

OPINION STATEMENT

by assoc. prof. Valery Todorov, PhD,

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on the scientific papers for participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor", in the higher education field 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology, announced in State Gazette issue 5 /16.01.2024, with candidate assistant professor Evgeniya Dimitrova Hristova, PhD

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I. Assessment of the compliance with the minimal national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University (NBU)

The reference on the scientific publications and other academic activities presented by assist. prof. Evgeniya Hristova in accordance with the requirements of the NACID shows that she meets and exceeds the minimal national requirements under Art. 2b of ZRASRB, as well as the additional requirements of the NBU for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in professional field 3.2 Psychology.

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II. Research activity and results

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The monograph "Moral dilemmas in the allocation of limited medical resources" presented at the competition concerns the psychological aspects of the decision-making process in the conditions of a moral dilemma with deep historical and social roots and significant social, moral and psychological consequences. The monograph contains a well-balanced review of the literature on the subject, which in itself would be of interest not only to specialists in the specific field. The monograph presents four empirical studies with a total of 585 voluntary participants, of which 471 from Bulgaria and 141 from the USA. All of them relate to solving moral dilemmas based on vignette cases in the context of the crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. The studies were carried out precisely, the methodology was selected appropriately and the results were interpreted correctly. The monograph undoubtedly develops and enriches empirical research in the field. Another significant contribution of the monograph is to the enrichment of argumentation and knowledge in the public and expert debate on the ethical principles in the distribution of scarce medical resources. This is an area of growing public importance and public expectations for related research.

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In addition to the monograph, the candidate presented a total of 26 scientific publications, most of them in high quality journals. These publications demonstrate a

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sustainable academic presence and contain contributions mainly in the field of moral judgment, decision-making in social and moral dilemmas, perception of art, research on reading difficulties among children with dyslexia and the related methodology.

A total of 22 citations from other authors in referenced international publications are also presented, which is an impressive achievement for such a competition.

III. Learning and teaching activity

Evgenia Hristova's educational and teaching activities meet the requirements of the NBU. She has developed and teaches a number of undergraduate and graduate courses. Some of the courses are conducted in a foreign language. Original study materials have been developed for the taught courses. The candidate has international teaching experience.

Evgenia Hristova has participated in research projects with graduate and doctoral students, reporting five joint publications on this indicator in the last five years alone. She has supervised 25 students who have successfully defended their bachelor and master theses and has a very good rating from student satisfaction surveys.

IV. Administrative and public activity

From the information presented, it is clear that Evgenia Hristova was actively involved in administrative and public activities. She was a long-time director of the Master's degree program "Cognitive Science". From several years on she is director of department's Decision Lab. In addition, Hristova was director of the Laboratory of Neurosciences, program director at the Department of Psychology, consultant for the Master's degree program in Cognitive Science. Hristova is also a member of the Cognitive Science Society.

V. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

The main research and academic contributions of assist. prof. Evgenia Hristova, related to the present competition are convincingly demonstrated through the presented monographic work and a significant number of publications, including in referenced international journals. They can be summarized into the following main directions: decision-making in social

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Hristova has had a consistent and intense teaching career. She has developed and teaches numerous university courses and assists in the academic development of students, from whom she receives high praise.

I firmly believe that the presented by assist. prof. Evgenia Hristova materials for the competition for the academic position "associate professor" in the higher education field 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2 Psychology, fully meet the requirements.

I hereby express a positive evaluation of Evgenia Hristova's academic activity and suggest that she be allowed to be elected by the NBU Academic Council for the academic position of "associate professor".

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