

## REVIEW

according to a competition for the professor selection in the scientific specialty "Social policy and political science", professional field 3.4 Social activities, TU – Varna, announced in the State newspaper Nr. 29/31/03/2023 with candidate:

**Toshko Hristov Petrov, Doctor of Sciences, professional field 3.3 Political Sciences, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of "Social and Legal Sciences", Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Technical University - Varna**

**Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Tsvetan Georgiev Tsvetkov, University of National and World Economy – Sofia**

### 1. General and biographical data

Associate Professor, Ph.D. Toshko Hristov Petrov was born in 1958. He graduated from higher education majoring in a "Master" degree in "Organization and Management of Industrial Production", and a second major "Organization and Management of Administrative Activity" in 1983 at the University of National and World Economy – Sofia. In 1996, he obtained the educational and scientific degree of "doctor" in the scientific specialty "Political Science". For the period 1985 – 2002, he was a lecturer at the Higher Naval School "N. Y. Vaptsarov" – Varna, successively holding the academic positions of "assistant professor", "senior assistant professor", "chief assistant professor" and "associate professor". In 2003, he was elected as an associate professor in the scientific specialty "Political Science" at the Technical University – Varna, where he is currently working. For several terms (2007 – 2011, 2011 – 2015; 2019, and until now) he was the head of the "Social and Legal Sciences" department, and in the period 2015 – 2019, he held the position of Vice Rector of the Technical University – Varna. In 2013, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic "Application of game modeling in situational political analysis" at the Department of European Studies at the Angel Kanchev University of Ruse and was awarded the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the professional field 3.3. Political Sciences.

The competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in the professional field 3.4 Social activities and scientific specialty "Social policy and political science" is supported by the decisions of the Council of the Department of "Social and Legal Sciences" and of the Council of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

### 2. General description of the materials submitted for the competition



The candidate Associate Professor Toshko Petrov has submitted for review a total of 29 scientific works, of which one monograph (habilitation thesis), 25 articles, and scientific papers, of which 18 are independent and 7 co-authored, 3 textbooks and training aids. I believe that all submitted publications are on the issues of the competition and are accepted for review.

The documents for participation in the competition are as follows: a list of publications for participation in the competition, as well as those that participated in previous procedures for holding an academic position and for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"; reference to scientific and scientific-applied contributions; report of the applicant's academic employment for the academic year 2019-2020; list of citations; a list of successfully defended doctoral students; list of participation in scientific projects; a list of scientific projects managed by the candidate; statement of originality; reference in accordance with the requirements of Art. 2b of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), para. 3 of the Regulations on the Implementation of the LDASRB and Art. 1 of Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Holding Academic Positions in Technical University – Varna for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4 Social activities and others.

From the submitted report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the above-mentioned position, I can conclude that the candidate Associate Professor Toshko Petrov successfully fulfills these requirements in all groups of indicators, and in some groups of indicators exceeds the minimum requirements by several times.

From the list of publications presented for participation in the competition, it is clear that they do not repeat those that participated in the previous procedure for obtaining the Doctor of Science title and for holding a previous academic position. The applicant also declares that all of them represent original author's works and that plagiarism has not been proven against them according to the statutory procedure.

### **3. General characteristics of the candidate's research and scientific-applied activity**

The papers submitted for review give the impression that there are certain areas of scientific interest in which the candidate works in depth, analytically, and competently and achieves real scientific results. I believe that the candidate possesses an original scientific style in the development of certain important challenges for the political and social sphere of society. In

