

POSITION PAPER

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the Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia

SUBJECT: for the open call for the academic position of PROFESSOR in the field of higher
education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, in the professional field 3.3
Political Science (Public and Social Policies), announced in State Gazette No. 54
of 29.06.2021

1. General information

The open call for the academic position is announced for the needs of the Department of Public Administration at the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia. One candidate participated in the competition. He has submitted all the necessary documents provided for in the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB) and The Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at Sofia University (Article 107).

All documents for participation in the competition have been submitted electronically - a total of 17 files and two folders containing the documents referred to in Art. 115, par. 1(2) and the scientific papers submitted for the competition. The information was submitted on time, in a well-organised and accessible form.

My position is based on all the material submitted, which fully reflects the applicant's professional and academic development, teaching and research activities and achievements.

2. Information for applicants

Associate Professor Tatiana Trifonova Tomova, DSc is the only participant in the competition for professor. She is a lecturer at the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

(a) Education and scientific career. The candidate's education and scientific career are related to Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. She holds a Master's degree in Sociology, with a professional qualification "Sociologist" (Faculty of Philosophy, 1983). In 1999, under the scientific guidance of prof. She defended her dissertation and received a doctorate in political science. In 1996 she specialized at the Centre for Political Studies (Science Po, CEVIPOF), France. She has high foreign language competence - she speaks French, English and Russian.

(b) Professional careers. The professional path of Assoc. Tatiana Tomova, DSc combines the career of an academic lecturer, innovator and organizer of university training, and of a leading national expert and researcher in the new for our country field of modern public management. This career is closely linked to Sofia University, where she started working as an assistant professor in 1988. In parallel, as a PhD student, she worked as a sociologist researcher at the Laboratory for Political Behavior (1996-1999), and then as the Executive Director of the Center for Strategic Studies XXI Century Foundation (1999-2003). Since March 2000, he has been a senior assistant professor and since May 2004 an associate professor of Political Science (public policy analysis) in the Department of Public Administration, of which he has been the head for two terms. Since the end of 2019, he has been Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. He taught Social and Public Policies and European Institutions and Policies at New Bulgarian University (1994-2019). His long-standing research in these fields is reflected in the

defence of his second dissertation project (25.09.2020) on "*The Bulgarian Way in Social Policy*", for which he received the degree of Doctor of Science in the professional field 3.3 Political Science (Political Science, Public and Social Policies) of Sofia University.

She has significant management and expertise experience gained in working on national, university, regional and institutional projects (20 projects during 2005-2015). This valuable expertise is relevant to the subject of the competition, as the projects provide an active opportunity not only for thematic research but also for practical implementation and verification of ideas. The positions in which the candidate is involved are at different levels - as project leader, participant in research teams, national and key expert, evaluator and consultant, and in networks with different beneficiaries, public institutions and organisations.

As Head of the Department of Public Administration (2012-2020) and of the Master's Program in Public Management and Policy, she has made a significant contribution to building the Department's modern educational portfolio and to opening up academic education to modern public management, thus contributing to establishing the Department as a leading academic centre in the innovative field of public policy.

Summary of point 2: The data allow to summarize that the overall academic development and professional qualifications of the candidate in the competition Assoc. Prof. Tatiana Trifonova Tomova, DSc are suitable for the academic position of Professor of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

3. The requirements for holding the academic position

The enclosed documents show that the candidate meets the mandatory requirements under Article 2b of the ASDARB for holding the academic position of Professor. The main parameters of the fulfilled quantitative requirements under Art. 2b of the ASDARB are summarized in the table:

Group/№	Показател	брой х точки	общо	изискуеми
A / 1	Dissertation for PhD	1 (50)	50	50
B / 3	Habilitation thesis - monograph	1 (100)	100	100
Г	Total by group Г		270	200
Г / 4	Published monograph not submitted as a major habilitation work	1 (100)	100	
Г / 5	Published book on the basis of a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Political Science	1 (75)	75	
Г / 7	Articles and papers published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes	8 (10)	80	
Г / 9	Studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes	1 (15)	15	
Д	Total by group Д		320	100
Д / 12	Citations in monographs and collective volumes	24 (10)	240	
Д / 13	Citations of publications made in non-refereed scientific journals	16 (5)	80	
Е	Total by group Е		200	100
Е / 14	Doctor of Science degree	1 (40)	40	
Е / 15	Scientific supervision of successfully defended PhD students	4 (40)	160	
	Total by groups A, B, Г, Д и Е		940	550

A/1: Dissertation on "*Social Policy in the Management of Modern Society*" (2009) in professional field 3.3. Political Science, scientific specialty 05.11.02 "Political Science" (diploma 26399/4.01.2000, <https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/29763>);

