

## EXAMINER'S ASSESSMENT

Regarding the materials presented for the participation in a competition for the acquisition of the position of *'Professor'* of University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski", in the field of higher education 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Journalism – Media music), as announced in *State Gazette* No. 65/16.08.2019 and in the web page of the University of Sofia, for the needs of the Department 'Radio and TV' of the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication

Academic jury member: Assoc. Prof. Zhana Popova, Ph.D., Radio and Television Department, Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" (as per Order No 38-597/11.10.2019 by the Rector of Sofia University)

Competition participants include one candidate: Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov Dimov, D.Sc. The documents submitted by the candidate comply with the requirements of the law and the Implementing Rules of University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski".

### **Research and teaching activities**

Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov has been a lecturer at the Radio and Television Department of University of Sofia since 2010, when he won a competition for associate professorship. He has been combining this position with the position of an Associate Professor at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Art Studies, Music Department (professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art) where he has worked as an Associate Professor since 2004. Since 2018, Assoc. Prof. Dimov has been a Doctor of Science in professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Science. The table of research metrics precisely divides publications and quotations in the two fields.

Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov, D.Sc., participates in the competition with the research monograph *Music for the People on the Media Front (The Soft Power of Folk and Popular Music in Socialist Bulgaria)*, Sofia: St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2019 (368 p.); 15 studies and articles, of which two in English, six textbooks and printed teaching materials in co-authorship, as specified, and within the scope of the professorship competition.

All the publications in the list have been published after he was given the Associate Professor title, in both research directions in which he has evolved.

Probably due to modesty, Assoc. Prof. Dimov has not indicated in the list his authorship of the *Medialog* magazine in the period 2017–2019, as authorship and editorial work show the ability of scientists to provoke other scientists. I believe that this part of his work shows his important role in our academic community.

What remains outside the list of publications, yet we refer to in the reference paper requested from the “Authors”, is Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov’s participation in national and international conferences with papers, part of them in English. His active involvement in international forums with plenary papers is proof of the respect of the academic community to his research achievements. Participation in conferences needs to be highlighted, as time and effort is required to discuss results and conclusions.

Assoc. Prof. Dimov is one of the most cited Bulgarian researchers of media music in our country. The overview of the total number of citations shows two in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (Scopus; Web of Science).

I will address mostly Assoc. Prof. Dimov’s monograph, which constitutes an original scientific research on important research issues.

One characteristic feature of Assoc. Prof. Dimov’s works is the persistence in the pursuit of the most accurate entanglement of various approaches to the research problem. Using the history of music-related ideas, Ventsislav Dimov analyzes public processes through the relations among and toward power, media and musicians in a period referred to by different names, i.e. the period from 1944 to 1989. I agree with the author’s self-assessment that he has accomplished his goal formulated as follows: show how “(...) *the ideological narrative of power is implemented through the practices of the intermediaries, the media, and related institutions, organizations, figures, who do not only lower the “high” narrative or just “translate” it for the people, but implement, deliver and fill it with content because they are mechanisms of forming daily culture.*”

This study and the publications by Assoc. Prof. Dimov proposed in the competition show in-depth work with a diversity of Bulgarian and foreign research sources. As in previous stages of his scientific evolution, the candidate is meticulously prepared and accurate in the presentation of

the history of ideas he uses to build his research apparatus. The author unfolds his concept of analysis based on the specifics of power-media-music-audience relations, while typologizing the internal periods in the development of the “music of the people”.

While accepting the self-assessment of Assoc. Prof. Dimov’s contributions referred to in the required reference information, I add yet another one, i.e. the defining of markers of a particular type of “music people-power” manifesting itself in a number of specific cases in the research period and existing without opposing to the dominant ideology.

Assoc. Prof. Dimov’s research work is indisputable proof of coherent and in-depth research in the field of music media research.

### ***Teaching activities***

Assoc. Prof. Dimov delivers lectures on history of media music as part of the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication’s bachelor’s programs, as well as a lecture course within the Digital Media and Videogames master’s program.

Assoc. Prof. Dimov has tutored two doctoral candidates who acquired their degrees successfully at the Radio and Television Department. He is among the most sought-after university professors of University of Sofia bachelor and master students, as a thesis tutor, as indicated by the impressive number of 57 graduating students in the period 2010–2019.

He has managed scientific research projects at University of Sofia and the project “The Soft Power of Popular Music in the Media (per examples from Bulgaria and the Balkans)”, funded by the Scientific Research Fund (N 05/16).

### **Personal impressions**

I have known Ventsislav Dimov as a music critic and researcher even before he joined the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication. As a university professor, Assoc. Prof. Dimov is characterized by his active work with students, doctoral candidates and is a well-respected colleague. As a chair of the appraisal committee at the Faculty, he has received the acknowledgement of the college for his active involvement and openness to dialogue. His active participation in the design of research projects resulted in the establishment, jointly with Assoc. Prof. Orlin Spasov, Ph.D., of the public seminar of the Radio and Television Department. He is among the founders of the *Medialog* research journal and the media research platform *medialog-*

bg.com. Together with the colleagues from the Department, he is involved in the organization of the doctoral seminars and the Department's annual media research conference.

Over the years of joint work at the Department, I have witnessed Ventsislav Dimov's generosity to share ideas, discuss documents found in the archives, and above all, get those who follow him in science involved in scientific activities.

He has been awarded prizes for music criticism and journalism in the media, for his author programs on Darik Radio.

As the law requires the next sentence, I hereby declare that Assoc. Prof. Dimov and I do not have any joint publications.

**Conclusion:**

The candidate's teaching and research activities deserve the highest possible appraisal. This led me to highlight the undisputed scientific contributions of the candidate's research work and propose to the members of the academic jury to award the professorship title under professional field 3.5 to Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov, Ph.D.

Signature: .....

Sofia, 10 December 2019