

STANDPOINT

by

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of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to occupy the academic position "**professor**"

of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

by: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

professional direction 3.4. Social Activities (Social Protection and Social Work)

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 92 of 18.11.2022 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of "Social Activities" at the Faculty of Pedagogy, as the only candidate participating is Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Pavlova Vekova from the Faculty of Pedagogy of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski University.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. PD-21-67 dated 18.01.23 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "**professor**" at PU by field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.4. Social activities (Social protection and social work), **announced for the needs** of the Department of Social Activities at the Faculty of Education.

To participate in the announced competition, the only candidate has submitted all the required documents, according to the requirements of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The set of paper and electronic materials presented by Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. are in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU, and include the following documents:

- Autobiography;
- Higher education diploma;
- Diploma for ONS Doctor;

- Certificate of academic position "Docent";
- List of scientific works;
- Scientific works - copies of the publications;
- Certificate of compliance with the national minimum requirements;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity;
- Annotation of the materials;
- Self-assessment of contributions;
- List of citations with a copy of the cited materials;
- Documents for academic work;
- Documents for research work;
- Documents for compliance with the additional requirements of the Faculty of Education.

The candidate Associate Prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. submitted a total of 33 scientific works - 1 monograph, 25 articles in Bulgarian, 5 articles in a foreign language, 2 textbooks for participation in the competition for "professor". All mentioned scientific works are accepted for the opinion. No documents (in the form of official notes) for participation and implemented developments have been submitted.

Brief biographical details of the applicant.

Assoc. Prof. Ludmila Vekova Ph.D. was born in 1961. She graduated in economics. Since 2011, she has been an associate professor at Plovdiv University. From 2011 to the present, she has been working in the "Social Activities" Department of the Pedagogical Faculty of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". Before that, she worked in the field of pension insurance of the Republic of Bulgaria in various positions and in various of its institutions. This has its significance for the development of basic perspectives and guidelines in her teaching activity.

Personal impressions

Unfortunately, I do not know Assoc. prof. Vekova personally, but I am aware of the excellent reviews about her from my conversations with our mutual colleagues. I am partly familiar with her magnificent scientific output in the field of social protection and social work.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity.

Assoc. prof. Ludmila Vekova Ph.D. has great importance for the preparation of students, graduates and doctoral students. Her auditor employment is 420 hours, with an annual norm of 280 hours. Of these, he teaches 5 subjects at the Bachelor's College, and 12 at the Master's College. This

shows a huge workload for the candidate, which benefits the functioning of the department. In 2017, new curricula were developed for the bachelor's degree program and the master's degree program, based on Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. And in 2020, another change was made to those plans, with the "Professor" candidate developing those plans again. For the training of the students, the same has developed two textbooks.

For the last ten years, Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. has worked with over 40 graduate students and three doctoral students. The doctoral programs are in field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied activity

A positive assessment may be given to the candidate's scientific output. In the competition for "professor", Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. applied with 1 monograph, 25 articles in Bulgarian, 5 articles in a foreign language and two textbooks. There are no publications with an impact factor. There is also no co-authored scientific production.

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied) and citations

The monograph "Social protection in case of unemployment /Social work with unemployed persons/" presents this protection as a complete system, including the subsystems of social insurance in case of unemployment". It presents in-depth theses related to social activities, which are the result of the high professionalism of the candidate for "professor".

The articles in Bulgarian and foreign languages deal with problems such as: social work education; analysis of the main theoretical concepts of the nature and importance of social innovations; unemployment insurance in Bulgaria and social protection under it; legal regulation of pension insurance; social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria and possibilities for including risk groups; pension insurance as an element of social security; the system of social protection, the aspect of modern development in Bulgaria; new moments in the development of mandatory pension insurance; legal regulation of the opportunities for employment of students from the "Social Activities" special; the key competencies as a potential for the development of social work; challenges and prospects for the development of social work; the lifelong learning strategy; legislative changes in the regulation of social services; adult education as a possible direction for social work education; the challenges facing social work in Bulgaria for social work, etc.

The following citations of Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. have been noted:

- Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 5 items;
- Cited monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 4 nos.;
- Citations and reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 25 items.

These numbers show how recognizable the scientific work of the magnificent scientist Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D.

As the author of this opinion, I fully support the candidate's self-assessment of scientific contributions. Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. has systematized them in the following way: by areas - in 7 areas, and then indicates key contributions in each of the specified areas. They are the applicant's personal business. These contributions are mainly found in: formulating or justifying a new scientific problem; formulation and justification of a new hypothesis in the field of "Social Activities"; proving with new means essential new aspects of already existing scientific fields, problems; obtaining corroborative facts on the issues set for consideration.

These contributions are reflected in the works of other authors, which is proven by the numerous citations of the author in the scientific work of other authors, shown earlier in the opinion.

Implementation activity

Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. has no pioneering activity - author's certificates, patents, etc.

Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

As the author of this opinion and at the same time a lecturer in social activities at another university, I find the scientific work of Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. to be a huge contribution to the development of the theory and practice of social activities in Bulgaria. These contributions are particularly significant in the field of social protection and social work.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks about the candidate for "Professor".

My recommendation is the following:

Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D. to look at the specific dimensions of social protection and social work in the territory of the Plovdiv region, where her educational and practical-applied activities are located.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Vekova Ph.D.:

1. **They meet all the requirements** of the ZRASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the PU "Paisiy Hilendarski".
2. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work.

3. The results achieved in the educational and scientific research activities **fully correspond** to the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Education, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of the ZRASRB.

I give my **positive assessment** and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the selection of **Associate Professor Ludmila Pavlova Vekova Ph.D.** to the academic position of "Professor" at the PU "Paisiy Hillendarski" in: area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.4. Social activities (Social protection and social work).

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Prepared the standpoint:

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