

## Statement

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**Subject:** Competition for academic position “Professor” – announced in SG 14/18.02.2022 in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health Care and Pharmacy", professional field 7.1. Medicine, a field of higher education 7. Health and sports for the needs of the Department of Social Medicine and Health Care Organization, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” - Varna.

### 1. Information about the procedure

According to Order No. R-109-162/14.04.2022 the Rector of MU-Varna and Protocol No182/06.04.2022 from a meeting of the FS of the Faculty of Public Health I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury, and by Protocol No 1/29.04.2022 from a meeting of the scientific jury I was selected to prepare a statement for the competition for Academic Position “Professor” at the MU-Varna in the scientific specialty “Social Medicine and Organization of Health care and Pharmacy” (Bulgarian-language and English-language training).

The competition was announced in State Gazete 14/18.02.2022. It is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application at MU-Varna. On the basis of the above mentioned legal documents, all procedural requirements for announcing the competition, the deadline for submission of documents and the selection of the Scientific Jury are complied with. The only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Klara Georgieva Dokova, MD, PhD

### 2. Brief information on career development and qualifications of the candidate

Klara Dokova graduated in “Medicine” at MU-Varna in 1994 and obtained a Master Degree in "Public Health" at Maastricht University, Netherlands in 1997. She is a specialist in Social Medicine and Health Care Management since 1999. Her PhD dissertation was defended in 2009.

Klara Dokova began her professional career in 1996 as a doctor-therapist at Asparuhovo Municipal Hospital. From 1999 to 2001 she worked as a coordinator of a research project at the NGO Public Health-99. Since 2001 she started her academic development in the Department of Social Medicine and Health Care Organization at MU-Varna consecutively as an assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant, and since 2012 she is an associate professor. She's held the position of Vice Dean (2014 – 2018) and Dean (2018 – 2020) of the Faculty of Public Health.

Assoc. Prof. Dokova is a member of EUPHA, International Epidemiological Association, European Stroke Association, Bulgarian Association of Public Health, BNDOS, BLS. She is a member of the Management Board of the NGO Public Health-99. She is a collaborator of the Global Burden of Disease Study and a Focal point for Varna Region in the WHO RHN Network. She is the winner of the 2020 Pythagoras Science Prize.

### 3. General compliance of the candidate with the requirements of the MU-Varna regulations for the development of the academic staff

	<b>Requirements according to article 100 of the Requirements for academic staff development</b>	<b>Information for the candidate</b>
1.	Have acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the relevant scientific specialty	Yes, since 2009;
2.	Have held the academic position "Assoc. Prof." not less than 7 years and study workload not less than 100 hours on average per year for 4 years	Associate Professor since 2012; on average 401.5 hours per year for 4 years;
3.	No proven plagiarism	Yes
4.	To be the scientific leader of at least two successfully defended doctoral students, of which at least one, to have defended in the same scientific specialty	5 PhD students successfully defended their thesis; 1 in the same specialty;
5.	Have a recognized specialty in the healthcare system	Yes, since 1999;
6.	To meet the relevant minimum national requirements	Yes, by groups of indicators in the following table;

Minimum required points by groups of indicators for the Academic Position "Professor" according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application

<b>Groups of indicators</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Requirements of the Law (No of points)</b>	<b>Klara Dokova</b>
A	Indicator 1: Dissertation thesis for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"	50	50
B	Indicators 3 or 4: Habilitation thesis	100	100
C	Sum of points for indicators 5-9: Publications	200	341.19
D	Sum of point for indicators 10-12: Citations	100	240
E	Sum of point for indicators from 13 to the end	100	450

As can be seen from the comparison, the candidate exceeds the national criteria set for the academic position "professor".

### 4. Characteristics of the Monograph/Habilitation work

The candidate presents a habilitation work entitled "Burden of Disease Studies. Analysis of the Burden of Disease in Bulgaria 1990-2019" with ISBN 978-619-221-373-2. The work is published on paper in a volume of 215 pages (with 100 pages required). Reviewers are our respected specialists in the field of public health: Prof. Iskra Mircheva, MD and Assoc. Prof. Nevyana Feschieva, MD. Both reviews are included in the edition according to the requirements for this type of work. The habilitation work is structured in 14 chapters, a summary, a conclusion and 9 appendixes. The bibliography includes 155 sources, of which 11 in Cyrillic and 144 in Latin.

Assoc. Prof. Dokova covers sources from the last 10 years (61% of all sources), as well as several fundamental works from the field of study.

The monograph is dedicated to an extremely important problem for the health policy, the precise measurement of health and the impact of diseases and various potential risk factors on the population, which is key to assessing the health status of the population. The work presents important terminological clarifications and indicators for the assessment of the disease burden, as well as common methodological difficulties. Against the background of several key national surveys in European countries, an original analysis of the disease burden in Bulgaria was made for a 20-year period, as well as the position of our country in the European context and in terms of achieving the goals of sustainable development. The work can serve as a valuable aid in the learning process, but it is mostly of interest for public health professionals, including it can be a basis for the development of strategies and policies in the field of public health in our country.

