

REVIEW

BY **PROF. DONKA DIMITROVA DIMITROVA, PhD, MSc, MSc, MPH**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS OF HEALTHCARE, FPH, MU-PLOVDIV
EXTERNAL MEMBER OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BY ORDER №P-109-303 / 07.08.2020. OF THE VICE-
RECTOR "CAREER DEVELOPMENT" OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - VARNA
FOR THE COMPETITION FOR AN ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN THE SPECIALTY
"PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT", PROFESSIONAL FIELD 7.4. PUBLIC HEALTH, AREA OF HIGHER
EDUCATION 7. HEALTH AND SPORTS, FOR THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL MEDICINE AND
HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATION, FPH, MU-VARNA

In the competition announced in SG no. 53 / 12.06.2020, there is one candidate applying: Silvia Pavlova Nikolova, PhD. She was born in 1983, has a master's degree in Health Management (MU-Varna, 2006), completed with excellent results from the training course (5.67) and state exam (5.75); Bachelor's degree in Health Management and a recognized specialty in Medical Informatics and Health Management (MU-Varna, 2020), as well as a qualification in Special Pedagogy.

She holds a PhD in "Social work" by the University of Texas at Arlington, USA (2013), recognized by MU-Varna (2015) in the scientific specialty "Public Health Management"

Currently, S. Nikolova holds the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Medicine and Health Care Organization at the Faculty of Public Health of MU-Varna, with a total work experience in teaching and in the specialty over 6 years and an average annual workload of 446 hours.

General description of the submitted materials in the competition.

The applicant in the competition has submitted documents in accordance with the requirements of the law and the Regulations for development of the academic staff of MU-Varna. Submitted is the necessary evidence for publication and reports of citations, by the library of MU-Varna. In addition to the required papers, there are also additional publications, references, certificates, etc., certifying circumstances related to her academic performance and achievements.

Evaluation of the scientific work of the candidate.

Silvia Nikolova, Ph.D. participates in the competition with 22 publications excluding her PhD thesis, the abstract to it, the articles related to the dissertation and those submitted for employment as senior assistant professor.

The submitted papers include:

- 1 book "Metaaspects of disabilities. Part I "(2020) dedicated to the problems of people with disabilities, the social construction of constraints and the effect of social environmental factors on their prevalence.
- participation as a co-author in 2 chapters in monographs / collections;

- 6 publications in Scopus and Web of Science, incl. 3 papers in journals with IF.

- 13 publications in peer-reviewed publications, scientific collections and volumes not included in Scopus and WoS

- Additional data of publications other than those required to achieve the mandatory quantitative indicators.

Scientific activity of the candidate

Silvia Nikolova has submitted a list of over 30 scientific reports and posters presented at international scientific forums. She is a Fulbright Scholar for the 2018/2019 academic year, and her publications have received CDPD (The Council on Disability and Persons with Disabilities) awards.

Participation in research projects

There are references indicating participation in 2 projects in the field of public health.

Citations of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature

The scientific significance of the candidate's studies is reflected by the citations in the national and foreign literature. Their number according to the presented reports is 35. A current reference in Scopus shows over 40 citations and h_{index} 4.

Main contributions

Silvia Nikolova is the sole or first author in over a third of the submitted scientific papers. They are related to several main areas in which she has focused her studies: problems of people with disabilities, inequalities and inequities, incl. gender inequalities; behavioral and social factors and effects on health and quality of life in young people and vulnerable groups.

The adequate and moderate self-assessment of the candidate's contributions makes a good impression. Apart from her priority problem areas she has participated in successful research on clinical problems, where she contributed with expertise in terms of methodology and data analysis.

The Scopus and Web of Science analytics ranks the main contributions of her research in the field of social work and health services analysis, but the most significant contribution may be defined as extending the traditional field of socio-medical research beyond the "disease" into the field of 'health as a social construct', mainly through the broader perspective of the sociological approach.

Most of the publications of Silvia Nikolova result from joint activities, incl. in multinational research project teams. The accumulated experience and skills for cooperation in the professional community within a relatively short professional path are indicative of academic potential that should be taken into consideration.

Complex, qualitative assessment of the teaching activity, incl. supervision of students.

Senior Assistant Professor Nikolova has participated in the teaching of social medicine, biostatistics, medical and social aspects of disabilities with an average annual workload exceeding the regulatory requirements. Her joint research work with graduates has led to successful publications.

General assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and quantitative criteria, according to the Law and the Regulations of MU-Varna.

The data and evidence submitted by the candidate reveal the compliance with the requirements for qualification, quantitative and qualitative indicators for scientific and teaching activities for the academic position of an "Associate Professor", **exceeding the required number of points in some groups of indicators.**

Conclusion

Based on the evaluation of the submitted materials and on the basis of the complex assessment of the compliance with the mandatory quantitative and additional qualitative criteria, I am convinced that Silvia Nikolova, PhD meets the requirements for the academic position.

The abovementioned gives me grounds to propose to the esteemed Scientific Committee to grant Silvia Pavlova Nikolova, PhD the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management", professional field 7.4. Public health, area of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, for the needs of the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Organization at the Faculty of Public Health of MU-Varna.



Prof. D. Dimitrova, PhD, MSc, MSSc, MPH

02.10.2020