

REVIEW

for a competition procedure for academic position "Professor"
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.2.
Pedagogy (Civic Education, Anti-Corruption Education), for the needs of Sofia University
"St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Social Work

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Silvia Nikolaeva Nikolova

A candidacy has been submitted and approved in the competition, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Liana Ivanova Strakova, who is a staff lecturer at the Faculty of Pedagogy of St. Constantine and Helena University Kliment Ohridski". After a procedure for checking eligibility, by decision of the respective faculty committee, she was admitted participating in the competition.

I Data analysed in relation to the compliance of the application with the minimum and additional requirements for the academic position "Professor".

It is apparent from the submitted documentation that the application of Assoc. prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova fully complies with the requirements of the Law on Scientific Degrees and Titles, as well as the Regulations of the University of St. Constantine and Helena on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding scientific positions at St. Sofia University. Kliment Ohridski", namely:

1. The candidate in the competition has held the academic position "Associate Professor" at Sofia University for 21 years from 2000 to the present.
2. Since 1990, she has the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the same field of higher education and professional direction as the current competition for the academic position "Professor".
3. Assoc. prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova has presented published monographic work in the field of the competition, which does not repeat presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" previous publications of hers and for the academic position "Associate Professor" and is her original author's work, certified by a declaration under Art. 115, para. (1), item 5 of the Rules of Procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University.

4. The candidate has submitted a general list of 60 original research papers and publications, of which 47 are on the profile of the competition, and therefore they will be reviewed.
5. Its application meets the minimum national requirements under bl.2b, para 2 and 3 of the IRASBR, as well as the additional requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", with the quantitative values by group of indicators being as follows:

Group of indicators A: 50	(50 required)
Group of indicators C:100	(100 required)
Group of indicators D: 517,5	(minimum 200 required)
Group of indicators E: 245	(minimum 100 required)
Group of indicators F: 540	(minimum 100 required)
Total on all indicators:	1452.5 (minimum 550required)

As evidenced by the presented data, the three groups of indicators (groups D, E and E) on which there is a possibility of achieving higher than the minimum required point balls, Assoc. prof. Strakova collected *a total of 1302.5* points, which is more than three times the required 400 points (200+100+100 p.).

The **indicators in Group A** (50 p.) assess the presence of a PhD, which the candidate successfully defended as early as 1990 on the topic "Moral development of students in 1- 3rd grade" with scientific leader Prof. Dr. Dono Vasilev.

With **Group B indicators** (100 p.) the existence of habilitation monographic work is assessed, as in this case the "Civil Values and Civil Education" published in 2021 (University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia. ISBN 978-954-07-5204-4). The work has a volume of 236 pages, with scientific review by three habituated reviewers occupying an academic position "professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and contains an introduction, two sections and a list of the literature used. His more detailed review in terms of his contributions will be made in the next part of the review.

Group D indicators (517.5 p.) refer to the audience activity of the candidate in the competition, which in this case is more than 2.5 times higher than the minimum requirements (200 p.). In the presented documentation, Assoc. prof. Lilyana Strakova has presented a complete list of 60 titles with publications of her own, of which 47 have been proposed for participation in the competition, of which 39 meet the requirements of the indicators of Group D - 3 pcs. referenced and indexed articles, 9 pieces of studio and 24 articles in unrefereed magazines or collections, 3 pcs. chapters of collective monographs.

As regards *the minimum requirements in Group E* (30 points for citations in indexed and referenced journals and volumes, as well as in non-reported scientific review editions), the candidate has submitted a list containing:

- 5 citations / reviews in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes (SCOPUS and WoS, 75 p.);
- 13 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (130 p.);
- 8 citations / reviews in unreferenced journals with scientific review (40 p.).

By *group of indicators E* (540 p.) the candidate has presented one collective textbook, one teaching aid, and four other typology study editions. It is the focus of several curricula in civil and anti-corruption education for the bachelor's programs of the Fa in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, as well as those for the master's program "Modern Educational Technologies". The interaction between the family and the school; Working with children with aggressive behaviour; Educational and educational values in the educational content; Strategies to increase teacher efficiency as a class leader. The candidate is the scientific leader of one successfully defended PhD student and two in the process of working on his dissertation studies. The project activity of the candidate, which is also assessed according to this criterion, confirms its broad-spectrum connectivity with the scientific and practical and applied dimensions of civil and anti-corruption education. In practice, it has participated in some of the most significant national and international projects in the two thematic areas, successfully implemented in Bulgaria in the period since 2000. In the system "Authors" are registered 19 projects with her participation, while of 8 of which she is a leader and 9 of the projects are in the thematic field of the current competition for academic position "Professor". In this case, I would like to highlight some of the most vivid project contributions of Assoc. prof. Strakova.

