

REVIEW

by **Prof. DSc Emilia Evgenieva Chengelova**
on the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position "Professor" in the specialty "Sociology", Professional Field

3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences

(Public Opinion Studies on the Contemporary Identity of Bulgarian Citizens and
Refugees)

announced for the needs of the Centre for Empirical Social Surveys,
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS

1. Information about the competition

The competition is announced for the needs of the Center for Empirical Social Surveys at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS. It was published in the State Gazette, issue 105/13.12.2024.

I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury on the basis of the Order of the Director of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS, № RD-09-42.1/5.02.2025.

2. Information about the Applicants

For the competition for the academic position "Professor" in the specialty "Sociology" were submitted documents by **Assoc. Prof. DSc Albena Nakova, who is the only candidate in this procedure.** Albena Nakova graduated in 1987 from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Sociology (Sociology of Management and Politics). Her scientific career began in 2002 with the defense of the dissertation on "The Socialization of the Intelligence", which resulted in the award of her PhD. In 2012, she was habilitated with the scientific work "Communication between Bulgarians, Turks and Roma", ISBN 978-954-383-036-7 (287 pages) and was appointed to the academic position of Associate Professor.

The candidate has broad research interests, with sustained scientific interests in five subject areas: 1) ethnosociology and ethnopsychology, 2) demographic policy, migration and refugees, 3) informal/grey economy, 4) education and 5) human resource management.

When commenting on the research, communication and organizational qualities of Assoc. Prof. Nakova, it should be pointed out that over the years she has successfully combined research and administrative work, as evidenced by the **prestigious administrative positions** she has held. She has held the position of Scientific Secretary of IPS-BAS in the period 2015-

2018, Deputy Director of IPS-BAS in the period 2018-2022 and Deputy Director of IPS-BAS in the next mandate from November 2022 to date.

She is extremely active in the field of expertise. She is a member of working groups and committees at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Association of Industrial Capital in Bulgaria. In this role, he has made a significant contribution to promoting the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology as a leading academic institution with national recognition.

A distinctive feature of her consultancy and expert activity is her **extremely active participation in scientific juries in competitions for academic promotion in scientific organizations and universities in the country.** It is highly impressive that for the period 2014 - 2024. Albena Nakova has written reviews or opinions for 28 competitions, in their different varieties - for the acquisition of PhD, Doctor of Sciences or for the academic positions of Associate Professor and Professor. We emphasize this part of the candidate's research and consulting activities because it reveals an extremely active and significant contribution to the evaluation of new academic staff. Reviewing dissertations is a challenging and responsible activity, requiring both self-dedication and skills for objective assessment, as well as assuming a broad general scientific and research culture, enabling professional assessment of the theoretical and practical contributions of the evaluated works. In this sense, Albena Nakova's participation in numerous scientific juries is in itself an indication of her serious qualities as a scholar, researcher and evaluator, as well as the high authority she has in the scientific community.

The candidate is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Sociological Association and the Balkan Society for Pedagogy and Education (BASOPED). I consider her membership in three scientific organizations not only as a desire for scientific socialization, but also as an objectification of her aspiration to actively contribute to the development of Bulgarian sociology and its institutions.

Another convincing evidence for the high authority, as well as for the scientific research and analytical qualities of Associate Professor Nakova is her **membership in the editorial board of three prestigious journals** - Scientific result. Sociology and Management. <https://rrsociology.ru/editorial-board/>, Postmodernism Problems Journal. <https://pmpjournal.org/index.php/pmp/about/editorialTeam>, and International Science Reviews. Social Sciences series. <https://www.aiu.edu.kz/ru/science/journals/1>. Her work in the editorial boards of the three journals is another very specific field of expression in which the candidate managed to present herself excellently and convincingly, thus not only proving herself as a scientist, but also contributing to the promotion of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS as an academic institution of high prestige.

3. Fulfilment of the requirements for the academic position

Assoc. Prof. Albena Nakova has provided for the participation in the present competition three tables of correspondence with the minimum national requirements, filled in respectively for the academic position "Associate Professor", for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" and for the academic position "Professor". The data recorded in the three tables on the main science metrics (publications, citations and other activities) are unique, with no duplicate data in the different tables.

