

## STATEMENT

regarding a competition for taking the Academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities, scientific specialty "Social policy and political science", announced in SG No. 29 of 31.03.2023

with a candidate Associate Professor, Doctor of Sciences Toshko Hristov Petrov

Scientific jury member: Associate Professor Boycho Yordanov Boychev, PhD

### **1. General characteristics of the scientific research and applied scientific activity of the candidate.**

I personally know Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov for 35 years and I have had the opportunity to work in a team with him, to know his scientific development, as well as the problem areas of his interests. I also have direct impressions of his teaching work and his work as an academic and administrative leader. I can confidently assert that Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov is an established scientist and teacher, with a significant contribution in the scientific and academic sphere.

As the only candidate in the competition for the academic position "Professor", Assoc. Ph.D. Toshko Petrov participated with a monograph; two textbooks, one textbook, 27 articles and scientific reports (5 in foreign publications), 17 reviews. They do not repeat his previous scientific publications related to competitions: - for holding an academic position "docent" (2 textbooks, 1 monograph, 1 studies, 18 articles and reports); - for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" (10 articles). In terms of subject matter, content and form, the presented scientific production corresponds to the wording of the competition, as well as to the requirements of ZRAS and the Regulations for its application for the academic position of "professor". To this should be added the participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov in 11 scientific projects (2 national and 9 at TU-Varna), in 8 (all at TU-Varna) of which he is the head, as well as 42 citations of his scientific

works. As a research supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov also has four successfully defended doctoral students.

The works with which Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov participated in the thematic field of professional direction and specialty, subject of the competition. Among them, the monograph "Voting Technology" (Петров, Т., Технология на гласоподаването – монография – ISBN-978-619-241-201-2, Изд. Къща „Стено“, Варна, 2022, 139 с. - Petrov, T., Voting Technology - monograph - ISBN-978-619-241-201-2, "Steno" Publishing House, Varna, 2022, 139 p.) occupies a prominent place. , which poses the problem of the legitimacy of the electoral behavior of Bulgarian voters, examined through the "optics" of the concept of the "electoral community". The monograph proposes a mathematical model with the help of which medium-term forecasts can be made. The results presented in the monographic work have the potential to generate new ideas and solutions in the field of the study of electoral behavior of voters, as well as other applied aspects.

The textbook "Theory of Electoral Systems" systematically and comparatively examines the most widespread electoral systems in political practice, with an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each one. In fact, a theoretically ideal and practically perfect electoral system cannot exist. The specific electoral system is subject to argumentation and agreement between political forces, not a rational-theoretical choice. The second textbook, presented as a "course of lectures" - "Social policy and social activities" aims to familiarize students with the content of social policy, its origin, development, with basic methods and means of influencing and regulating social and distributive relations. This course of lectures is in a way complemented by the electronic textbook "Handbook of Social Policy", designed for training students in an electronic environment, with a developed set of didactic materials - tests, case studies and assignments. The articles and reports (27 in number) supplement, deepen and expand the main works of Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc.

Toshko Petrov in the selected problematic and thematic area of research and strengthen the belief about him as a competent scientist with his own handwriting.

## **2. Assessment of the candidate's teaching experience and activity.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov has a solid teaching experience as an assistant, chief assistant and associate professor of political science at the "Social Sciences" department of the Nikola Y. Vaptsarov State University of Medical Sciences, which he confirms and develops upwardly at the Technical University - Varna. In his professional biography, his participation as a guest lecturer under the Erasmus program in Spain and other EU countries is impressive.

As an associate professor of OTD (main employment contract) at the Technical University - Varna, the candidate has sufficient teaching practice and work experience in the scientific field, professional direction and specialty, as well as the necessary hours of classroom employment (in bachelor's degree, master's and doctoral programs, teaching practices ) to occupy the competitive position and successfully cope with its requirements.

## **3. Main scientific and applied scientific contributions**

Contributing moments in the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov are present in the monograph and the rest of the scientific production that is presented in the competition and in the attached reference are classified as scientific, scientific-applied and methodical. *Scientific contributions:* 1/ The development of a complex of game models and methods for the operationalization of various situations from the political and social reality. 2/ Theoretical understanding and analysis of the concepts electoral community and electoral behavior. 3/ Development and justification of three main scales through which the political choice is realized - ideological, value and situational. 4/ Development of the theoretical and methodological problems of electoral systems. 5/ Development of the problems of the effectiveness of social services, as well as the problems of their quality and standardization. *Scientific and applied contributions:* 1/ An exemplary methodology has been developed for correct

game modeling of the specific situation and finding the optimal solution for choosing the best strategy. 2/ A system of mathematically bound multifactorial regression models has been developed, with the help of which the main factors that have a significant influence on the electoral choice of Bulgarian voters can be determined. 3/ A methodology suitable for practical application for assessing the quality of care provided to different target groups of children deprived of parental care has been developed and approved. 4/ A system of standards and criteria for assessing the quality of social services for adults, suitable for immediate practical application, has been developed and approved.

The scientific contributions in the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr.Sc. Toshko Petrov are clearly visible and distinguishable both in the presented scientific production and in the reference for them provided by the candidate. I consider contributions to be the personal business of the candidate.

#### **4. Significance of the contributions to the science and practice**

The significance of the contributions in the candidate's scientific works are reflected in that section of the reference called methodological contributions. It can be concluded that the quantitative indicators of the criteria for filling the academic position have been met, that the candidate is well-known and authoritative in the scientific circles at home and abroad. More specifically, the significance of the results of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions is expressed in the fact that they are: - implemented in the education of the students of OCS "Bachelor" and OCS "Master" from professional direction 3.4 Social activities in TU-Varna; - main points of them are included in the developed curricula for the academic disciplines led by the candidate; - are used in the training of doctoral students in the accredited doctoral program "Social work, psychological research and social policy" from professional direction 3.4 Social activities, carried out by the candidate; - are used for the formation and professional development of a scientific and teaching school in the "SPN" department at TU-Varna.

I have not detected plagiarism and believe the applicant's statement in the Declaration of Originality.

### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no fundamental and formal objections to the candidate's scientific works. One recommendation – to expand the "geography" of its publication activity.

### **6. Conclusion**

Based on what was highlighted in the opinion, I accept that the presented scientific production, the outstanding scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions and the teaching activity of Assoc. Ph.D. Toshko Petrov are completely sufficient and satisfy the requirements of the position announced in the competition. Therefore, I find it reasonable to propose Associate Professor, Doctor of Science Toshko Hristov Petrov to occupy the academic position "Professor" in professional direction 3.4 Social Activities, scientific specialty "Social Policy and Political Science".

Заличена информация  
по Регламент (ЕС)  
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Scientific jury mem

/ Assoc. Prof. Boycho Yordanov Boychev, PhD /