1. She is a member of a research team that has developed and sampled the methodology for the national representative study on "Reasons for dropping children out of school in Bulgaria" (2006-2007), with the support of the Ministry of Education and UNICEF.
2. Assoc. prof. Strakova is part of a research team that has developed the methodology and carried out a nationally representative study on "Training and education in the entrepreneurial spirit of Bulgarian students in general and vocational schools in Bulgaria".

3. The candidate in the competition is head of rotation (together with Prof. G. Dimitrov, and Prof. Adriana Damyanova) of the inter-cultural project "From Civil Education to Civic Competences" (2009-2011).
4. Project Manager of national project "The civic education of the students – the European experience and perspective" (supported by the FNI at the Ministry of Education) with the participation of faculty staff and students from several departments of the Sofia University.
5. She participated in anti-corruption research projects implemented jointly with the Centre for the Study of Democracy and the Coalition 2000 between 2003 and 2005. Based on this expert participation in the project, Assoc. prof. Strakova develops curricula in Civil Education and Anti-Corruption Education, which are part of the preparation of students in Pedagogy, Non-Formal Education and Social Activities at Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski".

Considering the minimum and additional requirements for the academic position of "Professor", what generally makes an impression in the audience and academic activity of Assoc. Prof. Lilyana Strakova can be summarized in three leading dimensions.

First, her audience and academic performances are related to her sustainable interest in several priority topics, which she realizes through a variety of types and purpose publications and activity. Thus, with its scientific creativity, it addresses different users of scientific and academic information – researchers, students and interested readers from related practical fields. The proportion of more extensive titles presented as monograph, studio or project theoretic-applied studies is impressive. At the same time, the share of published scientific articles – both in referenced and indexed and not referenced editions – is also very serious. Finally, an important part of the candidate's scientific production is also the books and aids, which Assoc. prof. Strakova publishes and applies in her academic and teaching work.

The second dimension of its audience performances, for which the titles submitted give rise to be specifically noted, is related to the good balance between independent and collective publications, in which Assoc. Strakova was in it. I believe that it is extremely important for the modern researcher to be able to successfully establish himself not only as an individual expert and author, but also as a sought-after and effective team member. The data show that although in most cases it is the sole author of the publications submitted for review (only two of the publications are co-authored), most of the titles included are products of

different form and context, including very often interdisciplinary work - through team research projects, programs, forums, etc.

The third positive dimension of the candidate's audience and expert activity is associated with the sustainable balance identified in her professional biography between her own research and teaching engagement, on the one hand, and her active professional and civic expression and participation in practical initiatives aimed at the realization of new ideas, models, and programs. This speaks of expert sustainability, but also of a well-prioritized professional and career development.

The summary and analysis of the application submitted above with regard to the minimum and additional requirements for the public activity of the candidate for the academic position "Professor" gives reason to summarize that Lilyana Strakova *fully satisfies the requirements for volume and diversity of her academic engagement and productivity as a researcher, lecturer, scientific project manager and PhD student, author of monograph and studio publications, educational and educational auxiliary publications, as well as scientific articles in referenced and indexed, as well as in unfederated scientifically peer-reviewed journals and publications.* Its overall work, assessed by the criteria officially adopted in Bulgaria, exceeds over 2.5 times the minimum requirements under all five criteria applicable in the competition.

II Data on the professional development, academic and expert activities of the applicant, which are not directly covered by the minimum and additional requirements for the academic position "Professor".

Assoc. prof. dr. Lilyana Strakova holds a master's degree in Pedagogy (1976-1981) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where she developed and in 1990 successfully defended her Doctoral Thesis on "Moral Development of Students in 1th – 3th Grade" with Scientific Leader Prof. Dr. Dono Vasilev.

It is clear from the presented professional CV that the professional path of Assoc. prof. Dr. Strakova started in 1989 as a teacher in Sofia, where she consistently worked at the 22nd and 135th schools. From 1991, after successfully completing her PhD, based on a winning competition, she began working as an assistant professor of Pedagogy at the University of National and World Economy, where she remained until 1993. In the same year, again after winning a competition, the candidate was appointed Chief Assistant

professor of Theory of Education at the Department of Theory of Education of the Faculty of Pedagogy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and since 2000 she serves as associate professor of the same scientific unit. As a habilitated teacher, she developed the original author's curricula and taught several disciplines related to the profile of the competition, namely: Civic Education, Anti-Corruption Education, Educational and Educational Values in The Educational Content.