## **5. General characteristics of the scientific research of the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Dokova participates in the competition with 47 scientific publications, distributed as follows:

- 1) Dissertation work for the educational and academic degree “Doctor” – 1
- 2) Monograph - habilitation work – 1
- 3) Textbook – 1
- 4) Scientific publications in international journals – 15, of which:
  - 10 full-text articles in referenced in Web of Science and Scopus journals;
  - 2 full-text reports published in a referenced in Web of Science and Scopus edition;
  - 3 reports published as summaries in the European Journal of Public Health;
- 5) Scientific publications in Bulgarian editions – 29, of which:
  - 24 full-text articles in peer-reviewed Bulgarian periodicals
  - 4 full-text reports from scientific forums published in collections with ISBN
  - 1 Chapter from a Collective Monograph in English

The candidate is a stand-alone or first author in 8 of the submitted publications.

In addition, Assoc. Prof. Dokova has presented also 10 full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, beyond the minimum scientific requirements for occupying the academic position “Professor”.

The total impact factor, according to the provided academic reference from the library of MU-Varna, is 1307.034. Scientific contributions are of original and confirmatory nature and are classified in four thematic areas.

Most of the publications are in the field of “Public health and health inequalities assessment through indicators of morbidity, mortality and burden of disease” (22 publications). It studies regional health inequalities; registers of diseases (in particular diabetes, diabetic retinopathy and strokes) and epidemiological evaluation based on information collected in the registers; studies of morbidity, mortality and burden of disease. Besides the focus on hypertensive heart disease and evaluation of health losses associated with it, Assoc. Prof. Dokova examined the burden of disease of strokes at the global and regional level and their contribution to health inequalities between Western and Central/Eastern Europe. In this area are also the most cited publications of Assoc. Prof. Dokova from her participation in joint author collectives with established scientists from abroad in the journals Neuroepidemiology, Lancet, Lancet

Neurology, J Patient Experience, Ophthalmic Epidemiology, European Journal of Public Health.

The second scientific field "Health prevention and promotion" includes 10 papers, among which are particularly interesting articles in health promotion in the university environment. Special attention is paid to be the protocol for scoping review of the global evidence of food transition, given the poor knowledge and application of this method for systematic review of scientific literature in our country, as well as the sharing of the regional experience of Varna in creating a supportive environment for people with disabilities.

The area of Medical Sociology includes six publications, one of which is the textbook on "Medical Sociology" suitable for the medical sociology classes of students from different specialties. For the first time the application of basic sociological theories for analysis of problems in the field of medicine and health care is presented in Bulgarian textbook. The topics included are in line with the recommendations of the British Medical Council for mandatory basic training in medical sociology for future doctors in the UK and cover the minimum requirements of the discipline. A special place is dedicated to the topics of social inequalities in health and disease and health professions through the prism of medical sociology.

The rest of the works in the field are published in respected national scientific journals (Social Medicine, Health Economics and Management) and explore current problems such as attitudes for prevention of oncological diseases among women in Bulgaria; lifestyle of doctors working in hospital care; social status and satisfaction of professionals from the profession of rehabilitator; teamwork, continuity and professional growth of doctors and nurses working in hospital environments.

The fourth direction of the publications is logically dedicated to the pedagogical work of the candidate. It brings together six publications under the name "Training of specialists in the field of public health". The focus of the analysis is to study undergraduate majors and compliance with the European recommendations on the necessary competences. In this group interesting is the article on the history of training in preventive medicine in Europe in the first half of the 20th century, with which the candidate enriches the palette of her used research methods with historical analysis.

A common feature of the works of Assoc. Prof. Klara Dokova is the clean and precise style, the wide range and depth of the scientific analysis and practical focus on the academic and applied sphere of public health. The report on the citations of her works confirms their scientific value, relevance and visibility among our professional community.

### **Scientific activity**

Participation in scientific projects: Klara Dokova participates in 2 Bulgarian and 4 international scientific projects with diverse funding and topics. She is the head of three national educational projects.

**Promotion of scientific results at scientific forums at home and abroad.** Assoc. Prof. Dokova systematically promotes the results of its research, as proof of this are the 30 participations in the documentation of the candidate in the period 2013 – 2022. Twelve of the participations are in international conferences.

## 6. Teaching activity

Klara Dokova has a work experience in the field of the specialty of 24 years, 4 months and 23 days, of which her teaching experience is 20 years, 06 m., and 13 days. Her workload amounts to 401.5 hours on average per year for 4 years. Her teaching activities include Bulgarian-language and English-language training in the disciplines: Social medicine and biostatistics, Introduction to Epidemiology, Applied Epidemiology and Health Promotion, Medical Sociology, Health and Disease Sociology, Medico-Social Aspects of Disabilities, Indicators and Public Health Assessment, Introduction to Public Health. A course has also been developed in the SDO program "Design of Research and Statistical Analysis".

The educational activity of Assoc. Prof. Dokova is also enriched with the scientific guidance of PhD students. She worked with 9 PhD students, five of whom had successfully defended in the period 2014-2021. The scientific guidance provided by Assoc. Dokova in various doctoral programs: Social medicine and organization of health and pharmacy, Public health management, Hygiene (Nutrition and dietetics) is impressive and proves the wide range of her scientific expertise.

## Conclusion

On the basis of the full coverage of the criteria set out in the Regulations for the development of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna, the significant contributions of the scientific activity of the candidate and her long-term teaching experience, I offer the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively and to propose to the Rector of MU-Varna Assoc. Dr. Klara Georgieva Dokova, MD, PhD to take up the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health Care and Pharmacy", for the needs of the Department of Social Medicine and Health Care Organization, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

May 16, 2022



Professor Dr: S. Aleksandrova-Yankulovska,MD,PhD,DSc,MAS

