy of the Post-Communist Transition. In 1999 she defended her Doctorate at the Institute for Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences and became a Doctor of political science. From May 2004 to October 2005, she majored at the Warwick University, UK and at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

After acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", the research, teaching and practical experience of the candidate is expressed in the following:

- **Research Associate** I degree (chief assistant) in the section "Social control, deviations and conflicts" from 2001 to 2018 at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of BAS.

- **Chief Assistant** in the Section "Public Policies and Social Changes" at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences since 2018 and now;

- **Research Fellow** at the Center for the Study of Ethnic Relations at the School of Health and Social Research, Warwick University, UK - from May 2004 to October 2005;

- **Lecturer** in the discipline "Theory and Concepts of Post-Communist Systemic Change" in the Department of Sociology and in the Department of Political Science at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the academic year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, in the SWU“ Neofit Rilski ”in the Department of Sociology in 1999-2000 and in the New Bulgarian University in the Department of Political Science - 1999-2000;

- **Expert and consultant** - sociologist under the UN Development Program and the World Bank, on behalf of the MLSP, Social Investment Fund - in August 1998-February 1999;

- **participation in 1 international and 4 national projects;**

- **18 reports** presented at scientific conferences;

- **8 public lectures were given** in different countries - 3 in Great Britain, 1 in Russia, 1 in the USA, 1 in Greece and 2 in Bulgaria;

- **written a total of 22** publications with which she participated in the competition;

- **there are 21 citations** in foreign databases, of which 5 in Scopus, 14 in Google Scholar Citation and 1 in Academia.edu

The short biographical reference reveals that in the announced competition for "docent" participates a researcher with a rich biography, with serious scientific achievements and international fame, as well as with motivation to continue working diligently in the section and the Institute.

### **3. Fulfillment of the requirements for holding of the academic position**

I have been provided with a full set of documents for review of the participation of Chief Assistant of Dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova in the competition of IPS for the academic position of "docent". My acquaintance with them allows me to make the following **summary**:

*first*, all publications are made after the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and

*second*, these publications completely overlap the scientific specialty "Sociology", for which the competition was announced.

The candidate has **fulfilled the requirements** of the Law of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Scientific Council for defense of dissertation and holding academic positions at the Institute of Studying the Societies and Knowledge - BAS - 27.11.2018 for holding the academic position "docent" at IPS. From the Map for fulfillment of the quantitative requirements it can be seen that according to all indicators Chief Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova **scored a total of 785 points, which is 1.8 times more than the required minimum threshold of 430.**

**The statement of the reviewer is also confirmed by Minutes №22 of 24.09.2020 of the Scientific Council of IPS.**

### **4. Evaluation of the teaching activity**

Chief Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova has acquired teaching experience. In the academic years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 she was a lecturer in the discipline "Theories and Concepts of Post-Communist Systemic Change" at 3 universities - in the Departments of Sociology and Political Science at the Sofia University (2 winter semesters in total), in the department Sociology at the SWU (1 winter semester) and at the Department of Political Science at the NBU (1 summer semester).

She speaks English and Russian - written and spoken and Polish - only spoken.

Chief Assistant Dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova enjoys respect among the sociological and political science college.

### **5. General characteristics of the scientific, applied scientific and pedagogical activity**

In her research, the candidate has presented publications, projects and research that reveal her scientific interests - national identity, ethnic identity, political science, political relations, political support, political change, neoliberalism and globalization, interethnic relations etc.

**Decisive is** the field of theories and concepts of the post-communist systemic change, in which she lectures to students at 3 universities.

Dr. Stamenova participated in the competition with a total of **22 publications**, of which 2 monographs, 1 chapter of a collective monograph, 7 studies, 12 articles - 2 of which are in English.

The candidate has participated in 1 international and 4 national projects that cover her research interests. She is a head of 1 national project, an author of 1

representative comparative empirical study of political and economic orientations of the population in Southeast Europe in 2001 (Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia); an author of a nationally representative empirical study on political and economic orientations of Bulgarians in 2000; She is a participant as a lecturer in the "Civic Education Project" at the Sofia University, the SWU and the NBU.

She has participated **with presentations in 18 scientific conferences**, 2 of which abroad.

She has given **8 public lectures** - 3 in Great Britain, 1 in Russia, 1 in the USA, 1 in Greece and 2 in Bulgaria.

The peer-reviewed scientific publications are reflected in the Bulgarian and foreign literature. In the presented photocopies of the citations it is clear that they are **21 citations** in foreign databases, of which 5 in Scopus, 14 in Google Scholar Citation and 1 in Academia.edu.

**The reviewer accepts all publications and citations as corresponding to the topic of the competition and subject to review.**

#### **6. Scientific and applied scientific results**

The contributing scientific and applied scientific results achieved by Chief Assistant Dr. Stamenova refer to:

- clear and correct definition of the different types of identities - ethnic, political, national, civic-political and ethno-cultural, on the basis of which the building of the Bulgarian national consciousness and social tolerance is clarified;

- classification of the main factors that have a key impact on social tolerance towards minorities ethnic groups in our country. Defining of the political tolerance as dominant, which explains why the ideological influences among the Bulgarian ethnic majority, compared to other ethnic groups in the country, are more sustainable;

- classification of the differences between Bulgaria and Romania and the CEE countries, related to the processes of political and economic transformations, revealing the differences in the self-identification of the separate classes in the stratification systems of the studied societies;

- the development of the social thinking of the population in the Balkans is traced and analyzed, the emphasis is on the civic and individual consciousness, as well as on the statement that there is no common model in the Balkans explaining the interethnic tolerance. Most of the evidence is for a common model of the countries of the former Yugoslavia, with the exception of the Serbian and Macedonian cases, in which ideological factors prevail;

- the thesis about the differences in social thinking in the villages and the big cities is well defended and the fact that the tolerance in the villages is higher than in the cities is explained;

- the problems related to the development of democratic processes and the level of political support in its varieties are empirically presented. Ideas have been proposed for creating policies to strengthen democratic principles and to overcome the crisis of democracy.

#### **7. Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

The contributions of Chief Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova are of theoretical and applied significance for the development of sociological and political science knowledge in the new conditions of neoliberalism, globalization and multiculturalism, on the one hand, and on the other, of the nation state and nationalism.

**The reviewer agrees in principle with the contributions formulated by the candidate. Her contributions correctly reflect her research work and achievements.**

### **8. Critical remarks and recommendations**

Chief Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova has serious research, pedagogical and publishing activities, as well as participation in a sufficient number of research projects. The candidate's research is mainly focused on studying the democratic changes in Bulgaria and the support for them, which is why I recommend her to continue studying them.

Taking the academic position of "docent" for the needs of the section "Public Policies and Social Changes" of the IPS at BAS will require in the future more active work with young researchers and especially scientific guidance of doctoral students.

### **9. Conclusion**

The candidate for the announced competition, Chief Assistant Dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova fulfills the legal and internal regulatory requirements of BAS for holding the academic position of "Docent". Her works address significant issues in sociology and political science and have been developed at a high scientific level. These scientific and practical contributions deserve high praise.

The above allows me to recommend to the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the election of Chief Assistant Dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova for holding the academic position of "docent" in a professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences, scientific specialty "Sociology" in the section "Public policies and social change" of the IPS at BAS.

12.11.2020 г.  
Sofia

Signature: .....  
(Prof. Dr. Maria Stoyanova)