The reference provided by the candidate for her professional experience shows some of her expert roles and activities, which are also related to the profile of the competition for the scientific position of "Professor", as they are indicative of the natural connectivity between her work as a university lecturer and researcher, on the one hand, and her active role and participation in the practical transformations of the practice of civil and anti-corruption education both at national level and in the field of , and at regional level on the other. Here I will comment on those who cannot be assessed directly through the groups of indicators to meet the minimum requirements for taking up the scientific position of Professor, but indirectly provide valuable information not only about its audience activity, but also on its parallel professional commitment to promoting, implementing, and disseminating innovative ideas and practices. In this regard, I should note that, in my opinion, when the package of documents in the competition was complete, the candidate showed some modesty, as in the description of his professional career did not include several of her significant expertise and contributions. Rather, they can be judged based on the provided copies of documents and artifacts from several other appearances (Artefacts. pdf). Therefore, in his role as an internal member of the scientific jury, who first-hand knows the professional path of Lilyana Strakova since her appointment to the Faculty of Pedagogy in 1993 (I myself have been on the faculty since 1986), I consider it as my professional obligation in my review to analyse and present some of these special expert roles and performances that not only explain her sustainable research interest in the field of civil and anti-corruption education. , but also make more visible and recognizable its overall contribution to their validation and multiplication of their good practices.

In terms of her personal contribution to the development of university programs at the Faculty of Pedagogy, it should be noted that in 2010 she initiated and participated in the creation of the "Contemporary Educational Institutions" master program, which allows for the obtaining of pedagogical qualifications of specialists with different basic qualifications. Since then, the program allows for university preparation at the highest level of over 150 teachers in different subjects.

In the same year 2010, at the initiative of Assoc. prof. Lilyana Strakova started a training and scientific laboratory in Civic Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Sofia University, of which she has been a leader since its establishment. Thanks to the efforts of the members of the laboratory in the life of the Faculty of Pedagogy, several partnership initiatives have been developed and strengthened, implemented together with national institutions, non-governmental organizations, other higher education institutions in Bulgaria and abroad. Therefore, it is no coincidence that as a proven expert in this academic field, she is often invited to become a member of various expert committees, groups, juries, etc.

In addition to the faculty level, Assoc. prof. Lilyana Strakova also develops active professional activity in a general university context. Perhaps her most impressive appearance in terms of the profile of this competition is her participation in the establishment of the institution "Academic Ombudsman" at Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" and the University of National and World Economy, as well as at The Neofit Rilski University. This unique management innovation is implemented under the project "Transparency and Publicity through academic ombudsman", in close cooperation with the Democratic Commission at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia and in partnership with the Social Dialogue Foundation, with both rector's manuals and teachers from the University of National and World Economy. Thanks to this large-scale partnership project, the institution "Academic Ombudsman" of Sofia University began operating in 2004 with the appointment of the first academic ombudsman, Prof. D. Tmeniskova (Academic Ombudsman for the period 2004 - 2011). In practice, this innovative academic institution is ahead of the creation of the National Ombudsman of Bulgaria, whose first leader, Gincho Ganev, launched his term of office in 2005. (13 April 2005). It was thanks to this professional and public commitment that Lilyana Strakova developed and established one of the country's first university courses in Anti-Corruption Education, which made her a recognizable expert in this field not only at university and local level, but also at national level.

Analysing the expert authority and activity of Lilyana Strakova, which is important for the current competition, should note some more facts from her participation in the academic life of the faculty, the university, and other academic organizations in the country.

1. Participation in the continuing qualification of teachers at the invitation of regional educational authorities: in Burgas, Kardzhali, Pazardzhik, Sofia-grad and Sofia-region; Blagoevgrad, etc. Topics: Formation of civic values in children (preschool) and students; Children's rights and civic education; Prevention of aggression in school; Formation of

social and emotional intelligence of students; Reasons for dropping children out of school in Bulgaria; Sex and sexual education, etc.

