

# STATEMENT

by Prof. Sonya Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.

on the procedure for election and appointment of associate professor in the professional field  
3.2 Psychology (Experimental psychology and psychodiagnostics),  
Of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski, Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and  
Legal Sciences and National Security, announced in State Gazette N 24 of 17/03/2023 and on  
the Sofia University website for the needs of the Department of General, Experimental,  
Developmental and Health Psychology of  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

**Statement prepared as required by:** Order RD 38-177 / 21.04.2023 of the Rector of  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

## 1. GENERAL

There is one application for the abovementioned position: Chief Assistant Aneta Petrova  
Atanasova, PhD, from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Aneta Atanasova graduated with a Master's degree in Psychology from Sofia University  
"St. Kl. Ohridski" in 1997. During the course of her studies, she had two specializations:  
Clinical and Counseling Psychology and Psychology of development, education and culture.  
Additionally, she acquired a teaching qualification in psychology, logic and ethics. In 2008 A.  
Atanasova successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on "Identification of specific  
learning disabilities at primary school age" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" - professional  
field 3.2. Psychology (Experimental Psychology) and was awarded a PhD degree.

In the period 1992 - 1997, A. Atanasova worked as a pedagogical advisor in "Peter Beron"  
Secondary School, Kostinbrod. From 2000 to 2002, she was a part-time assistant at the  
Department of General Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski".  
After a successful competition in 2002, A. Atanasova was appointed as a full-time assistant.  
She developed her career gradually and steadily as a senior assistant and subsequently chief  
assistant in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Experimental Psychology), which is her  
current occupation. A lot of evidence is presented in the submitted information about the  
candidate's work experience. She has 21 years of experience in the specialty of Psychology in

the Department of General, Experimental, Developmental and Health Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". Chief Assistant Aneta Atanasova, PhD, is a lecturer in the compulsory modules: "Experimental Psychology - Part Two" for bachelor students in "Psychology" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski"; "Diagnosis and therapy of specific disorders of the ability to learn" for the master students in Child-Adolescent and School Psychology (diagnosis and counseling) at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". In addition, she leads the disciplines "Basics of diagnosis" and "Psychotherapeutic approaches and interventions in clinical social work" for bachelors and masters students in the Faculty of Pedagogy and the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts at Sofia University. The courses lectured by Dr. Atanasova are entirely related the topic in the call for applications for the advertised position of associate professor. In addition, Dr. Atanasova has very high positive feedback ratings from students.

Additionally, since 2003 Dr. Atanasova has worked as a consultant, trainer and supervisor for various state, fair and non-governmental institutions and organizations. Since 2013 she has also been an expert at the Sofia City Court.

Dr. Aneta Atanasova is also a supervisor of student empirical projects, academic supervisor of graduate students in the master's degree majoring in "Psychology" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She also actively participated in the "Student Practices" project as a mentor in the period 2014-2021. Thus, it is important to mention that Dr. A. Atanasova is a highly respected specialist and consultant.

## **2. HABILITATION PUBLICATION**

For her participation in the procedure Dr. A. Atanasova has presented a habilitation book - monograph: „Diagnosis and assessment of autism spectrum disorders“. The work meets all the requirements for a monograph and completely matches the theme of the announced competition. Thus, this leads me to conclude that Chief. Assistant A. Atanasova fulfills all of requirements and conditions according to Sofia University's rules and regulation for obtaining academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and in particular of Art. 105, item 3, according to which candidates must "have submitted published monographs or equivalent publications in specialized scientific publications in the field of the competition or show evidence of relevant artistic achievements in the field of arts, different from the ones presented for a doctoral degree".

### **3. FULFILLMENT OF THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OCCUPATION OF THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Chief Assistant Aneta Atanasova, PhD, has presented a reference list with relevant evidence. From the information given it is clear that Dr. A. Atanasova fulfills the minimum national requirements in accordance with the Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Protection of the People's Rights (amendment and supplement SG 15/19/2019, table 1, District 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, 3.2. Psychology). Specifically: for groups A, B and C, respectively, indicator 1, indicator 2 and indicator 3. She has the necessary 150 points, since she holds a doctorate degree (PhD), which equates to 50 points, and also presents a habilitation work that is ascribed another 100 points.

