

## STATEMENT

by

**Professor Juliana Krumova Marinova, MD, PhD**  
**Head of the Department of Social Medicine and Health Management,**  
**Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University-Stara Zagora**

Member of the **Scientific Jury** pursuant to order R-109-303 from 07. 08.2020 of Professor Svetoslav Georgiev, MD - Deputy rector of "Career Development "of the Medical University " Prof .Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, in accordance with the replacement order no. P-100-395 from 31.07.2020, associated with the announced in the State Gazette, p. 53 from 12. 06.2020 competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" and in accordance with the report number 102-1715 from 15.07.2020 by Associate Professor Natalia Usheva, MD, PhD - Head of the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Organization and resolution on Protocol 153 from 21. 07.2020 by the Council of the Faculty of Public Health:

Procedure for occupation of the academic position of **Associate Professor** in the specialty “**Public Health Management**”, professional direction **7.4 Public Health, Field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports** - one for the needs of the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Organization; requirements for candidates: higher education, master's degree in Public Health and Healthcare Management, acquired by the doctor's degree in Public Health Management.

Candidate in the competition: **Chief Assistant Professor Silviya Pavlova Nikolova**, PhD in Public Health

According to Protocol number 1, held by the first meeting of the Scientific Jury on 25.08.2020, I am selected to write a statement. The statement was based on the analysis of the documents provided by the applicant (described in the 26 items of the

Application Blank to the Rector of Medical University-Varna in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Academic Development in the Republic of Bulgaria, its application and the inner rules for Academic Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University "Prof Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

### **SHORT CAREER PROFILE OF THE CANDIDATE**

**Silviya Pavlova Nikolova** was born in 1983 in the city of Stara Zagora. She has "Bachelor" and "Master" degrees in Healthcare Management obtained from the Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna [MU-Varna] in 2005 and 2006. In the period 2009-2013, she was a regular student in a Joint Doctoral Program between the University of Texas, Arlington, USA and the University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, as a result of which she received a PhD in Social Policy and Social Work with a dissertation titled *"Medical and geographical inequalities among people with disabilities living in different socio-economic conditions: Dallas, Texas and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon"*. This PhD was recognized as such by the scientific specialty: "Public Health Management" of the Medical University-Varna with the attached Certificate 109-258 dated 01.07.2015.

Silviya Nikolova has qualifications in "Social Work" and additional qualifications in "Special Pedagogy" (work with children with low vision and blindness).

She has been consistently selected for the position of "Assistant Professor" (2014) and "Chief Assistant Professor" (since 2016 and currently) at the Department of "Social Medicine and Healthcare Organization", Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University -Varna.

She has acquired specialty in "Medical Informatics and Healthcare Management" in January 2020 as registered in the system for post-degree education.

She is fluent and uses English and Spanish as a foreign language in her work.

### **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

#### **Quantitative performance:**

Silvia Nikolova presents \*completed e-certificate confirming the completion of the minimum requirements to obtain credits for the occupation of the academic position

"Associate Professor" in accordance with the Law On Academic Development in the Republic of Bulgaria \* a list of publications and citations, used to log in to the National Center for Information and Documentation and for the academic position of "Chief Assistant"; \*a list of full-text publications for those referenced as a proof to cover the minimum requirements; \*a list of participation in national and international scientific events; \*a monograph work and a summary of it in Bulgarian and English; \* information about the contributions of scientific papers; \* certificates issued by the MU-Varna library regarding: - publications of the candidate; - about citations of publications; - about the impact factor of journals in which the candidate has publications; - about the existence of a scientific profile.

The submitted scientific papers for participation in the competition make up a total of 22, of which 20 are publications in journals and collections, one monographic work and 1 Chapter of a book published abroad. Of the articles, 15 (more than two-thirds) are written in a foreign language-English and Spanish, and 7 are in Bulgarian.

Included in reference template of publications, proves that the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor", in accordance with the work of the applicant are following the Law on Academic Development in the Republic of Bulgaria, and confirms that the **applicant meets and exceeds** the minimum requirements. From Academic Reports on publications and citations prepared by the Library of MU-Varna, based on the information provided by the author and the automated information from international scientific databases of Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar and eLibrary.ru, by indicators, the **articles** are as follow:

- Habilitation work - monograph (indicator B3) - 1 piece weighing 100 points;
- Publications in referenced and indexed journals (indicator G7) - 8 pieces with a weight of 136.5 points;
- Publications in scientific and peer-reviewed journals (indicator G8) - 6 pieces weighing 48.5 points;
- Published chapter in a collective monograph (indicator G9) - 4 pieces with a weight of 54.17 points.