2. Author of qualification curricula and leading trainings on topics such as : "Legal aspects of social work with children and families"; "Models of social work with children and families" at the CHRDMI (Centre for Human Resources Development and Regional Initiatives, Kremikovtzi Base at the Ministry of Health; "The anti-discrimination focus of European social policy"; "Anti-corruption measures in the various spheres of social practice", realized in trainings of civil servants under the project of phare program, etc.
3. Member of a scientific jury on a competition for good practice in pre-school and school education (2015-2020) on the topic "Educational integration of children and students from ethnic minorities", organized by the Ministry of Education, SBU, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Pazardzhik Municipality, Velingrad Municipality, etc.
4. Member of the Coordination Council of the Centre for Human Resources Development and Regional Initiatives (CRHDMI) of the Ministry of Health from 2015 to now incl.
5. She initiated and facilitated cooperation with non-governmental organizations (CID, Social Dialogue, Coalition 2000, Amalipe, etc. to realize the goals of civil and anti-corruption education.
6. Facilitator in a national project on improving the quality of training and education of children and students from vulnerable social groups, invited by the Union of Bulgarian Teachers.
7. She initiated and facilitated the partnership with other higher education institutions – preparation of reviews and opinions; with the state agencies – asp, employment agency, State Agency for Child Protection, with Sofia Municipality, etc. to support the realization of their goals and increase the quality of students' preparation incl. practical training in the specialties - Pedagogy, Social Activities and Non-Formal Education.
8. She initiatives, organizes and participates as a researcher and main rapporteur in conferences, workshops (with representatives of the state administration, employer-based organizations, school directors, NGOs), discussions, etc. forums of university, interuniversity, national, for the region (Macedonia).
9. During the period after taking up the academic position "Associate Professor" was invited as a lecturer at several national universities in Bulgaria and abroad:
 - 2000-2002 – New Bulgarian University, Sofia (lecturer)
 - 2000 – 2003 – Neofit Rilski University
 - 2005 – Humboldt University, Berlin, FRG (member of a working group);

- 2010 - Jules Verne University, Amiens, France (guest lecturer);
- 2013 until now – member of the editorial board of the Yearbook of the University of Education, book Pedagogy
- 2013 – member of the editorial board of the electronic journal of social work at St. Constantine and Helena University. Cl. "I'm not going to be able to do

10. Between 2007 and 2014 Lilyana Strakova has been elected for two terms as head of the Department of Social Work, and since 2019 she is currently Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy. In these electoral academic roles and responsibilities, she has actively assisted in the promotion of research and innovative practices in the field of civil and anti-corruption education as leading and defining the image of academic units.

In summary, *the entire educational and professional career of Assoc. prof. Lilyana Strakova* is inextricably linked to Bulgarian education and pedagogy, *which is the main subject of evaluation and review under this competition, the vast majority of its* creative scientific and applied *efforts* are devoted precisely to the development of civil and anti-corruption education not only as fields of research and university *teaching, but also as areas of meaningful active policies and practical innovation and reforms.*

III Assessment of the quality of the applicant's scientific output and scientific contributions

In the presented by Lilyana Strakova reports on the original scientific contributions in her publications after taking up the academic position "Associate Professor" she has rightly highlighted several directions:

- Contributions to the general theory of civic education;
- Contributions to the creation and approbation of author's research tools for implementation in the thematic fields of this competition;
- Contributions to the study and conceptualization of specificities and challenges through socio-civic development, integration and protection of vulnerable social groups;
- Contributions to the study and conceptualization of anti-corruption education as a component of civil personality formation;
- Contributions to the scope of approbation for school and university needs of new training programs for anti-corruption education, civic education, value development and education.

In support of this self-reflection and self-assessment, Assoc. prof. Strakova has indicated specifically and correctly the publications and works containing the highlighted contributions. My secondary verification and analysis give me reason to confirm with a firm agreement the merits of such a systematic of the candidate's scientific contributions. At the same time, I consider it important and informative to highlight a more specific, hidden systematics of the quality of her scientific work more noticeably, I would allow myself to classify her contributions at two building levels of importance.

First level: theoretical and conceptual contributions

They refer to the deep research of the leading thematic areas – civil and anti-corruption education, while the conceptualization of the second is an original and pioneering contribution of Assoc. prof. Dr. Strakova for Bulgaria. If I need to be more detailed, the following significant achievements can rightly be highlighted here:

- The historical and philosophical enrichment of ideas about the essence, objectives, content and methods of civic education in school-based on a reconstructed model of civic education -that synthesizes civic/democratic values from classical works from the era of ancient Greece and Rome, the Enlightenment, the Bulgarian historical tradition and contemporary studies (see habilitation work, publ. №2; №22; №24);
- Conceptualization and development of the value approach in the study of the organizational and functional and meaningful aspects of civic education (see habilitation work & publ. 2, 17, 22, 34);
- Constructing and systematically enriching the content of civic education in the direction of: (a) political and legal course of civic education; (b) the relationship between socio-emotional learning and civic education; (c) the socio-cultural dimension and (d) the economic strand with a focus on entrepreneurship education and training (see publ. №2; №17);
- Clarification and conjugation of the competence model in the study of the different aspects of student civic education based on moral norms and interactions in school and extra-curricular environments (publ. No2, No3; No4; No6);
- Conceptualizing and systematizing the dimensions of civic education as a practical field of natural connectivity between formal and non-formal education (publ. №2; №5);