A review of the table of minimum national requirements for the academic position of professor shows that the candidate in the competition significantly exceeds the minimum points required. With a minimum requirement of 590 points (total for indicators A, C, D, E and F), the applicant's table for 'professor' describes activities for a total of 1235 points, of which 590 points are for indicator F only. On this basis, my general conclusion is that **Assoc. Prof. Albena Nakova is an extremely productive scientist and a socially engaged researcher, whose activity, measured by the scientific metrics, fully meets and repeatedly exceeds the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS.**

I take occasion from the candidate's scientific metrics tables to highlight her **extremely high project activity**. Since 2013, Assoc. Prof. Nakova has been involved in more than 30 large-scale national and European research projects in which she has acted as a leader or member of the research team. Including five projects funded by the National Research Fund, which in itself is an indication of the high scientific value of the research activities carried out. To my knowledge, these projects have received very high evaluation both for the way in which the research activities have been implemented and for the adequate verification of the results achieved through participation in prestigious national and international conferences and through scientific publications in indexed and highly ranked scientific journals.

A significant aspect of the candidate's applied work is her **participation in international and national scientific forums**. The reference shows that for the period 2013-2024 Assoc. Prof. Albena Nakova has participated in the work of 60 conferences, and only in 2023/2024 she has presented scientific papers at international conferences in Beijing, London, Nice, Porto, Bucharest, Baku, Moscow. The wide range of themes of the papers presented is more than impressive: empirical data have been presented and research theses have been defended on such topics as quality of life, digital transformations, digital resources for learning, and a significant number of the papers have been devoted to different aspects of the study of

national identity in its various facets, including the construction of a supranational (European) identity, issues of family relations in the context of national identity, the dynamics of values in contemporary Bulgarian society and many others. I emphasize this aspect of Assoc. Prof. Nakova scientific work, because it is a vivid testimony of her desire to verify the results of her research. Reporting at prestigious scientific forums is the most direct way for a scientist to give visibility to the results of her own research, as well as to receive feedback from the scientific community as to how significant these searches are.

I will also mention another important element of the candidate's scientific and applied activity. This is **her supervision of PhD students and postdocs**. And in this respect Assoc. Prof. Nakova is one of the most active colleagues in the IPS. For the last five years she has supervised six PhD students and two postdocs, which in itself is a convincing testimony to her enormous contribution to the process of training and building new generations of sociologists.

4. General description of the materials submitted in the competition

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Albena Nakova participates in the current competition with a **total of 17 publications**, of which only one publication (article) is co-authored. This fact deserves special mention because it shows that the **applicant's scientific output is predominantly the result of her individual efforts as a scientist and researcher**. If I emphasize this fact, it is because the candidate for the academic position of "professor" is expected to have highly developed and empirically verified (mostly through scientific publications) qualities and skills for the successful implementation of independent scientific research and their defense before the scientific community. This implies the skills to identify socially and scientifically significant topics, to develop them in a meaningful and adequate conceptual way, to conduct relevant sociological research and to interpret the results of this research in an objective, reasoned and consistent with academic standards manner, as well as to present the results in an appropriate academic format. In this particular case, I can boldly state that **the candidate possesses the entire palette of skills and qualities listed as mandatory for a professor in the field of Sociology**.

The publications for review in this competition are submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS and include:

- A **monograph** published in 2024 on "*Public Opinion on Refugees in Bulgaria (2013-2020)*", "Prof. Marin Drinov" Academic publishing house, Sofia, ISBN 978-619-245-505-7, fully corresponding to the issues of the announced for the purposes of the Centre

for Empirical Social Research competition for the academic position of "professor" and proving in a brilliant way the research and analytical qualities of the candidate;

- A **monograph**, also published in 2024, on "*Hybrid Identities. Current State and Ethnic Patterns in Bulgaria*", "Prof. Marin Drinov" Academic publishing house, Sofia, ISBN 978-619-245-444-9. The monograph reflects the theoretical searches and basic findings of the candidate's long-term research on national identity in its main dimensions and manifestations in Bulgarian society;
- **Fifteen scientific articles**, of which six are in English. All articles are devoted to the issues of national identity, models of ethnic communication in Bulgaria, ethnic stereotypes and inter-ethnic solidarity, national identity and the attitude to the "other", ethnic memory and tolerance, refugees - way of thinking, attitudes and integration in Bulgarian society, as well as the poles of public opinion about refugees.