**Citations** covering the scientific metric requirements minimum for the academic position "Associate Professor": according to indicator D10: citations or reviews in scientific publications, reviewed and indexed in well-known databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes-4 pieces; additional citations, outside the minimum scientific metric requirements for the position - 31 pieces (35 quotes in total).

In this competition Silviya Nikolova presents 3 publications in journals with an impact factor, as can be seen from the Academic Reference for the **impact factor** of journals in which the candidate has publications: AIDS and Behavior (IF 3.147=2019); Journal of Transcultural Nursing (IF 1.266=2019); Metabolic Syndrome and Related Disorders (IF 1.597=2018).

**Authorship** of scientific papers: Silviya Nikolova is a sole author or first author of 8 publications (36.4%), the second author of 6 (27.3%), i.e. almost two-thirds of the submitted scientific papers, which indicates her outstanding personal contribution to their development.

**Directions of research activities and contributions of scientific papers:**

Silviya Nikolova's research activities are in the **subject area of the competition**. **The contributions** of the scientific papers were presented in good faith in the scientific areas of her research: medical and social sciences, public health, medicine and interdisciplinary research, in 4 main areas: 1. **Inequality among people with disabilities**-9 publications (№№ 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 22); 2. **Gender inequality and HIV risk in sub-Saharan Africa** - 3 publications (№№ 1, 5 and 6); 3. **Promoting student health and motivation** - 4 publications (№№ 2, 3, 7 and 10); 4. **Varia** -5 publications (№№ 4, 8, 12, 14, and 19) in the submitted documents of the competition "Reference of Contributions of Scientific Papers", written by Silviya Nikolova on 10 pages. I accept contributions as they are submitted by the candidate in the competition in the main thematic areas of her research activities.

It is necessary to emphasize the importance, relevance, accuracy and great scientific and applied value of the self-developed Silviya Nikolova's monographic (habilitation) work "*Metaaspects of Disability (part I)*" (No. 21 in the list of

publications), written on 262 pages and reviewed by Professor. Dr. Albena Kerekovska, MD, PhD and Associate Professor Klara Dokova, MD, PhD. The monograph includes four chapters and seven appendices.

Project work: Silviya Nikolova participates in the following projects: "Regional Partnership for health and Sustainable development", Ministry of Health: BG07 program "Initiatives for Public Health"; partnership with the Ostfold Region in Norway in the field of Health; Fulbright Research Scholar, University of Chicago, Illinois "Prevalence and patterns of non-communicable disease-related disabilities in the US".

### **TEACHING:**

Silviya Nikolova has a 5-year general teaching internship as Assistant and Chief Assistant at the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Organization, Faculty of Public Health at MU-Varna. Guided by her are classes in the following academic disciplines: \* Social Medicine; \* Biostatistics; \*Medical and Social Aspects of Disability. She participates in the development and the update of the curricula of these disciplines. So far, she's been the advisor of two master students.

From the documents submitted for the competition, the "Report on teaching load" of Silviya Nikolova, can be seen that she has been teaching with a total annual workload of between 229 and 699 hours over the past 5 years of training.

### **EVALUATION:**

I give a **comprehensive positive assessment to the candidacy of Chief Assistant Professor Silviya Pavlova Nikolova, PhD** for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**". Her application undoubtedly **meets the requirements and criteria** of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the rules for its application and the rules for the development of the academic staff in the Medical University of Varna. I emphasize once again the innovative nature of her contributions to research, as well as the merits of her monographic (habilitation) work. She is a well-established, promising and consistent researcher and a teacher who contributes to the development of MU-Varna.

## CONCLUSION

I give my positive vote **“Yes” for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor”** by Silviya Pavlova Nikolova, PhD.

I strongly recommend that the distinguished members of the scientific jury **vote positively. Silviya Pavlova Nikolova, PhD. should receive** the academic position of **“Associate Professor”** in the field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health and scientific specialty "Public Health Management", Faculty of Public Health, Department of “Social Medicine and Healthcare Organization” in accordance with the announced competition in the State Gazette, issue 53 from 12. 06.2020.

02.10.2020.

Stara Zagora

Statement by:



Prof. Juliana Marinova, MD, PhD