- Justifying the role of the teacher and the teaching profession in integrating into the values of civil society (publ. №2; №4).
- Theoretical study and clarification of the relationship between anti-discrimination and civic education (publ. №7; №11).
- Justification and development of the socio-civic and evolving function of social work in terms of protection, protection and support of civil status, rights, roles and participation of clients of social services from the most vulnerable social groups (pub. №24, №27, №29, №30, №32, №35).

Second level: methodological-instrumental and applied contributions

In this group, I have summarized the contribution nature of the publications in which Assoc. prof. Dr. Strakova has presented the products of research projects and activities aimed at creating, approbating, and implementing innovative research methodologies and tools, developing original practical models and training programs, such as:

- Establishment and approbation of research tools for diagnosis and monitoring of the dynamics of the value-moral development of students in the period of their school education (publ. №11, No14, No16, No25, No30, No40);
- Creation of applied training materials for training and self-study on key topics and issues related to corruption and measures to limit it in an educational context (publ. 42);
- Construction, approbation, and validation of new curricula in civil education and anti-corruption education for the preparation of students in Pedagogy, Non-Formal Education and Social Activities at Sofia University.

In summary, the review of the scientific production submitted for review under this competition provides strong grounds for a high positive assessment of the quality of scientific production and contributions of Assoc. prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova. Among her most vivid achievements, I want to highlight the originally developed value approach to civic education as an element of civic development and participation of modern people and societies. Various aspects of it in Bulgaria are conceptualized, examined, and applied by other Bulgarian authors (E. Vasileva, S. Tsvetanska, R. Vassileva etc.). Without an analogue in modern scientific and educational literature in this scientific and academic field, however, is its

choice to place in the resistors of the civic ideal of modern marginal technologized and pragmatic humanity the eternal values, whose historical, political and cultural roots seek and discover in some of the most spiritually and valuable periods of human history, which have left us with unique examples of philosophical-axiological thinking and civic presence.

Special attention is also paid to the proven wide scientific and social circle of Assoc. prof. Dr. Strakova, which allows her to go beyond the narrow frameworks of traditional pedagogical understandings of education, as a function and responsibility only of formal educational institutions to discover and clarify the significant functions and competences of non-formal education and social work.

No less impressive is the sustainable interest and scientific bias of L. Strakova to the themes and priorities of anti-corruption education, for whose development and validation she will remain one of the pioneers on Bulgarian soil.

In summary, the qualitative analysis of the scientific production provided for review of Lilyana Strakova, established in the period after her habilitation as an "associate professor" in 2000, unequivocally shows that:

- Thematically it fully corresponds to the cipher of this competition.
- It contains original author's ideas and theorized-empirical developments with undeniable contribution at both theoretical and practical levels.

All this gives me the basis for a high-quality assessment of her scientific and academic creativity and work, which, by its thematic scope, scientific originality, practical significance and applicability, fully meets the requirements for taking up the academic position of "professor".

IV Questions and recommendations

I consider it undeniable that the vast topicality and practical significance of the themes of both the field of civil and anti-corruption education is undeniable. At the same time, their conceptual and meaningful development is usually approached in a more pragmatic, formal and institutionally charged way.

Therefore, I would recommend Assoc. Prof. Lilana Strakova to build on her conceptual and systematic developments of the value approach to and in civil and anti-corruption education with the creation and implementation of appropriate practical models for its application to the needs and opportunities of different age and social groups. Such philosophical-axiological and paradigm change is important and necessary not only for

adolescent generations, but also for those individuals, groups and communities for whom the risk of loss or deprivation of civil status, values and rights due to existing corrupt or discriminatory practices is greatest.

Conclusion

Having regard to both the quantitative scientific minimum requirements for taking up the academic position of professor, as well as the qualitative analysis of the scientific production, activity and contributions of Assoc. prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova, I strongly support her candidacy under this competition and give my positive assessment of her scientific and scientific and applied achievements.

07.07.2021

Sofia

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Silvia Nikolaeva Nikolova