B/3: Habilitation thesis: Tomova, T., (2021). *The policy process: management based on narrowing*, UP "St. Kliment Ohridski", S., ISBN 978-954-07-5289-1, pages 208;

Г/4: Tomova, T., 2008, *Development of policies, programs, projects*, Bulgarian School of Politics, ISBN 987-954-9338-05-8, pages 167;

Г/5: Published book based on a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Science: Tomova, T., (2021). *The Bulgarian path in social policy. History of the transition that does not end*, UP "St. Kl. Ohridski", ISBN 978-954-07-5126-9, pages 320

Г/7: A total of 8 articles are listed in this group, of which 1 is published in an unrefereed peer-reviewed scientific journal (indexed in secondary scientific databases) and 7 in edited collective volumes (proceedings). All articles are fully authored and cover the period 2011-2021;

Г/9: A scientific study in Bulgarian (2017), published in a collective volume/collection with scientific editing;

Д/12: A total of 24 citations in monographs and collective volumes (22 of them in the last 5 years) are listed against the publications in the competition;

Д/13: A total of 16 citations of publications made in non-refereed scientific journals are listed, 10 of them in the last 5 years.

The reference to citations can be refined when noting some of the works cited. After re-ordering and re-counting the citations in both groups, the total number of points in group E exceeds 2.2 times the national requirements. This strongly supports the conclusion that Associate Professor Tatiana Tomova, DSc is an authoritative, influential researcher in the field of public and social policy.

Е/14: She holds the degree of Doctor of Science (Doctor of Political Science) (Diploma No. SU 2020-8/15.10.2020; the dissertation is available at <https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/29763>);

Е/15: Under her scientific supervision 4 PhD students have successfully defended their PhD (one of them is a foreign PhD student). The topics of the dissertations are in the subject area of the competition - public and social policies.

To the mentioned characteristics can be pointed out:

- All publications are in the field of the competition - public and social policies. The total number of publications is 12 and they cover the period from 2008 - 2021. Monographic research accounts for over 80% of the volume of scientific publications. A more careful retrospective review of the publications (all of them and in particular, those with which the competition is involved) mark the "*Bulgarian way*" in developing the "science" of public policies in our country - introducing key concepts, clarifying the policy process, policy making, functioning, implementation, implementation and evaluation, etc.;
- The data show that the candidate significantly exceeds the national requirements for the academic position of "professor" - by a total of 1.7 times, and on individual criteria by 2 - 3 times;
- All publications with which the candidate participated in the competition are full and independent author's works. The increasing dynamism and academic influence is visible - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the publications with which the candidate participates in the competition are in the last 3 years. The genre specificity is indicative of the publication positioning of the candidate. The publication of the results of the research in monographs and in scientifically edited collective volumes indicates the concentration of efforts in solving significant and important for the scientific debate fundamental questions, the search for in-depth and comprehensive solutions in the researched field. This highlights the candidate's strengths as a researcher. I would define the candidate as one of the founders (along with Prof. T. Tanev and others) and the most active and thorough researchers of the "*Bulgarian school*" of public policies in our country;
- There is no quantitative data on scientific visibility - of own research or through citing works. According to the reference on cited scientific works, the number of citing scientific publications is higher than the number indicated in the quantitative reference. This, as well as my personal observations, give me reason to confirm that Associate Professor Tatiana Tomova, DSc is a researcher who is among the initiators of the "scientific agenda" of public policy research in our country.

Summary of point 3: There is sufficient in volume, structure, genre diversity and impact of the candidate's scholarly output. The attached documents characterise the candidate as an established academic researcher in public and social policy and public management sciences in the country. The candidate in the competition convincingly exceeds the national threshold for the post of professor overall and in all individual criteria.

4. Evaluation of teaching and learning activities

The candidate's high scientific expertise in the field of the competition is a defining characteristic of an innovative and successful academic experience. The data show:

- Associate Professor Tatyana Tomova, DSc has been a lecturer at Sofia University since 1988 (contract №6524/23.12.1988) in the following academic positions: 11 years as Assistant Professor/Senior Assistant Professor, 4 years as Senior Assistant Professor and 17 years as Associate Professor. For the last 5 years (2015-2020) she has 1168 hours of average annual classroom time. This employment was formed in the Faculty's undergraduate and graduate programs: Public Administration, Political Science and Public Management and Policy;
- She has developed and taught a number of undergraduate and graduate courses. The portfolio of lecture courses at Sofia University includes Social Policy, EU Policy Making, European Social Policy, Comparative Public Policies, Social and Health Policies, Public Policies and Social Program Management;
- She is a member of the editorial board of the journal Political Studies (a publication of the Bulgarian Political Studies Association) and the academic journal Public Policies.bg;
- She directs the Master's program in Public Management and Policies;
- Supervisor of 4 successfully defended graduates (one foreign PhD student);
- Member of the Bulgarian Political Science Association.

