

ACADEMIC REVIEW

From: Doc./Ass. Prof. Dr. Sasha Vladimirova Todorova

Subject: competition for the academic position associate professor in scientific field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional direction 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences and specialty Sociology for the needs of “Public policies and social transformations” section of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, announced in SG No. 67/28.07.2020 and Protocol No. 22 from 24.09.2020

Candidate: Head Assistant, Dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova, “Public policies and social transformations” section of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at BAS

Legal basis: Ordinance (ПД) 09-463/28.09.2020, issued by the director of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at BAS

1. Information about the candidate

Head Assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova is the only candidate in the competition.

She obtains her high school diploma in Pazardzhik in 1978. Graduate of Sofia University “St. Climent Ohridski”, Department of Sociology, where she obtains a Master’s degree in Sociology in 1987. In 1994 she completes master’s programme in Politics and Political Economy of Post-communist Transition at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

She undergoes a doctoral programme at the Institute for Political Research of the Polish Academy of Science. In 1999 she successfully defends a doctoral thesis on “Structural and axiomatic determinants for political support. Comparative analysis between Poland and Bulgaria.”

Her professional experience is connected to the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at BAS, where she works since 2001.

In the period May 2004 – October 2005 she specializes in the University of Warwick, Great Britain.

She has also specialized in the London School of Economics and Political Science.

She has also received financial support for realization of projects on pertinent problems of the contemporary development by: Institute for Contemporary Research, Bucharest, Romania; Programme for Conflict Prevention, New York, USA; European Union for comparative sociological researches, Koln, Germany; European Union on research of information in social sciences, Library of the London School of Economics and Social Sciences.

2. Eligibility for acquiring the academic position

Attached sheet for quantitative requirements for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the IPS at the BAS shows that the candidate fulfills the mandatory requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statue of the Academic Council for defense of theses and academic positions in Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge – Bulgarian Academy of Science – 27.11.2018.

According to the Sheet for quantitative requirements it is evident that Svetlana Stamenova covers the necessary minimal amount of points for all indicators. Furthermore, in total, for all indicators, she has 785 points where the threshold is 430 points, i.e. almost two times more (1,8 times). In some individual indicators this margin is even bigger. For example in “Citations” it is 3,1 times, and for participation in management of projects she has 95 points, while there is no set requirement for such indicator.

3. General description of scientific, scientifically-applicable and pedagogical activity

Research activity of head assistant dr. Svetlana Stamenova is in the field of political science, political relations, political support, political

transformation, neoliberalism and globalization, intra-ethnic relations and etc.

Gained research experiences both, nationally and abroad, the analysis and published scientific texts are the most comprehensive and true ground for successful pedagogical activity of the candidate in this competition.

Dr. Svetlana Stamenova has been reading course of lectures “Theories and concepts for post-communist systemic transformation” in SU St. Climent Ohridski” (two terms), in SWU “Neofit Rilski”(one term) and in New Bulgarian University (one term).

4. General description of presented scientific work

Head assistant Dr. Svetlana Stamenova participates in the competition with 22 articles, published after the defense of her doctoral thesis. For publications, inscribed in the NACID for educational and scientific degree "doctor" a list is attached.

Publications, presented in the competition, include two individual monographs, one of which is part of collective monograph with individually developed section on line published in English, and 12 articles, of which two in English.

The candidate actively participates in scientific fora, organized in Bulgaria (15 participations with a report) and abroad (2 participations with a report). She is well-known in the academic community with her public lectures in universities in the USA, Great Britain, Greece and Russia.

Dr. Svetlana Stamenova has participated in 5 projects, including as leader of one – “Civil Education”.

5. Main directions of research activity

Review of the publications of Dr. Svetlana Stamenova shows that she has directed her research to several tracks: political and ethnic influences on the national consciousness of the Bulgarian ethnic minority in the context of fundamental social transformations, that undergo in the world and change role

and function of the social state; formation of ethnic identity and tolerance to ethnic minorities in the Balkans; political culture and models of social thinking; social transformation and transformation in values; trust in democratic principles and social transformation; attitude towards education and earth.

6. Scientific and scientific-applied contribution results

- Refinement of conceptual apparatus related to clarification of different types of identities (ethnic, political, national, civil-political and ethno-cultural). Based on this theoretical analysis, formation of national consciousness and tolerance towards main ethnic groups in Bulgaria is explained.
- Factors, having key influence on social tolerance to different ethnic groups in Bulgaria, are defined and classified. The defining role of political tolerance is justified. This explains the more sustainable characteristics of ideological influence among the Bulgarian ethnic majority towards other ethnic groups in the country.
- Prove for socio-cultural and economic influence on political factors in the national consciousness. On this basis is established similar dependency between political support and its differentiated manifestation in social groups, incl. the ruling group.
- Justified, defined and classified differences between Bulgaria and Romania, and countries from Central Europe, connected to processes of transformation, marked with recession and de-industrialization for the former and their overcoming for the latter, in their way to successful acceding to the global division of labor.
- Knowledge for the development of social thinking in the Balkan population, based on civil and individual consciousness, is enriched. As well as the statement that on the Balkans there is no common model that explains intra-ethnic tolerance. There are more proves for

common model in the countries from former Yugoslavia, excluding the Serbian and the Macedonian cases where ideological factors have more weight.

- Successfully defended argument for differences in social thinking in the villages and big cities. Acceptable explanation why it is not confirmed the modernization hypothesis related to tolerance between ethnic groups, different from the Bulgarian in villages, where pre-modern and patriarchic logic of their peaceful co-existence, for centuries, is followed.
- Identified problems related to established relations between development of democratic processes and level of political support in its varieties. These ideas have application in forming and applying policies for strengthening of democratic principles in order to overcome the crisis of democracy.

7. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contribution results

Contributions of Dr. Svetlana Stamenova, in the described directions, have their theoretical and practical significance in the new radically changed conditions of life which are determined by the action and the superiority of financial capital and more and more accepted new evaluation for the role and the significance of neoliberalism, globalization, national state, nationalism and multiculturalism. All conclusions and recommendations have their practical significance for overcoming the negative consequences of these phenomena in the political, economic and social sphere of society,

Dr. Svetlana Stamenova is well-known researcher in the academic community at home and abroad. Proves for this are indicated more than 20 citations, 5 of which in Scopus.

8. Critics and recommendations

New moments in the World and European practice of formation of ethnic and national identity, determined by new attitude to neoliberalism, globalization, nationalism and multiculturalism, impose that scientific researches, in these fields, should continue. It is advisable that in the process young researchers (PhD students) are included.

One course on these problems will be well-accepted in departments of sociology and political science.

Refinement in the policies for democratic development of the society, based on priorities defined by the values of the Beta-coefficient.

My critic is related to the neglect of the Bulgarian researchers in the field.

9. Personal impression

I know the candidate since her admission in the former Institute of sociology. She is identified with enormous urge for research work, competence and responsibility in the course of its realization. Her rich theoretical training allows her to form precise researching hypotheses and to realize the results in a concrete manner.

10. Conclusion

Positive evaluations in this review give me foundation to conclude that the candidate in this competition owns all qualities needed for the position of “docent/associated professor” in sociology.

I propose to the respected members of the Scientific jury to vote unanimously and to recommend to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at BAS to award to dr. Svetlana Doycheva Stamenova the academic position “docent/associated professor”.

October 2020

Sofia

Reviewer:

(doc. Dr. Sasha Todorova)