

OPINION

by Dr. Mihail Mihaylov Konstantinov

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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 Pastarmadzhieva.

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 I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury in the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” at the UP 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.

The only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Daniela Dobрева Pastarmadzhieva. The set of submitted documents consists of an application form, CV, diplomas for Master degree and degree “Doctor”, list of scientific works, list of citations, reference for compliance with the minimum requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, annotations of the materials, copies of the scientific works, declaration of originality and authenticity, certificate of work experience, documents for educational work, other documents. The presented materials meet the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Specific Requirements of the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski. The procedure completely corresponds to the normative requirements.

Dr. Daniela Dobрева Pastarmadzhieva obtained Master’s degree in Law from the Faculty of Law at the University of National and World Economy. In 2013 at the same University she defended a dissertation for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor“ entitled “Political Subcultures in Bulgaria in the Process of Transition to Democracy”. She worked as an assistant professor at the University of National and World Economy. Currently she is a Chief Assistant Professor at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski. She has conducted seminars and lectured in the disciplines “Political Culture”, “Political Science”, “Elections and Electoral Systems” and others.

The candidate has profiles in the scientific databases Scopus, Web of Science, ORCID and ResearchGate. She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Association for Political Science and the International Association for Political Science.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

Relevance of scientific works. The field in which the research interests and works of the candidate are, and in particular “Elections and electoral systems”, is very relevant. The political structure and development of democracies to high extent depend on the type of electoral system and the way elections are conducted. This is especially important for young democracies such as our country. It is necessary to attract young Bulgarian scientists and specialists in this field, especially in

the emerging deficit of electoral culture and good electoral practices in recent years. With such active lecturers, the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski, and in particular its Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, will be able to attract new students and doctoral students in an area important for the political life of our country.

Description of scientific works. The candidate has an impressive publishing activity. For the competition she presented a monograph, a textbook and three studies. Sixteen scientific articles and 20 conference papers were also presented. Together with the four works on her dissertation, this makes an impressive scientific activity, which largely meets the requirements for the next academic position. The scientific papers and teaching materials are written clearly and convincingly and contain scientific and applied contributions in the field of political science and in particular in the theory and applications of electoral systems. A detailed reference for compliance with the national requirements according to the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (art. 2b) and the Regulations for its implementation (art. 1a, par. 1) is presented.

Citation data. The works of the candidate are very well known and accepted by our and foreign scientific colleges. Data for a total of 17 citations of the candidate's works in the works of Bulgarian and foreign scientists are presented. This speaks to an impressive and convincing research work.

Other activities. The candidate has participated in the development of a number of successful national and international research projects.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks. The candidate must continue her convincing research and teaching activities, starting to work not only with students but also with doctoral students. Some of the results, especially in the field of electoral systems and the analysis of the impact of elections on public and political relations, should be summarized in at least one more monograph to be published in English in a prestigious publishing house. I would recommend the candidate to collect and maintain data on the h-index of citations of her works. It is also useful to ensure participation in the Google Scholar database.

CONCLUSION

I believe that the candidate Dr. Daniela Dobрева Pastarmadzhieva fully meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for its Implementation, as well as the Specific Requirements of the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski for the academic position "Associate Professor". I have not found any plagiarism in the materials presented for this competition.

Therefore, I strongly recommend to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski to elect Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Daniela Dobрева Pastarmadzhieva for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the area of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Law Sciences, Professional Field 3.3. Political science (Elections and Electoral systems).

13 August 2021

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Prof. Dr. Mihail Konstantinov