this regard, I could point out: a successful attempt has been made to theoretically understand the social communities formed as a result of the participation of citizens in the processes of personal construction of the main structures of political power, mostly by voting for certain political actors. A universal methodological approach has been successfully selected and applied in the study of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian voters, through which it is possible to identify such a specific social community as the electoral community. The main structural elements of the electoral community and the interaction between them are defined. A spiral graphical paradigm of the electoral community was developed. Based on specific political realities in our country, the theoretical basics of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian voters have been enriched – forms of participation in the formation of political power, peculiarities of voting, ways of establishing political orientations, etc. The peculiarities of the process of the formation of political preferences among Bulgarian voters have been studied and analyzed, and on this basis its main characteristic features have been deduced. Four types of voting are defined and justified, based on certain features of behavior in the political environment, characteristic of Bulgarian voters. On this basis, three main scales have been developed, through which the political choice of the Bulgarian voters is realized – ideological, value and situational. The prospects for improving the electoral system in our country have been analyzed on the basis of a comparative analysis of good practices in the use of relatively little-known electoral systems, enabling accurate and fair counting of voters' votes; issues related to the efficiency and standardization of various types of social services. A large part of the developments has an immediate practical orientation: a developed system of mathematically bound multifactorial regression models, with the help of which the main factors that have a significant influence on the electoral choice of the supporters of the respective party can be determined; a project for a new electoral system was developed, overcoming to a large extent the shortcomings of the existing one; creation and approval of a system of quality standards for social services for adults, etc.

#### **4. Evaluation of the pedagogical preparation and activity of the candidate**

The candidate for participation in the competition has the necessary pedagogical experience and competence. According to the submitted documents, he has extensive pedagogical experience and training that meets the requirements for the academic degree "professor" – 38 years of academic experience, he has passed through all academic positions (assistant professor, senior assistant professor, chief assistant professor, he has been an associate professor for 20 years). He has led numerous lecture courses as a habilitated lecturer in

courses corresponding to his scientific specialty in disciplines in bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in professional field 3.4 Social activities at the Technical University – Varna. He completed specializations at leading foreign universities. He speaks two foreign languages (Spanish and Russian). As a long-term head of the department, he has proven that he possesses the necessary managerial and social competencies.

### **5. Basic scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

The scientific, scientific-applied, and methodical contributions established in the scientific works of the candidate are indisputable and are a personal contribution of the candidate. I would formulate them as follows:

#### **Scientific contributions:**

On the basis of specific political realities in our country, the theoretical basics of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian voters have been developed – forms of participation in the formation of political power, peculiarities of voting, ways of forming political orientations, etc. (I – 1, II – 1, III – 11, 12, 13)<sup>1</sup>.

The differences between the four types of voting are defined and justified, based on certain features of behavior in the political environment, characteristic of Bulgarian voters – objective-rational, value-rational, emotional, and traditional. On this basis, three main scales have been developed, through which the political choice of the Bulgarian voters is realized – ideological, based on values, and situational. (I – 1, II – 1, III – 13).

A framework has been developed for applying quantitative and expert methods and an optimal strategy in making political decisions and using the principle of optimality in finding a solution to tasks with a multi-criteria nature by an informed expert group. (III – 3, 4, 7, 8).

Theoretical and methodological issues of electoral systems have been identified, based on which opportunities have been established for improving the electoral system in the country and implementing different types of electoral systems to improve the electoral process. (I – 1, II – 1, III – 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

A framework for assessing the effectiveness of social services has been developed and methods for its measurement and evaluation have been proposed, based on Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) methods and expert assessments. (I – 2, III – 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25).

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<sup>1</sup> The numbering is according to the Summaries of the scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition developed by the candidate.

Guidelines are proposed for improving the system of standardization of social services in the country based on an analysis of the issues of quality and standardization of social services. (III – 17, 18, 19, 20, 24).

**Scientific-applied contributions:**

A system of mathematically bound multifactorial regression models has been developed, with the help of which the main factors having a significant influence on the electoral choice of the supporters of the respective party can be determined. The factors having a significant impact have been selected. A methodology has been developed for checking the adequacy of the regression models developed in this way by using the procedure for statistical testing of hypotheses. (II – 1).

The thesis about the possibility of constructing mid-term electoral forecasts through multifactor regression models is substantiated, as well as opportunities for expanding their heuristic and prognostic potential are presented. (II – 1).

Development and analysis of alternative electoral systems with opportunities to improve the electoral system for different types of elections in the country. (I – 1, II – 1, III – 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

Creation and testing of a methodology for assessing the quality of social services for children deprived of parental care and a system of standards and criteria for assessing the quality of social services for adults. (I – 2, III – 1, 23, 24, 25).

