

O P I N I O N

By Prof. Milena Hristova Stefanova, Doctor Habil

By competition for the occupation of an academic position associate professor in professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Public Management), field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences and national security

Announced by SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", SG No. 61/02.08.2022, for the needs of the "Public Administration" Department, Faculty of Philosophy

Basis for drawing up the opinion: order No. RD-38-491/22.08.2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

1. General notes

One candidate took part in the competition - Ch. Assistant Simeon Atanasov Petrov, PhD, from SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Simeon Petrov is a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University. He graduated with honors in two bachelor's degrees - "Public Administration" and "Political Science", and a master's program in "Public Management and Policies". During his studies, he specialized in "European integration", and in the period 2007-2009 acquired the qualification "International relations" at the Center for Educational Services of the SU. In 2015, after successfully completing his studies in the doctoral program of the "Public Administration" department, Simeon Petrov defended his dissertation on the topic "The change of public policies. European employment policy" and acquires the ONS "doctor".

Since 2010, Simeon Petrov has been integrated into the education process of students majoring in "Public Administration" and the academic life of the department, first as an assistant, and later as a chief assistant. The employment report presented shows that as of 2022, he has a teaching load in the bachelor's and master's degrees of four specialties from the FF of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Public Administration, European Studies, Sociology and Political Science, being the holder of 6 courses and leading seminar exercises in 4 courses: "Theory of Management", "Formation and Implementation of Public Policies", "Methodology of Public Policy Analysis" , "Design and management of social programs" (Bachelor's degree "Public Administration"); "Public Policies", "Social Policy", "European Welfare State" (Bachelor's Degree "Political Science"); "Policy Analysis", "Policy Transfer Evaluation", "Methods and Techniques for Public Policy Analysis", "Public Project Management - in English" (Master's

programs in Public Administration); "Projects in the field of employment and social inclusion" (Master's programs in European Studies); "Public Policies in an Urban Environment", "Methods and Techniques for Public Policy Analysis (Master's Programs in Sociology). Within the disciplines taught, Dr. Petrov has developed various original methodological approaches integrated into teaching, incl. introduction of case studies, interactive seminar classes, specialized scientific essay. It can be seen from the attached report that the general teaching and classroom employment of ch. Dr. Simeon Petrov, assistant professor, in the last five years, significantly exceeds the accepted by SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for a basic one.

All the courses that Dr. Petrov is involved in are on the topic of the competition. He actively participated in the creation and organization of the scientific journal "Public policies.bg" as a member of the editorial board since 2010. In the period 2008-2022, he worked as an expert-researcher on numerous projects.

As a teacher, Dr. Simeon Petrov is demanding and innovative. Highly respected by both students and colleagues in the Department of Public Administration.

2. Fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position associate professor

Simeon Petrov presents a reference and evidentiary material, from which it is clear that the candidate fully meets the minimum national requirements for Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, 3.7. "Administration and management" according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. He has defended a dissertation for the award of the ONS "Doctor" and presented a habilitation thesis, which fulfills the required 150 points for indicators from groups A and B. For the indicators in group D, a list of articles and studies in Bulgarian and English is presented in two languages that form 202.5 points and cover the norm of 200 points. In group D, a reference is presented for the citations that form 55 points and fulfill the requirements of 50 points.

All this gives me the reason to move on to a substantive analysis of the habilitation work and publications submitted for participation in the competition.

3. Habilitation work and publications

For participation in the competition Simeon Petrov presents a habilitation thesis - monograph "Organizations with an ideal purpose - nature, roles, management, "St. Kliment Ohridski" UI, ISBN 978-954-07-5436-9, Sofia, 2022 and more 15 publications, including a

book chapter in English, studies and articles in scientific collections and journals. My check confirms the applicant's reference.

The subject area of the habilitation tr ud-monography fully corresponds to the theme of the contest. The requirement that the habilitation work has been published has been met. The submitted publications are also on the topic of the contest. No signs of plagiarism have been observed in Dr. Petrov's publications. He is an erudite and fair researcher.

4. Scientific research activity and scientific contributions

Dr. Simeon Petrov's habilitation work represents a comprehensive contribution to the study of non-profit organizations and the non-governmental sector. The interdisciplinary approach of the research is fully justified, and the emphasis given not only answers multifaceted questions about the role of non-profit organizations in public administration, but also helps the author to prove his main thesis that non-profit organizations, the market and the public sector, to the extent that they co-evolve, they are important to the understanding of public administration in research terms when considered together. The coverage is impressive in terms of volume of scientific literature, and the author's free handling of various theories and these are testimony to his excellent training as a researcher. While fully accepting the self-assessment of the contributing moments in the publications submitted for participation in the contest, I would like to emphasize the following:

- The relationship between the civil sector and public management (governance) is extremely important for the development and implementation of public policies adequate to the needs. I recommend Dr. Petrov in his future work to deepen the practical studies of the role of the civil sector;

- The integration of different theoretical approaches to the study of the civil sector undoubtedly enriches our knowledge of organizations in the civil sector not only as supporting the implementation of public functions, but also as creating new opportunities for the development of public management, and as legitimizing the management process and the achieved results ;

- Focusing research interest on the non-profit organization and understanding it "from the inside" is extremely useful for understanding public partners in the governance process. Following the variety of structures and organizational principles in the civil sector, emphasis

is placed on the effectiveness of the organization, and as the author notes, this effectiveness is largely socially constructed. A great challenge would be to work in the future on the evaluation of the efficiency of the participation of civil organizations in public administration;

- In the 21st century, the involvement of partners from the civil sector in public administration is already widespread. To the extent that organizations from the civil sector set goals and express positions to groups of citizens, they become bearers of interests that do not always coincide with the public interest. Does Dr. Petrov find it necessary to apply criteria for the selection of partners of public authorities from the civil sector, and if so, what should these criteria be? In my opinion, this is particularly important for local governments, since at the municipal level it is easier for civil sector organizations to become conduits for private or corporate interests.

Conclusion

Dr. Simeon Atanasov Petrov, ch. assistant professor - meets all the requirements of ZRASRB, the regulations for its implementation both in the country and at Sofia University. He has many years of experience and internship at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski", specialty "Public Administration". He is the author and owner of some of the lecture courses that are the subject of this competition. The entire work of Dr. Simeon Petrov offers a comprehensive, systematic and in-depth analysis of achievements in the field of public management. He has extensive research experience gained from his participation in numerous research projects.

As a result of the high evaluation of the scientific and teaching activities of ch. assistant professor Dr. Simeon Atanasov Petrov, I strongly support his election as an "associate professor" in professional direction 3.7. Administration and Management (Public Management) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

11.11.2022

Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Prof. Milena Stefanova, Doctor Habil)