

# OPINION

by **Dr. Stoycho Petrov Stoychev**  
**Associate Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski “**

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for the academic position of “**Associate Professor**”  
at the **University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski**

Area of higher education: **3. Social, Economic and Law Sciences**

Professional field: **3.3. Political Science (Elections and Electoral Systems)**

In the competition for “Associate professor”, announced in the State Gazette, issue 40 of 14.05.2021 and on the website of University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski for the needs of the Department of Political Science and National Security at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, as a candidate participates Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Daniela Dobрева Pastarmadzheva of the Department of Political Science and National Security at the FESS at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski.

## **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate**

By order № P33-3167 of 13.07.2021 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski (UP) I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position “Associate professor” at the University of Plovdiv in the area of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Law Sciences, professional field 3.3 Political Science (Elections and Electoral Systems), announced for the needs of the Department of Political Science and National Security at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences (FESS).

For participation in the announced competition only one candidate submitted documents, namely Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Daniela Dobрева Pastarmadzheva from the Department of Political Science and National Security at the FESS at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski.

The set of print materials presented by Dr. Daniela Pastarmadzheva is in accordance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of the University of Plovdiv (RDASUP), and consists of the following documents:

- application form to the Rector for admission to participate in the competition;
- CV in European format;
- diploma for acquired Master degree - notarized copy;
- diploma for educational and scientific degree “Doctor” - notarized copy;
- list of scientific works;
- reference for compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
- annotations of the materials under Art. 65. of RDASUP, including self-assessment of the contributions;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- certificate of work experience;
- documents for educational work;

- documents for research work;
- documents according to the additional requirements of the FESS;
- other documents

Daniela Pastarmadzhieva holds a Master's degree in Law (2002-2007) and a Doctor of Political Science (2010-2013), both degrees obtained from the University of National and World Economy, Sofia. She has over 10 years of research experience and over 8 years as a lecturer. In the period 2013-2016 she taught at the University of National and World Economy, where she conducted seminars on the disciplines “Political Culture” and “Political Science”. Since March 2016 she has been a Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science and National Security at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski, Bulgaria. There she has developed academic courses, in which she conducts lectures and seminars, one of which is in the scientific specialty of the competition – “Elections and Electoral Systems”.

## **2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity**

For participation in the competition the candidate Daniela Pastarmadzhieva submitted a total of 41 scientific papers, incl. 3 studies, 1 monograph, 1 textbook and 36 articles and papers. 29 scientific papers are accepted for review, which are outside the dissertation, are not presented in the competition for the academic position “chief assistant professor”, have contributed to the professional field 3.3 Political Science and are taken into consideration in the final evaluation. They include one monograph (habilitation thesis), one textbook, three studies, ten articles and fourteen scientific papers. The scientific works on the dissertation, those submitted in the competition for the academic position “chief assistant professor”, as well as the scientific works with contribution in professional fields 3.7 Administration and Management and 3.8 Economics are not subject of review. The distribution of scientific papers by relevant sections, in the country and abroad, is as follows: 23 in the country and 6 abroad.

In her work as a lecturer and researcher, the candidate gradually focuses on elections and electoral systems as her professional field. The results of Pastarmadzhieva’s research are quickly realized as publications and are implemented in the courses she conducts. Her academic work is consistent, systematic and well-timed, currently demonstrating full academic maturity for habilitation. The presented monograph and the overall work of D. Pastarmadzhieva show the possession of the analytical, research and pedagogical abilities necessary for a Bulgarian associate professor of political science, whose findings and discoveries will progressively gain international popularity and citations.

## **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

In purely practical terms, I recommend the candidate to be more actively involved in research networks at European and global level, which will bring participation in international research projects and, accordingly, more publications in renowned specialized journals. A step in this direction is more active participation in the variety of scientific forums organized by ECPR and IPSA.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Ch. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Dobreva Pastarmadzhieva meet all the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for its implementation, and the respective Rules of the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient/significant number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of Doctoral Thesis and her participation in the competition for the academic position “Chief Assistant Professor” at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski. In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied

contributions, which have received international recognition and some of them are published in journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. I have not found plagiarism in any of them. The scientific and teaching qualification of Dr. Pastarmazhieva is undoubted, as her active work with the students makes an impression.

The results achieved by Daniela Pastarmadzhieva in the teaching and research activities fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and contained in them scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences to elect Dr. Daniela Dobрева Pastarmadzhieva to the academic position “Associate Professor” at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski in the professional field 3.3. Political Science (Elections and Electoral Systems).

09.09.2021

.....  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoycho Stoycho