**Methodological contributions of the candidate:**

I believe that, in addition to scientific and scientific-applied contributions, the candidate has also achieved significant methodological contributions, which can be formulated as follows:

Implementation of the results of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions from the research and scientific works and publications of the candidate in the education of the students in the "bachelor", "master" and "doctor" degrees from professional field 3.4 Social activities at the Technical University – Varna, through the inclusion of appropriate and scientifically and pedagogically justified main points from them in developed author's curricula and lecture courses on academic disciplines led by him.

The achieved scientific and scientific-applied results have a significant contribution to the integration of contemporary achievements and innovative theories and practices in the education of students and doctoral students from the specialties and the accredited doctoral program in the professional field 3.4 Social activities at the Technical University – Varna.

The achieved results of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions are used for the scientific, professional, and pedagogical formation and development of the academic staff in the Department of "Social and Legal Sciences" and the formation of a scientific and teaching school at the Technical University – Varna.

### **Citations of the candidate's scientific works and representativeness of publications**

In the competition documentation, the candidate has provided information on 20 citations of 10 own and 2 co-authored scientific publications (monographs, scientific articles, reports, textbooks, and training aids) in scientific journals, yearbooks, and collections of scientific conferences of universities in the country and one in a collection of scientific conference abroad (Greece). These facts give me a reason to conclude that the candidate's ideas have gained sufficiently wide popularity among the scientific community.

### **6. Significance of contributions to science and practice**

The contributions presented in the candidate's scientific works make it possible to highlight their significance in the following areas:

Study of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian voters and identification of the electoral community.

The theoretical basics of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian voters and the process of forming their political preferences have been enriched.

A system has been developed that supports the determination of the main factors influencing electoral choice.

Improving the processes of assessing the quality of social services and improving the system for standardization and evaluation of the effectiveness of social services in Bulgaria.

The main theoretical and methodological issues of electoral systems are systematized and opportunities for improvement of the electoral system in Bulgaria are presented.

The results of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions support the scientific and pedagogical development of the lecturers in the Department of "Social and Legal Sciences" and stimulate the formation of a scientific and teaching school at the Technical University – Varna.

### **7. Critical notes and recommendations**

Regarding the scientific production presented by the candidate in general, I have no specific critical remarks. I believe that the continuation of research in the above-mentioned directions,

in which the candidate has achieved significant results and has realized scientific and scientific-applied contributions, would be promising and would enrich and further develop the already achieved results.

#### **8. Personal impressions and opinion of the reviewer**

I know the candidate, Assoc. Ph.D. Toshko Hristov Petrov for 44 years – from the period of his student years at the University of National and World Economy (former Higher Institute of Economics– Sofia). My personal impressions of the candidate are that he is a competent, thorough, and analytical researcher, as well as an experienced and erudite university lecturer in his scientific field.

#### **9. Conclusion**

I believe that the candidate for participation in the competition, Assoc. Ph.D. Toshko Hristov Petrov is an authoritative and recognized among the academic circles in our country and abroad as a researcher and lecturer in his scientific fields and professional direction. Proof of this is his academic output, the citations of representatives of the academic community in the country and abroad, the specializations he has completed, and the lectures he has delivered at foreign universities.

The candidate for participation in the competition has submitted and complied with the necessary quantitative indicators of the criteria for occupying the "professor" academic position in accordance with the requirements of art. 2b of the LDASRB, para. 3 of the RILDASRB and Art. 1 from the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Holding Academic Positions in Technical University – Varna to fulfill the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.4 Social activities.

My analysis of the documentation submitted by the applicant for participation in the competition gives me the reason to make a justified conclusion that the minimum scientific-metric requirements have been fulfilled in accordance with RILDASRB. With complete confidence, I propose to the respected scientific jury to choose the candidate Assoc. Professor Ph.D. Toshko Hristov Petrov for a professor in the scientific specialty "Social policy and political science", professional direction 3.4 Social activities.

30.06.2023 г.

Reviewer:

**Заличена информация  
по Регламент (ЕС)  
2016/679**