My overall conclusion is that the **presented by Assoc. Prof. Nakova's 17 publications are more than sufficient for her participation in the competition for the academic position of Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - BAS.**

I would like to open a parenthesis and point out that the publications submitted for the competition are a small part of the results of the candidate's scientific activity objectified in the form of scientific texts. It is clear from her CV that **for the period from 2002 to the present Assoc. Prof. Nakova has a total of 131 publications, including 18 monographs.** Although most of the monographs are co-authored, the contributions of Assoc. Prof. Nakova are impressive both in terms of scientific issues and in terms of argumentation and objectivity in the presentation of the results. Last but not least, the significant volume of her texts in the published monographs is impressive - in most of them they exceed the standard expectations and fall into the category of monographs that can be described as impressive in terms of volume, broadness of the studied issues and depth of analysis. In these texts, on the one hand, the candidate reveals and demonstrates in a categorical way her highly developed skills for developing academic tests on socially relevant topics, and on the other hand, she shows her skills for working in teams, for sharing common scientific values and for creating or upgrading conceptual outlooks.

5. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific research activity

The 17 publications submitted for this competition are the basis for distinguishing **two subject areas in which the applicant is conducting research activities and developing as a research scientist.**

The first clearly visible subject area in the scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Nakova is her research on public opinion about refugees in Bulgaria. Six of the publications submitted for review are devoted to the in-depth exploration of the multi-layered nature, essence and main structural and substantive characteristics of public opinion on refugees. Subject to review in this respect are five scientific articles published in the period 2020-2022 and an individual monograph published in 2024. Considered as a coherent scientific whole, the six publications form an impressively strong and successfully realized research presence, expressed in:

- ✓ Strong and very accurate sense of identifying socially relevant scientific topics and their adequate "translation" into scientific language;
- ✓ Skillful and precise definition of research problems;
- ✓ Convincing academic qualities to situate the identified research problems in the context of sociological theories, which is a result of the candidate's broad general sociological knowledge and her ability to relate the identified research problems to previous research on the topic;
- ✓ Clear theoretical author's positions and the ability to build on theoretical concepts as well as to develop own concepts on the researched issues;
- ✓ Skills to identify cognitive deficits and "white spaces" in refugee studies, as well as the ability/research capacity to propose adequate theoretical theses to enable empirical investigation of neglected scientific areas;
- ✓ Adequate and correct application of sociological methods, skills in selecting relevant methodological approaches and in constructing appropriate sociological tools (questionnaires, inquiries, etc.);
- ✓ In-depth knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods for gathering empirical information. This quality is typical of few researchers and since Assoc. Prof. Nakova possesses it, this allows her to use the cognitive potential of various sociological tools to extract the maximum in volume and content of empirical information about the objects and processes under study;
- ✓ Highly developed analytical skills for objective analysis of the accumulated empirical information, for deriving general patterns, for a rigorous description of the characteristics of the phenomena under study, for decomposing the complex and contradictory manifestations of the observed processes and for their reverse summarization in the form of generalizing conclusions and theoretical constructs.

In terms of research on public opinion on refugees in Bulgaria, **the most powerful and convincing monograph in academic terms is undoubtedly the “*Public Opinion on Refugees in Bulgaria (2013-2020)*”**. If I must characterize this monograph in a few words, **it is a brilliant creative apogee in the academic research of Assoc. Prof. Nakova's academic research in the field of specific social attitudes and dispositions towards refugees**. Multilayered and creatively developed, the monograph traces the complex dynamics and fluctuations of public opinion on refugees in Bulgaria. I find the author's decision to distinguish three periods in public opinion on refugees to be very successful and optimal from a methodological point of view: 1) the "first encounters" with refugees in 2013, 2) the attitudes, dispositions and behavioural patterns immediately after the peak of the refugee wave in 2018, and 3) public opinion in the period after the receding refugee wave in 2020. These three periods are an objective fact that actually characterizes public opinion about refugees in Bulgaria and Assoc. Prof. Nakova has very correctly oriented herself towards their differentiation as relatively independent periods in the fabric of public opinion on this issue. In my assessment, the specific differences of public opinion towards refugees in the three periods are clearly structured, comprehensively presented, and supported by convincing empirical arguments. This was achieved thanks to the fact that Assoc. Prof. Nakova has independently or in a team carried out many empirical surveys on the topic. In addition to having a common methodological basis, the studies conducted work with similar methodological approaches and mutually upgrading sociological tools. Assoc. Prof. Nakova has her own theoretical views on these issues and convincingly applies them in practice, embodying them in the form of working sociological tools. In her further research, she develops her own views, enriching them with the latest concepts on the subject as well as with observations from her own research.

