

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, Ph.D., D.Sc., lecturer at South-West University
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on the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"
in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences
professional direction 3.4. Social activities (Social policies for adults and elderly people)

In the competition for "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 98/19.11.2024 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of "Social Activities" at the Faculty of Pedagogy, as a candidate, chief assistant Tanya Alyosheva Vazova, Ph.D. from PU "P. Hilendarski" participated.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. RD-22-445 of 18.02.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities (Social policies for adults and the elderly), announced for the needs of the Department of "Social Activities" at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The only candidate who submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is chief Assistant Professor Tanya Vazova, Ph.D. from the Department of "Social Activities" at PU "P. Hilendarski".

The set of materials on paper submitted by chief Assistant Professor Dr. Tanya Vazova is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU, and includes the following documents:

- Application form;
- CV;
- Diplomas;
- Reference for the minimum national and additional requirements;
- Annotations of the materials;

- Self-assessment of scientific contributions;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- Certificates and certificates from training;
- References for citations;
- Publications, etc.

The candidate, chief Assistant Professor Tanya Vazova, Ph.D., has submitted a total of 23 scientific works, of which: 1 habilitation monograph and 1 book based on a defended dissertation and 21 articles and scientific reports, 2 of the articles have been published in journals, referenced and indexed in global databases. All scientific works submitted by the candidate (described above) that are outside the dissertation and the competition for Senior Assistant Professor and are taken into account in the final assessment, and 2 research projects, are accepted for review.

Brief biographical data of the candidate

The professional training, specializations, teaching and research activities of Tanya Vazova are directly related to the announced competition in Social Activities. The candidate graduated from the University of National and World Economy, and in 2018 she defended her doctoral dissertation in Economics and Labor Management. Her professional career is related to the provision of services in the social sphere, she has worked as a trainer and consultant in the field of social services, head of Human Resources, etc.

Personal impressions from all materials, including the candidate's resume and publications, are that she has developed purposefully and motivatedly in the field of social activities and social services.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

The candidate for the academic position of "associate professor" teaches academic disciplines from the field of Social Activities, works actively with students, and has participated in training to improve her qualifications.

The scientific and pedagogical activity fully corresponds to the profile of the announced competition.

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

Chief Asst. Tanya Vazova, Ph.D. applies with the habilitation monograph "Social services for adults and elderly people in Bulgaria: development, challenges, prospects" (2024). The

monograph is dedicated to a topical and important issue for every society, related to the provision of social services to adults and the elderly. The study examines the social and some psychological aspects of social services for adults, analyzes social policies in this area, and outlines prospects for the development of this area. The emphasis is on the impact of Covid-19 on social services.

The second monograph (based on a defended dissertation) is also in the field of social activities and focuses on personal and professional competencies as a predictor for increasing and improving the quality of social services. The competencies are presented from the positions of psychology and related scientific fields, and valuable recommendations for improving social services are outlined for practice.

The monographs are distinguished by their practical and applied results and value.

The articles published in scientific journals and proceedings of scientific conferences, including in secondary databases can be grouped into several thematic areas related to the announced competition:

1. Formation and development of personal and professional competencies among social workers;
2. Issues of aging and provision of relevant policies for the elderly;
3. Complex policies aimed at older generations;
4. The future of social services and social innovations;
5. Integration and improvement of the quality of life of the elderly.

All articles and reports are of a scientific nature.

Contributions (scientific, applied science, applied) and citations

I accept the self-assessment of the contributions formulated by the author. They can be summarized as follows:

1. The regulatory framework and social policies regarding the elderly and the elderly have been studied in a targeted and in-depth manner.
2. In a number of publications, topics related to the improvement and enhancement of social services have been competently presented; Models for supporting and working with the elderly

and people with disabilities have been proposed. All this aims to develop social practice in Bulgaria.

3. A significant contribution of the candidate is the development of the major topic related to the key competencies of workers in the social services sector. The questions about competencies have been developed holistically and multifacetedly. Models have been created, both for determining key competencies and for the selection and training of employees.

4. The development and state of social services in our country have been analyzed, which has allowed for the formulation of specific guidelines and recommendations for their improvement and sustainable development.

The contributions have an interdisciplinary nature and practical and applied value and significance.

The candidate's contributions can be attributed to the group: "proving with new means significant new aspects of already existing scientific fields; creating new classifications, methods, constructions, technologies". I believe that the contributions are her personal work and merit. No evidence of plagiarism has been established.

The candidate for associate professor has been cited by other authors in scientific publications (12 citations were noted), which means that her publications have been positively assessed. The citations are essentially and in a positive sense, i.e. the authors accept the theses of T. Vazova.

The scientometrics report establishes that Tanya Vazova meets the quantitative indicators of the criteria for occupying the academic position of "associate professor".

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I recommend that the candidate continue her targeted interdisciplinary research in her chosen fields.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by chief Assistant Professor Tanya Vazova, Ph.D. meet all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the The Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of the University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has presented a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the Educational and scientific degree "doctor". The works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received recognition, two of which have been published in journals and scientific collections indexed in world databases. The publications have practical value, some of which are directly oriented towards academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of chief Assistant Professor Vazova, Ph.D. are unquestionable.

The results achieved by chief Assistant Professor Tanya Vazova, Ph.D. in academic and research activities fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientifically applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of chief Assistant Professor Tanya Vazova, Ph.D. to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the "P. Hilendarski" in the professional field professional field 3.4. Social activities (Social policies for adults and elderly people).

10.03.2025

Prepared the opinion:

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