

STATEMENT

**for Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov Dimov, DSc
candidate for the academic position of “Professor”**

Professional area 3.5. Social Communications and Information Sciences

(Journalism – Media Music),

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by Prof. Ivanka Vlaeva, PhD, SWU „Neofit Rilski“

Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov, DSc is the only candidate in the competition. The scientific researches, documents, information (for academic, artistic and other activities) which have been submitted are complete and correct. The enclosed works shows the multifaceted activity and scientific achievements of the area. The references for scientific and creative contributions are enough for the legal requirements for the academic positions "Professor".

Ventsislav Dimov is a specialist with multilateral activity, scientific, pedagogical and applied scientific achievements. Among them is his longtime work in media music. In this field, as well as in other scientific areas, he is appreciated not only among professionals in Bulgaria, but also in the circles of the international scientific community. His professional training, vast experience and practice in several areas of the humanities help this high recognition. For the competition Ventsislav Dimov presents materials, outlining his work in three fields: research contributions in several topics, according to scientific publications; project work on fundamental and scientific applied projects; teaching and methodological work with students and doctoral students.

Scientific publications and citations. The total number of scientific publications of the candidate in the competition is impressive in terms of quantity and quality. They are over 200 of which 5 monographs, about 140 scientific author's and about 60 co-authored publications. Evidences for their contributions are numerous citations. Ventsislav Dimov shows over 400, in which 80 of his publications are cited. I suppose the total number of citations is much higher,

because only in my publications there are citations that supplement the reference provided. 23 publications (1 monograph, 15 author's studies and articles, 7 co-authored publications) and 26 citations of 8 publications have been submitted for this competition for the academic position of Professor. Among them are two citations in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world databases of scientific information (Scopus; Web of Science). The above mentioned publications and citations have not been used in previous competitions. They are presented through several thematic focuses: formulation of a new research object – media music and appropriate methodology for its research; study of the cross-bordered areas in culture through Balkan music, ethnopop music, ethno-fusion; music, media, power, politics – the soft power of media music; a new interpretations of socialism through soft power.

The last thematic aspect of the study summarizes the previous mentioned ones and develops in the monograph "Music for the People on the Media Front (The Soft Power of Peoples and Popular Music in Socialist Bulgaria)". Sofia: "St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2019. For that reason, I will point out some of the most important contributions in this book. A major contribution is the multifaceted study of power-media-music-audience relations in Bulgaria from 1944 to 1989. A large number of sources were used, some of which were included for the first time in such a study. There are combined different innovative approaches that show the research subject as a whole. The new approach to music for the people in the media through socialism in Bulgaria is another important contribution. It is very important that the research is constructed as a network – a system in which different point of views of creation, functioning and reflections of the soft power of folk and popular music in Socialist Bulgaria are intertwined. A flexible, dialogical and many-layered look at media music for the people and music of the people presents a holistic picture, which is another important contribution of this research.

Activities in fundamental and applied research projects. Participation in project work enables both to promote scientific research and to find new ones as

well as to applied scientific knowledge. Ventsislav Dimov presents the results of its participation in several projects: university projects ("Seminar of the Department of Radio and Television" and Scientific Conference "Media and Cultures: Spaces, Societies and Communities" (NIS-SU, № 132/2016); "Seminar of the Department of Radio and Television" and the Scientific Conference of Lecturers and Doctoral Students "Dialogues for the Media" (NIS-SU, 2017); national projects ("Soft Power of Popular Music in the Media" (throughout Examples from Bulgaria and the Balkans)", Scientific Research Fund 05/16, 2016-2019); and international projects ("Sound Portraits from Bulgaria: A Journey to a Vanished World 1966-1979" (Washington: Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. Smithsonian Institution, 2019). These projects are related to the professional area of the competition and present the scientific achievements of the participant in the competition. Very respectable is the inclusion of Ventsislav Dimov in a project of one of the most prestigious sound archives around the world – Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, as an expert (consultant, author of annotations, comments and a foreword to the book).

Pedagogical and methodological work. Ventsislav Dimov has a large experience in lectures programs, which are based on his scientific research. He has ten developed and implemented educational programs related to media music. These programs are intended for all degrees of higher education - bachelor, master, doctor and they are part of the educational process at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in different faculties. Under the supervision of Ventsislav Dimov, four doctoral theses are defended and two more are under development as well as many bachelor's and master's theses. He is also a co-author of six textbooks on the subject of music at the secondary school – for eighth, ninth and tenth grades. After analyzing the works of Ventsislav Dimov in this pedagogical area, I will summarize that all of the above mentioned activities are up-to-date, innovative, with high applicability.

The presented publications on the topic, the project and pedagogical activities of Ventsislav Dimov are innovative with contributions. His publications have been cited many times, his research results have been used in other scientific

works, and this fact confirms their high scientific value and necessity. The results of his activity have both scientific, pedagogical, and media applications. They are the results of his long experience in the media landscape and scientific reflections. Ventsislav Dimov shows media music through the interaction of many layers and shows great awareness, interpretability, analyticity and systematicness.

The materials submitted for the competition by Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov, DSc show a multilayered interdisciplinary reading of media music in Bulgaria and its political uses. They are up-to-date, with high scientific, pedagogical and applied value. All of the above mentioned aspects of research and application are more than sufficient to meet the legal requirements for the academic position “Professor”. That is the reason I vote positive Associate Professor Ventsislav Dimov, DSc to be elected to the academic position „Professor“ (Professional Area 3.5. Social Communications and Information Sciences (Journalism – Media Music)).

Sofia, 2 December 2019

(Prof. Ivanka Vlaeva, PhD)