And this is precisely her power as a researcher of public opinion on refugees - she has initially managed to see the problem in all its complexity, to decompose it through relevant empirical indicators, on the basis of which she constructs adequate questionnaires and inquiries, in line with the highest academic standards. Assoc. Prof. Nakova has the rare quality of learning not only from the experience of others, but also from herself - she is rigorous in the application of sociological methods and extremely careful in the analysis of the empirical information generated. She has a highly developed sense for empirical data - she penetrates behind the "veil of percentages" and among the seemingly confusing and contradicting opinions of the respondents, manages to derive the common, the regular, the repetitive. She can therefore be considered a **highly successful researcher of public opinion towards refugees**.

The structure of the presented monograph on public opinion about refugees in Bulgaria is logical and very well developed, with each subsequent chapter building on, complementing and enriching the previous chapters. I highly appreciate the inclusion of a chapter dedicated to the methodological approaches and the main parameters of the research on which the monograph is based. Also, a striking feature is the concluding chapter, which systematises the main findings of the three periods studied, clearly outlining the dynamics and complex "curves" in public attitudes towards refugees. The in-depth analyses of the attitudes and dispositions of the three main ethnic groups in the Bulgarian nation are a very good research hit. In this regard, the differences in the attitudes of Roma-Christians and Roma-Muslims have been identified, clearly revealing the specific thinking of these two relatively independent ethno-religious groups.

The second clearly distinct subject area in the research of Assoc. Prof. Nakova is the theoretical and empirical research of the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens. The conceptual searches and the results of the study of this specific issue are presented in eleven of the publications of Assoc. Prof. Nakova has submitted to this competition.

Ten of the publications on this topic are scientific articles. In them we find a thorough and solid argumentation of the author's research on different aspects of the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens. In these articles, the author focuses on developing and arguing her key conceptual theses. She develops and proves her views on the content of the concept of "modern identity" and reveals its unique content in relation to the three main ethnic groups that make up the Bulgarian nation. All statements and findings are based on rich empirical data from the sociological surveys, whose author or main team member is Assoc. Prof. Nakova.

I will pay special attention to the monograph *"Hybrid Identities. Contemporary State and Ethnic Patterns in Bulgaria"*, *"Prof. Marin Drinov" Academic publishing house, Sofia, ISBN 978-619-245-444-9*. The monograph was published in 2024, but in its content, it is a systematic, thorough and comprehensive presentation of the conceptual views and empirical studies of Assoc. Prof. Nakova on the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens. I explicitly emphasize the fact that this is not a sporadic research interest, but a long-standing, extremely in-depth research, started in 2008, developed skillfully and with high research imagination. **The monograph deserves an excellent evaluation and occupies a worthy place in the treasury of Bulgarian sociology**, at least for the following reasons:

- ✓ **The monograph is based on seven empirical sociological studies conducted in the period 2008-2021.** The studies are either entirely developed by the author or are the work of teams in which she played a leading methodological role. Considered precisely

in methodological terms, all seven surveys meet even the most rigorous academic standards - relevant methodological approaches have been used, original theoretical models have been developed, comprehensive systems of empirical indicators have been constructed, relevant research hypotheses have been formulated, appropriate sociological instruments (questionnaires and inquiries) have been designed. In order to ensure the representativeness of the empirical information collected, adequate sampling designs and sample sizes were applied in the selection of respondents. Thus, in the end, a rich volume and structure of information has been gathered, which has been processed scrupulously and with due care. As a result, the author has generated impressive databases, which have served as empirical basis for conducting multidimensional analyses of the identity of contemporary Bulgarian citizens;

