

## OPINION

*From Assoc. Prof. Dr. Snezhana Atanasova Popova, South-West University  
“Neofit Rilski”- Blagoevgrad*

Member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position PROFESSOR in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Civic education, Anti-corruption education), announced by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski in GP, issue 22 from 16.03.2021

***REGARDING the scientific, scientific-applied and professional-academic activity and production of the participants in the competition.***

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Ivanova Strakova is the only candidate in the announced by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski competition for academic position PROFESSOR in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Civic education, Anti-corruption education). The competition was announced in SG, issue 22 of 16.03.2021. There are no violations of the procedure, and the submitted set of documents is in accordance with the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Ivanova Strakova was born on October 12, 1958 in the town of Bansko. She had completed her secondary education at the Polytechnic High School Vl. Poptomov, Razlog in 1976.

In 1981 she graduated in Pedagogy at Sofia University (Master's degree). From 1989 to 1991 she worked as a primary school teacher, junior high school teacher and pedagogical advisor at 22 high schools Georgi S. Rakovski and 135 High School Jan Amos Comenius, Sofia.

In the period from 1991 to 1993 she had worked as a lecturer (assistant) in Pedagogy and Age Psychology at the University of National and World Economy.

Since 1993 and currently she is a lecturer at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (from 1993 - 2000 - Chief Assistant; from 2000 - Associate Professor).

As a respected expert and specialist at the national level, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Ivanova Strakova also works as a lecturer at the New Bulgarian University (in the period from 2000 to 2002) and Southwestern University (in the period from 2000 to 2003).

In 1990 she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on Moral development of students in grades 1-3 - Sofia University, Faculty of Pedagogy. After successfully winning a competition, she held the academic position of Associate Professor in 2000.

Since 2010 and until now Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Ivanova Strakova is Head of the Center for Civic Education - Sofia University, Faculty of Pedagogy. He is the head of the master's program Modern educational technologies (with the acquisition of professional qualification Teacher) - since 2010 and currently.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova has held the following administrative positions: Head of the Department of Social Work (2007-2014); Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economics - Bachelor's Degree (2014-2019). Since October 2019 he has been the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Ivanova Strakova includes conducting lecture courses and exercises with students in the following professional fields:

**1.2.** Pedagogy - Bachelor's Degree (Pedagogy - Faculty of Biology, Faculty of Philosophy and Faculty of Physics; Theory of Education - Exercises; Experimental Pedagogy - Lectures and Exercises; Civic Education - Lectures and Exercises; Anti-Corruption Education - Lectures and Exercises; Sexology in Pedagogy; adolescence - lectures and exercises); ACS Master - MP Modern educational technologies (Interaction between family and school; Working with children with aggressive behavior; Educational and educational values in the

curriculum; Strategies to increase the effectiveness of the teacher as a class teacher);

**3.4.** Social activities - (*Professional values and norms in social work; Sexological and pedagogical problems in children and adolescents*).

**The teaching activity** of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Ivanova Strakova at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski **at the bachelor's and master's level is in the profile of the competition.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Strakova specialized at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany in 2005 and at Jules Verne University, Amiens, France in 2010, which strengthens my belief in a **candidate with a high level of professional competence and professionalism. personal adaptability and mobility.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova is a member of the editorial board of the Yearbook of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, book Pedagogy; member of the editorial board of an electronic magazine on Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski from 2013 until now; Member of the Coordination Council of the Center for Human Resources Development and Regional Initiatives at the MLSP from 2012 until now.

With her scientific and personal qualities and merits Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova contributes to maintaining the high prestige of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski among the academic community.

She is the research supervisor of two doctoral dissertations / one of them has already been successfully defended in 2015 /, as well as the research supervisor of numerous diploma studies. She has participated in 4 international scientific or educational projects; in a total of 16 national scientific or educational projects, with high applied value, having been the leader of 10 of them. There are a total of **33 citations**, **18** of which are in *scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information*

*or in monographs and collective volumes.*

Regarding the list of citations, I should definitely emphasize her serious presence not only in the publications of young researchers, but also of established names in pedagogical science. The results of the research and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova are an achievement for a wide range of specialists through her active participation in international and national scientific forums.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova also has a **serious publishing activity**. She participated in the competition with 1 monograph - habilitation thesis: Civic Values and Civic Education (2021), 3 articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information; 24 articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes; 9 studies published in non-peer-reviewed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes; 3 published chapters from collective monographs.

The presented scientific production corresponds to the profile of the announced competition and **reflects the research interests and contributions of the candidate**.

The presented monograph analyzes and discusses current and significant issues related to the conceptual clarification of civic values and civic education; the values of the civil society, which are found in the works of the philosophers of Antiquity and the classics of the Enlightenment, are presented; special emphasis is placed on universal Christian values, which are at the heart of European civilization and are a guide in time for better human relations; the Bulgarian tradition in the creation of the first textbooks on Civil Doctrine (1894) is presented through the analysis of the work of Nikola Stanev, whose textbook History of Bulgaria is still taught to read and write Bulgarians abroad; the essence, approaches and models in the research of value-based civic education are studied; the taxonomic approach in presenting (classifying) the goals of civic

education is discussed; the content aspects of the assimilation of civic / democratic values by students and young people are analyzed and are defined in four main directions: first, political and legal; second, social with an emphasis on socio-emotional learning and civic education, third socio-cultural and fourth economic direction; some modern dimensions of European citizenship are considered, etc.

The main research highlights in the other scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova are: the value development of young people in the context of health and sexual education; psychosexual development and sexual education; development of research on gender and sexuality; values, value development and anti-values; children's rights and civic education; civic education - an integrating factor for formal and non-formal education; the European social policy of equal opportunities and its transposition in Bulgaria; dropping out of school as a socio-pedagogical problem; education and upbringing in entrepreneurship in secondary schools - European experience and Bulgarian practices; EU anti-discrimination policy; the academic ombudsman and the quality of the educational process in higher schools, etc.

In the development of the envisaged problems Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova shows enviable scientific competence and conscientiousness, depth and precision, critical thinking, practical sense and compliance with the latest trends in pedagogical theory and practice.

In general, I would like to emphasize that the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova outline her as **an active researcher with high professional competence, sustainable research interests, strong authorial position and conceptual attitude** in the context of pedagogical issues.

The volume and content of the presented research products indisputably define Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Strakova as fully meeting the requirements and criteria for acquiring the academic position PROFESSOR.

I agree with the contribution moments outlined in the provided

contribution report.

Conclusion: Based on the in-depth research achievements, the overall teaching activity, the position of the candidate among the academic community, as well as my personal impressions, I give my **positive assessment** and propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilyana Ivanova Strakova be elected to the academic position PROFESSOR at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Civic education, Anti-corruption education).

21.07.2021.

Blagoevgrad

Signature:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Snezhana Popova/