

OPINION

by Professor Ingrid Simeonova Shikova, PhD

member of the scientific jury, appointed by a decision of the Faculty of Philosophy Council, Minutes No. 17 of July 6, 2021 and in accordance with an order document of the Rector of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski ” regarding the competition for awarding the academic position of "Professor" at the Department of Public Administration at the Faculty of Philosophy, announced in the State Gazette № 54 of 29.06.2021

Professional field: 3.3 Political science (Public and social policies)

Concerning: the academic activities and scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Trifonova Tomova.

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The competition for Professor of Political Science (Public and Social Policies) has been announced for the needs of the Department of Public Administration at the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in the State Gazette № 54 of 29.06.2021. in accordance with the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and with the Regulations for its implementation, as well as with the Regulations for the scientific degrees and the academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ”.

A commission appointed by an order of the Rector of Sofia University № RD-38-296 / 05.07.2021 has reviewed the submitted documents and has admitted to the competition the only candidate Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Trifonova Tomova. The Scientific Jury was approved by a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Minutes No. 17 of July 6, 2021 and by order of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ”.

The scientific jury held a meeting and elected a chairperson and reviewers.

2. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Tatiana Tomova has a master's degree in sociology from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". After defending his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Social Policy in the Governance of Modern Society", she received the educational and scientific degree of doctor (PhD). She carried out post-doctoral research related to the analysis of social policies (in France - le Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po - CEVIPOF). She defended successfully her doctorate on "Bulgarian path in social policy" and received the scientific title "Doctor of Political Sciences". She speaks French, English and Russian. Since 2004 Tatiana Tomova is an associate professor at the Department of Public Administration at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ». She delivers lectures in the field of social and public policies. She was elected Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy.

This is only a small part of her rich professional activities in the field of public policies. A detailed list of what Assoc. Prof. Tomova has done in this area would take all the pages provided for an opinion, so I will rather try to give a general assessment of the professional activities of Assoc. Prof. Tomova. I can state firmly that Associate Professor Tomova is a competent researcher, excellent lecturer, energetic organizer and administrator.

My conclusion is that the research and teaching profile of Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Tomova fully corresponds to the competition field and presents her as a highly qualified candidate for the academic position of "Professor" of Political Science (Public and Social Policy).

3. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Tomova has submitted as a main work for participation in the competition for awarding the academic position of "Professor" the monograph "The policy process: management based on narrowing" (208 pages). Additionally, the monograph "Development of policies, programs, projects" (167 pages) as well as a book based on a dissertation for the degree of "Doctor of Science" "The Bulgarian path in social policy (History of the transition that does not end)"" (320 pages) have been submitted. One comprehensive study and eight published articles and papers were selected by the author to participate in the competition. They are mentioned correctly in the list of selected scientific publications, presented by Assoc. Prof. Tomova. After getting acquainted with the submitted publications, I confirm that all of them are relevant and fall within the scope of the competition.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that all the publications are a testament to the candidate professional competence, long-term and focused research efforts in the field of public policies issues. The presented publications are not only proof of the stability and purposefulness of her scientific interests and creative pursuits, but also of the fact that Assoc. Prof. Tomova is a serious, ambitious and competent researcher.

My conclusion is that in terms of volume, structure and thematic area the presented scientific output meets the requirements for awarding the academic position of Professor. The overall impression of the scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Tomova is a creative maturity, thoroughness, systematic and valuable research and practical experience. My assessment of all the proposed publications is positive.

4. MAIN SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Before pointing out the main concrete contributions of Assoc. Prof. Tomova, I would like to emphasize her purposeful and in-depth research work on public policies. Her publications shed light on the complex field of public policies in Bulgarian science, introduce basic concepts and reliable tools for conducting specific research in this field.

As a concrete contribution of Assoc. Prof. Tomova, I would point out the further development of the theory of "bottleneck-based management" applied mainly in business management and its adaptation to the scientific field of policies. The overall study of the process of social policy in Bulgaria and the conclusions reached for limiting the change of social policy represent also a significant contribution.

