REPORT

**By:** Associate Professor PhD Marko Petkov Dimitrov, University of National and World Economy - Sofia, Department of Political Economy, Scientific specialty: 2.2 History and Archeology.

**Subject:** Contest for Professor of Science Specialty 3.1 Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences (Ethnography - Political Ethnology)

**Contest information**

The Contest was announced for the needs of the Department of Ethnology at the Faculty of History of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski“.

**Applicant information**

One candidate participates in the competition - Associate Professor PhD Veselin Ivanov Tepavicharov from SU “St. Kliment Ohridski ", Department of Ethnology, Faculty of History.

Tepavicharov has an enviable scientific-teaching and institutional career. He is a graduate of the Faculty of History of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski ", where he graduated from college in 1981. Then he became a lecturer at the same faculty. Since 1991 he teaches Ethnology. He was previously a history teacher (1985-1991) in the same Faculty. He has consecutive degrees – PhD (specialty "History"), Associate Professor, Doctor of Cultural Sciences. From 2007 to 2015 he was the Head of the Department of Ethology at the Faculty of History. He has held other leadership positions - Head of the General Assembly of the Faculty of History (2008-2012), Member of the Sofia University Control Board (2012 to now), Member of the Minority Education Commission of the MES (2009-2012), Member of International Association of Anthropologists (currently).

**Fulfillment of the requirements for occupation of the academic position Professor**

The habilitation work "Nostalgia for Socialism in Bulgaria" presented by Tepavichar has all the characteristics and qualities of an in-depth scientific study on a very topical issue from the recent past and present of the Bulgarian nation, which relates to its folk psychology, mentality and historical destiny. The work consists of a Preface, five chapters, Conclusion, Used Literature, and an Appendix. The author approaches the topic responsibly, first by giving a detailed account of the theories that offer different explanations for the relation "present-past" in folk and individual memory. This becomes a sound basis for the presentation, analysis and evaluation in the following chapters of work concerning the Bulgarian case of reactions to the dichotomy (termed by the author) "socialism - capitalism" after 1989. Not only does Tepavicharov explain these theories in detail, he also shows his positions.

In the second, third, fourth and fifth chapters, based on rich source material (mainly interviews with people of different generations, professional and political background), Tepavicharov reveals a rather detailed and reasoned picture of the causes of nostalgia for socialism and peculiarities, in which she manifests in the various "nostalgic groups", defined by him, as well as the consequences of her appearance after 1989. The author's analysis and conclusions draw on a wealth of scholarly literature on these problems of the post-1989 transition, not only in Bulgaria, but also in other countries of the former socialist bloc. I managed to list 257 titles, 51 of them in a foreign language.

All this makes it possible for Tepavicharov to create a complete, fully-fledged work, which, among other things, is a kind of "mirror" of Bulgarian history over the last 30 years (and before) and a landmark for the next generations in the complex labyrinth of the Bulgarian transition.

Besides the habilitation work for participation in the competition V. Tepavicharov also presented a list, which included:

3 publications in refereed journals (Web of Science), one of them co-authored (one in English);

6 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in peer-reviewed peer-reviewed journals (one in English);

8 studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in peer-reviewed peer-reviewed journals (one in English).

All the works are in the field of ethnology and political anthropology, which makes them fully relevant to the field in which the competition for professorship is announced. As mentioned above in the exposition, Tepavicharov is a PhD (specialty "History") and Doctor of Science in Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences (the so-called Grand Doctorate), which is another great plus for him because he combines scientific experience and knowledge in two fields of science. In addition, it is rare for professors to hold the title “Doctor of Science” in recent times.

In addition, it can be noted that in his many years of being a teacher and scientist in the field of ethnology and social anthropology, the candidate actively participates (with reports) in scientific forums, where he promotes his ideas and practical research. These are 17 national and 20 international conferences.

An integral part of the scientific and applied activity of Veselin Tepavicharov is the scientific guidance of PhD students, his participation and the management of scientific projects. Under his leadership, successfully receive a scientific degree 4 people, and the participation of Tepavicharov in scientific projects is impressive - 6 national projects, of which he is the manager and many university projects, of which he is a leader and in others - a participant.

The reference to Tepavicharov's scientific contributions is a matter of respect. After its habilitation in 2000, it identified 11 specific contributions, the most important of which, in my opinion, are the differentiation, analysis and characterization of individual political groups in Bulgarian society by region, which clarifies essential elements of their political culture, and hence the political culture of large "masses" of the nation. Tepavicharov also elaborates on the issue of political subcultural communities as an element of the political culture of Bulgarian society. The candidate develops these problems in a number of his works, the most important of which is the monograph "UDF - It's Me".

The list with is also impressive. I will mention only the more significant databases in which Tepavicharov's citations are noted: Web of Science Clarivate Analytics - 26 citations and 3 indexed documents; Scopus ELSEVIER - 3 citations; Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) - 31 citations and 3 reviews; ProQest EbookCentral - 2 citations; CiteEc - 1 citation; Cyberlenka - 1 citation.

In my opinion, the scientific work of Prof. V. Tepavicharov makes a significant contribution to the study of the recent past of the history of our people. Focusing his scientific efforts on the socialist era places him in the pioneering group in the study of this period, which still provokes conflicting estimates not only in the public consciousness but also in the scientific community. This in itself is a very bold endeavor, but Tepavicharov manages to build his own attitude, which stands on solid outlook. In particular, the study of the reflection of this epoch in the consciousness and memory of Bulgarians of different generations makes a significant contribution to the enrichment and the folk-psychological characteristic of our people.

**Assessment of teaching activities.**

Veselin Tepavicharov has extensive teaching experience. Immediately after completing his higher education, he started as an Assistant in History of Bulgaria at the Faculty of History. This is where the rest of the applicant's teaching activity goes so far.

Currently, Tepavicharov teaches eight undergraduate and master's courses at the Faculty of History, all entirely in the fields of sociology and anthropology. In addition to his basic courses in the field of teaching, he has a rich palette of other disciplines - Anthropology of Socialism, Ethnology and Politics, Ethnopolitical Models in Cultural Anthropology, National Peacemaking and State Policy, etc.

As part of Tepavicharov's teaching activities, the leadership of diploma works of undergraduate and master's students (master's degree), as well as some of the projects in which he is a leader or participant, may be mentioned. Under the guidance of PhD students (this is also mentioned above) there is also a great deal of teaching and training, since, according to the law, doctoral studies are the third degree of higher education.

**Notes and Recommendations.**

They are not many. My remarks should not be considered as highly critical, but rather as wishes for improvement of the rehabilitation work in a possible reissue, refer to those parts of it in which the problems of the Bulgarian business history during the periods, are object of author’s attention. . The most important thing to note is that in some places there is a rather vague and somewhat evasive interpretation of the events and facts of economic life, which, in my opinion, is due to literature which Tepavicharov use. For example, for the economic history of the period between the two world wars, he made extensive use of authors of that time, which did not allow to create a true picture of the state of the economy then.

**Conclusion**

Veselin Tepavicharov fully complies with the minimum quantitative requirements for all indicators defined in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), even exceeding them. The various directions and achievements of his scientific, scientific-promotional and teaching activities make a significant contribution to the contemporary Bulgarian political ethnology. The procedural requirements of the ZRARB, the Rules for its implementation and the normative documents of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski "have been complied with.

All this gives me reason to recommend to the Honorable Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanov Tepavicharov the title of "Professor" in Professional Degree 3.1 Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences, which I will support with full conviction.

25.11.2019 …………………………………

Sofia city (Assoc. Prof. Marco Dimitrov)