- ✓ The monograph is **the first significant theoretical study in Bulgarian sociology**, in which the contemporary identity of the Bulgarian citizens is revealed in an argumentative way, proving that **the identity of the contemporary Bulgarian society is not only characterized by a complex structure, but also by a hybrid character**. The thesis of the hybridity of contemporary identity is the leading point of the monographic work. Practically all the chapters and all the main theses are subordinated to the idea of interpreting the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens as a "*hybrid construct with a relative structure*", made of four elements - national, supranational, ethnic and local identity. An innovative moment in the monograph is the proof through a series of empirical arguments that the outlined four elements of identity "*occupy a different place and are represented by different shares in the overall structure of identity*";
- ✓ The monograph is a **kind of peak in the development of Assoc. Prof. Nakova's research interests on the topic of identity**. Following the content of the different chapters, we can clearly capture not only the purposeful upgrading of the applied sociological tools but also outline several main stages in the development of Assoc. Prof. Nakova's conceptual views. For example, while in 2008 she spoke about communication between Bulgarians, Turks and Roma and descriptive analyses were predominant, in the following years she emphasizes on the analytical disclosure of the procedural aspects of identity and its formation. The conceptual upgrade continues in 2021 as well. The author brings out and convincingly proves the concept of the hybrid character of the modern identity of the Bulgarian citizens. The analysis does not stop there - the author brilliantly copes with the goal she set for herself, namely to reveal

the specifics of the identity of the three main ethnic groups in Bulgarian society by constructing their unique ethnic reliefs. This task is very difficult and requires a series of representative studies that would make it possible to conduct an in-depth analysis and outline the regularities and emerging patterns. Assoc. Prof. Nakova has made enormous efforts and has managed to cope with both making sense of the multitude of empirical data and unraveling a series of seemingly contradictory empirical situations. This has given her the opportunity to brilliantly prove her thesis about the hybrid nature of the contemporary identity of the three main ethnic groups in the Bulgarian society, while at the same time enriching sociological knowledge with unique ethnic reliefs;

- ✓ **Reading the monographic work on the hybrid nature of the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens is an intellectual pleasure.** The author's great concern for detail is evident. The theses are precisely formulated, the empirical data are commented on adequately and correctly, the style is academic and at the same time lively and attention-grabbing. The author's ability to see and correctly formulate the general and the regular is very impressive. The conclusions and findings made are correct and adequately reflect the essence of the empirical data discussed.

6. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific contributions

During the analysis of the publications submitted for review I had the opportunity to point out some of the main contributions of the candidate. However, I would like to definitively outline those important scientific and scientifically applied contributions through which Assoc. Prof. Nakova has positioned herself in Bulgarian sociology as a productive, successful and original researcher of the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens and of public opinion on refugees.

First, let me point out that I fully accept the candidate's self-assessment of the contributions of her research in the two distinct subject areas.

In my opinion, significant scientific contributions can be noted in both subject areas in which the candidate works - research on public opinion about refugees and research on the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens.

The first outstanding scientific contribution is in **making sense of the concepts of public opinion and constructing the author's theoretical model of public opinion about refugees as a social phenomenon, which consist of four elements - cognitive, emotional, evaluative and behavioral.** A contribution is the author's assumption that these four components receive objectification in three social-psychological constructs: 1) perceptions of

refugees/image of the refugee, 2) attitudes towards refugees, and 3) stated distances towards refugees. This assumption has been convincingly demonstrated in the analysis of Bulgarian citizens' attitudes and dispositions towards refugees.

Another contribution of public opinion studies on refugees is the **successful differentiation of a core of constant characteristics and a periphery of unstable characteristics**. Based on empirical data, the author has explicitly proved that regardless of the nature of the refugee waves and their effects on the attitudes and dispositions of Bulgarian citizens towards refugees, constant mental constructs and attitudes can always be clearly identified in the attitude towards refugees. They are so strong and so incorporated into people's minds that they remain unchanged in all circumstances. However, certain attitudes on the periphery change and it is these that shape the specific characteristics of public opinion towards refugees in particular time periods.

The contribution is the proof of the role of direct contact and close communication with refugees in shaping public opinion towards them. Previous research on the topic has either underestimated this factor or not considered it at all. Assoc. Prof. Nakova studies the role of different factors on the formation of public opinion about refugees and concludes that direct communication plays the most significant role in determining the final character of attitudes (positive, neutral or negative). In connection with the above, another related contribution is the **outlining of the tendency for a change in the attitudes of Bulgarians from neutral to positive and the shortening of distances as a result of getting to know the refugees.**

I would especially like to highlight as a contribution the author's convincing proof that **the element of xenophobia is not present in the public opinion of Bulgarian citizens towards refugees.** Even in the case of clearly expressed negative attitudes, they are devoid of the typical xenophobic content, and if they are present, they are determined primarily by the assessment of a lack of important social skills.