Summary of point 4: Associate Professor Tatiana Tomova, DSc teaches courses in the subject area of her research, and the competition, which has a positive impact on the quality of training and more broadly on the development of academic education in public policy in the country. She has extensive and innovative lecturing experience in this field.

5. Main research directions and results

(a) The candidate's scientific work, of which the publications submitted to the competition are a part, is in the subject area of public and social policies, which occupy the place of constitutive elements (core) of modern public governance. From this point of view, the applicant's *publication profile is clearly distinguishable*. Those parts of it that reflect his research, in this competition, are a natural extension of years of scholarly inquiry and accumulation. Persistence in the researched subject matter, in-depth scientific inquiry and consistent development of views are the hallmarks of Associate Professor T. Tomova. It can be summarized that an attempt to place the topics of the leading publications in a "timeline" (chronologically) would show a discernible trajectory of the development of knowledge about public policies in our country. The general direction is as follows: the initial focus of public policy research is instrumental, process-oriented and managerial. In other words, public policies are instruments of public governance (seen as methods of making, participation, evaluation, etc.); public governance is realized *through* (rationally managed) public policies. Research in this area outlines another basic framework, the result of a process where *policies change public governance itself*. This is an essential process of transformation that affects the architecture of the public and the functioning of the state itself. Understanding that the workings of the democratic state are seen through the lens of relatively discrete policy processes or policy bundles/networks is a significant scholarly challenge - in theory and even more so in practice, and even harder to unpack in reform. Public policies build bridges between politics and governance: through public policies, governance increasingly becomes politics, and politics

becomes concrete and immediate governance. Public policies shape both the conditions and the outcomes of the public governance process. They change both sides simultaneously and outline a new understanding of the connectivity between performance (administration focus) and outcomes (policy focus). This means that how specific policies are structured, formulated, designed, implemented, and interpenetrate or compete in the public management process is relevant to the functioning of the state. A corollary of this understanding is an understanding of the new role of public administration - from rule enforcement orientation to policy initiator and organizer.

(b) In this context of the development of views on public policy that the candidate's work charts, a number of other themes can be identified and responded to. These include questions about: the choice of model and the transformative potential of social policy within processes of societal transformation; whether public policies are and are governed; what are the institutional drivers of public policies; understanding and evaluating equity in policy implementation; the power transformation of policies; and more. These questions highlight significant research perspectives and represent topics for debate in the field of public governance.

(c) The habilitation thesis examines public governance (of Bulgaria) on the basis of a fundamental transformation process. The dispersion of political power in contemporary society shifts political actors and rearranges the social structure and processes from hierarchies into networks in which different actors exchange influence, interests and resources to achieve public goals. A legitimate question seems to be whether this weakens states due to the apparent or real uncertainty, unpredictability and ungovernability of public life and public institutions. The fundamental solution to this contradiction is to construct (theoretically and as a reform of public governance) a set of multiple, relatively autonomous policy processes that integrate the three relatively autonomous levels of contemporary political governance: political representation (macro-level), professional administration (meso-level), and citizen participation (micro-level). The question is how to make the policy process more predictable and manageable? The proposed solution is elegant - good governance of the policy process must identify and manage *bottlenecks*, i.e. places where it can be delayed and even interrupted without appropriate governance solutions to the situation.

Summary of point 5: Against the background of the brief overview of the main directions and results of the candidate's scientific creativity, I fully share and confirm the self-assessment of the scientific novelties/contributions and their significance. They are scientifically significant, well-founded and theoretically valid scientific concepts in the field of public management and administrative sciences that unfold a broad portfolio of practically useful results.

6. Conclusion

The submitted materials and research papers convincingly prove that the candidate in the competition is an established academic authority and a leading researcher in the field of public policy in the country.

I declare that there is no plagiarism in the competition materials.

Having read all the materials and research papers, and on the basis of the data, findings and assessments of academic achievement and the significance of the research contributions set out in this opinion, **I give a 'PASS' to the candidate Associate Professor Tatiana Trifonova Tomova, DSc and recommend to the scientific jury of this competition to award the academic position "PROFESSOR" in the scientific field 3 "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.3 "Political Sciences" (Public and Social Policies).**

10.10.2021
Sofia

Sign
Assoc. Prof. Alexander Valkov, PhD