Group D (P4 to P10) of the ZRARB Implementing Regulations requirements for an associate professor state the applicant must have at least 200 points. Based on the information provided by Dr. A. Atanasova, her publications equal to 257.4 points. Also, according to the same Regulations, the candidate for Associate Professor should have 50 points from references. The references presented by Ch. Prof. Aneta Atanasova, PhD, show citations, including in SCOPUS, which are equal to 115 points. A check carried by me confirms the report on the citations presented by Dr. Atanasova.

### **4. PUBLICATIONS**

Chief Assistant A. Atanasova has presented scientific papers on the topic of the competition: one independent monograph on the topic of the competition; 1 published book based on dissertation work; 1 article in a Bulgarian journal, referenced and indexed in WoS and SCOPUS; 14 articles and reports in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, of which 4 are independent and the rest co-authored, 1 article in English; 5 articles in non-refereed journals with scientific funding, of which 4 are independent and 1 is co-authored; 1 chapter in a collective monograph in English..

The scientific works presented by the candidate do not replicate those from previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title and academic position. No plagiarism was found in the scientific works submitted for the competition.

### **5. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

The presented scientific publication by Chief Assistant Aneta Atanasova, PhD are entirely in the field of the announced procedure. The monograph "Diagnosis and Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders" focuses on current and significant issues. It examines approaches and concepts related to autism spectrum disorder. Empirical research and recommended therapeutic practices are reviewed. The monograph describes data from a qualitative study with semi-structured interviews, the results of which contribute to a better clinical understanding of autism spectrum disorders. Practical suggestions related to the planning of psychological, educational and other interventions, which can be of benefit to various specialists and consultants, are presented.

The presented publications address issues of the psychologist's role in inclusive education, and specific learning disabilities. Based on data from own empirical research, the author developed a screening tool for specific learning disabilities and an early identification program and a specialized alternative program for education. I believe that the publications presented by Dr. A. Atanasova are entirely related to the field of the announced competition and reflect ideas related to issues in the area of experimental psychology and psychodiagnostics.

I fully accept the contributions of Chief Assistant A. Atanasova, PhD, which can be supplemented and summarized as follows.

1. From the scientific works presented, it can be concluded that Dr. A. Atanasova is a well-rounded researcher who has a strong interest not only in theoretical analyzes and empirical research, but above all in the practical-applied aspects of the work.
2. A common feature of scientific publications is the interpretation of ideas and concepts in the three meta-levels of psychological knowledge: theory, method, and experiment in the sense of practical action.
3. The presented publications are related to a real existing significant object or principle of psychological science. An important criterion for Dr. Atanasova's methodological literacy is the incorporation of theoretical knowledge not only in research, but also in consulting practice.
4. The accumulated data and research in many studies reflects on and connects various fields of experimental psychology and psychodiagnostics.

## **6. TEACHING**

Chief Assistant Aneta Atanasova leads compulsory courses, which she teaches at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” part of Bachelor and Master degrees. These lecture courses are in the field of the announced procedure. As a lecturer, Dr. A. Atanasova is highly appreciated not only by her colleagues but also by the students, for whom the practical tasks included in her programs are particularly relevant.

## CONCLUSION

**Chief Assistant Aneta Petrova Atanasova, PhD** - meets all the requirements of the LPRA and the regulations for its implementation both in the country and at Sofia University. She has many years of experience at Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”. She is also the author of part of the lecture courses that are the subject of this procedure. The overall work of Dr. A. Atanasova offers a thorough, systematic and in-depth analysis of achievements in the field of experimental psychology and psychodiagnostics, refracted through the original interpretation of the author. She has extensive research experience gained from her involvement in research projects.

As a result of the high appreciation of the scientific and teaching activity of Chief Assistant Aneta Atanasova **I strongly support her application as a candidate for an “associate professor” in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Experimental psychology and Psychodiagnostics) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.**

10/08/2023 r.  
Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:  
(Prof. Sonya Karabeliova, PhD, D.Sc.)