Her scientific and applied contributions to the adaptation and improvement of policy-making methods that can be directly applied in practice should not be missed as they are badly needed in the Bulgarian reality in the presence of many stakeholders with different interests and ideas about the common development.

I would like to pay attention to the latest monograph of Assoc. Prof. Tomova, dedicated to policy management. It crystallizes her many years of research work in the field of public policies and in which her undeniable professionalism finds concrete expression. In the monograph she gives answers to important questions related to public policies - do policies change democracy, how the

peculiarities of the policy-making process affect its results, whether randomness can be managed in the policy process.

I was particularly interested in the section "Participation in European policy-making" in the monograph "Policy-making, programs, projects". Theses on the influence of the peculiarities of the decision-making procedures in the EU on the process of European policy-making can be pointed out as a contribution point in this chapter.

I fully accept the formulated contributions in the self-assessment of Assoc. Prof. Tomova, as well as the presented list of the observed 66 citations.

In conclusion, the scientific publications of associate professor Tomova and the contributing elements in them demonstrate creative maturity, ability to theorize and valuable research experience. These contributions are the result of many years of focused work in the field of public policies.

5. TEACHING AND PROJECT WORK OF THE APPLICANT

It would be unforgivable not to combine this significant research work with teaching. Associate Professor Tomova delivers lectures on Social Policy 60 hours, Policy Making in the EU 30 hours, European Social Policy 30 hours, Comparative Public Policies 45 hours, Social and Health Policies 45 hours, Public Policies 60 h., Management of social programs 60 hours in bachelor's and master's programs in the specialties "Public Administration" and "Political Sciences". The presented workload report for five consecutive academic years shows a significant overload of the required working hours.

In addition to her teaching activities at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski », Assoc. Prof. Tomova has extensive experience as a lecturer and trainer of public administration in a number of thematic areas: "Management of public projects ", "Comprehensive assessment of administrative efficiency ", "EU policies ", "EU institutions " and "Comitology". Her teaching skills and her rich practical experience in projects management make her an attractive lecturer for non-governmental organizations such as the Bulgarian School of Politics and many others.

I would like to share my personal impressions of the lecture activity of Assoc. Prof. Tomova, as I had the opportunity to attend her lectures when participating in several conferences and seminars. She is a lecturer with in-depth knowledge and practical skills to keep the listeners' attention with interesting and serious arguments. She is able to speak clearly, to be convincing and to win the audience. Undoubtedly, Associate Professor Tomova is an excellent lecturer.

Her work as a project manager, her participation in working groups and analyses as a key expert are also impressive. The combination of scientific research with practical activity in the field of public policies is a proof of the high professionalism of Assoc. Prof. Tomova and of her qualities as a competent expert.

In conclusion, Assoc. prof. Tatiana Tomova is a thorough researcher, competent practitioner and respected lecturer.

6. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

I would not miss the fact that I know Assoc. Prof. Tomova not only as a competent researcher and lecturer, but also as a person with professional ethics and collegiality, which are very important qualities within the scientific community. We have often invited Assoc. Prof. Tomova to discuss the dissertations of doctoral students at the Department of European Studies. She has always been very competent and well-meaning in helping young researchers. The combination of all these qualities with her undeniable professionalism make her a respected and beloved teacher and colleague.

7. CONCLUSION

From all the above, I conclude that the research results and contributions of the submitted publications and the active teaching and project activities of Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Tomova give sufficient grounds to be highly evaluated. They leave no doubt that Assoc. Prof. Tomova is a respected specialist in the field of public policies. Her candidacy meets the requirements for awarding the academic position of "professor" according to the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as

the Regulations for the scientific degrees and the academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ”.

I would like to bring to the attention of the deeply respected members of the scientific jury, my firm opinion that Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Tomova is one of the leading researchers and lecturers in the field of public and social policies and fully deserves to be awarded the academic position of "professor".

October 11, 2021

Prof. Dr. Ingrid Shikova