Undeniable scientific contribution of Assoc. Prof. Nakova is **the understanding and the explicit formulation of the transformations in the identity of contemporary Bulgarian citizens for the period 2008-2021.** The significance lies in the fact that the findings are not the result of cabinet mental insights or skillful theoretical speculations, but are based on vast empirical material gathered through representative sociological surveys conducted in strict compliance with academic standards. The empirical basis for the findings is reliable and representative, which is a basic requirement for the work of any sociologist. This is why the conclusions about the transformations in the identity of Bulgarian citizens are of particular value from a sociological point of view.

I note as a very serious contribution the skillful construction of the ethnic reliefs of the identity of the Bulgarian citizens. The candidate has managed to describe in a convincing way the identities specific to the three main ethnic groups - Bulgarians, Turks and Roma. For each ethnic group, the meaningful characteristics of the four components of collective identity are revealed, their relative weights are described, and their main manifestations are analyzed. In the construction of the ethnic reliefs, the comparative analysis has been very skillfully applied and this gives a very high cognitive value to the reliefs themselves and to the findings on the basis of them about the trends in the development of the contemporary identity of the Bulgarian citizens.

In terms of **scientific applied aspects**, Assoc. Prof. Nakova contributes mainly through the developed methodologies for the study of public opinion towards refugees, as well as for the study of the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens. The most valuable aspect of the developed research methodologies is their universal character - although developed specifically for studies of Bulgarian citizens, they could be successfully applied to studies of any other contemporary society. The sociological tools developed for this purpose are valuable in themselves. Their methodological value lies first of all in the fact that they are a reflection of the author's conceptual understanding of dynamically evolving national identities, their hybrid and relative character, as well as their complex and dynamic structure. I recommend that the sociological toolkit for the study of public opinion on refugees and for the identification of contemporary identity dynamics be published as a separate methodological tool (handbook) that can be used by other researchers working in these two specific subject areas.

7. Критични бележки и препоръки

I have no critical remarks to make about the candidate.

My general recommendation to Assoc. Prof. Nakova is to continue her research on public opinion on the contemporary identity of Bulgarian citizens and refugees. These are extremely complex subject areas to study, affecting basic attitudes and public sentiments insofar as they are part of the thought and evaluation patterns that shape collective identity.

Practically every day brings us new evidence of the need for in-depth knowledge of public opinion on refugees, as well as the processes of collective identity formation, especially when identity is a heterogeneous and complexly constructed social product. These themes are both topical and painful, as some contemporary societies implementing, for example, broad reception policies for refugees and migrants are already facing serious challenges. This is an occasion for rethinking the current policies and will probably become a starting point for

changes in important legislative texts. Although Bulgarian society has a model of high ethnic tolerance and relatively balanced attitudes towards refugees and migrants, these issues need to be monitored and studied professionally, using sociological methods. And this is where I see the role of Assoc. Prof. Nakova, who being elected to the academic position of "professor" will get even greater opportunities for methodological development and conducting this type of research. Knowing her qualities as a scientist and researcher, I believe that new research, valuable in scientific terms and useful in terms of governance practice, awaits us.

8. Conclusion

I know Assoc. Prof. Nakova for more than 20 years. My impressions of her as a colleague and as a scientist are excellent. She is extremely hardworking, thorough, able to focus and achieve her research goals. Over the years Assoc. Prof. Nakova has developed as an extremely productive scientist, successfully working in significant scientific fields, realizing numerous scientific studies that have found verification in an impressively high number of scientific forums. Assoc. Prof. Nakova not only works on the systematic development of her own scientific and research qualities, but also through the training of doctoral and postdoctoral students contributes to a high degree to the development of new specialists in the field of sociology. She has successfully applied her expertise by actively participating in the work of expert bodies and working groups through the development of opinions and expertise. Her extensive involvement in research projects allows her to develop her research potential in its full depth, thus not only being involved in the study of socially significant problems, but also contributing significantly to the development of Bulgarian sociology and, in particular, to the establishment of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of BAS.

On the basis of all this, I confidently propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to recommend to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to elect Assoc. Prof. DSc. Albena Nakova to the academic position of "Professor" in the specialty "Sociology", professional field 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences (Public Opinion Studies on the Contemporary Identity of Bulgarian Citizens and Refugees) and I myself will vote "FOR".

04.03.2025

Sofia

Prof. Dsc. Emilia Chengelova