Annex 2.26

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Lilyana Ivanova Rusanova, PhD Technical University - Gabrovo
of the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position of "associate professor" in
field of higher education – 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,
in the professional field – 3.4 Social activities,
Specialty - Social Activities (Counseling and Competence for Social Work)

In the competition for the academic position of “associate professor”, announced in the State Gazette, No. 53 of 09.06.2026 and on the website of the Technical University of Gabrovo for the needs of the Department of Social and Economic Sciences at the Faculty of Economics, the candidate is Chief Assist. Zhaneta Nikolaeva Tsoneva, PhD

1. Overview of the content and results of the presented papers

The candidate Chief Asst. Zhaneta Nikolaeva Tsoneva, PhD has submitted for participation in the competition 1 monograph on the topic "Counseling in the helping professions"; 2 independent articles, of which 1 in print in Scopus indexed journals, 18 independent publications, of which 8 articles and 10 scientific reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review, 3 co-authored reports. The candidate's scientific output includes a published textbook and 2 teaching aids, of which 1 independent. Monographic work is an in-depth study based on leading definitions, theoretical concepts and models through which the specifics of counseling as a method of support, characteristic and applicable to various professional fields, are outlined. The consideration and interpretation of the problem in the context of helping professions broadens the research perspective and convinces the need to build on already existing and well-known theories and concepts dedicated to counseling.

The topic of the announced competition "Consulting and Competence for Social Work" corresponds to the overall publication activity of the candidate, which can be divided into two areas: consulting and innovative educational technologies and competency-oriented models in working with vulnerable groups.

14 citations of scientific publications of the applicant, which indicates that the candidate is recognizable to the scientific community. The scientific papers submitted by the candidate meet and exceed the minimum requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and Regulations for the Application of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria as well as the Regulations for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at the Technical University of Gabrovo.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

2.1. Educational and pedagogical activity

Chief Asst. Zhaneta Nikolaeva Tsoneva, PhD began her academic career in 2010 and successively held the academic positions of "Assistant" and "Chief Assistant" at the Department of Social and Economic Sciences. In 2014 she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" on the topic: Model of social work with drug addicts.

The academic disciplines in which the candidate conducts training correspond to the announced competition. For the training of students, the candidate has developed curricula and lecture courses. The educational and pedagogical work of Chief Asst. Zhaneta Tsoneva, PhD includes cientific supervisor of 22 graduates, the preparation of 13 reviews of diploma theses, the management of the master's programs in the professional field 3.4 Social activities, the guidance

of students for participation in student scientific forums. The presented materials include evidence of successfully completed trainings, which are closely related to the announced competition and testify to the continuous striving to upgrade the educational and pedagogical work of Chief Assistant Tsoneva. The long-term academic activity of the candidate is accompanied by participation as a member of research projects, of which 1 national project and 10 university projects.

2.2. Scientific and applied scientific activities

The scientific production of the candidate meets the requirements of the announced competition. The presented publications, monograph, textbook and teaching aids are distinguished by logical consistency, conscientiously carried out independent research, use of scientific style and high scientific awareness.

All this gives me a reason to assert that the candidate's professional path, pedagogical competencies and scientific activity are impressive and fully correspond to the requirements and topics of the announced competition.

2.3. Implementation activity

The candidate's scientific results are successfully applied in the educational process with students, participation in research projects, as well as in the review of scientific publications.

3. Contributions (scientific, applied science, applied). **Significance of contributions to science and practice**

In the presented publications, scientific contributions are clearly distinguished, expressed in a critical and in-depth analysis of theoretical concepts, systematization of key competencies of professionals and author's definitions. In this way, scientific contributions prepare and build on existing theories.

In scientific and applied terms, the publication activity of the candidate is based on author's research, educational and methodological support for the training of specialists in social work, a set of practical resources for the development of professional competencies of specialists and non-specialists, through which the results achieved by the candidate can be directly applied both in educational and in real social practice.

4. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

Of the presented scientific papers, only 3 reports and one textbook are co-authored. All other publications are the personal work of the candidate, which allows them to highlight his personal contribution. The entire scientific production demonstrates skills for analysis and synthesis of key concepts and theories, critical reflection of leading concepts, independent empirical research, which are implemented in good faith and with scientific approaches.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical comments. I recommend expanding the publication activity in publications indexed in the databases, as the problems on which Chief Assistant Tsoneva, PhD works, are relevant and significant for the development of social work.

6. Personal impressions

I work with Chief Assist. Dr. Zhaneta Tsoneva and I have excellent personal impressions. The candidate is a correct colleague, professionally engaged in his teaching activities, responsive to students and the staff of the department. These qualities are also reflected in the field of her research results, which demonstrate conscientiousness, scientific style and approach and professional skills for the implementation of in-depth research.

7. Conclusion:

Considering the above, I propose Chief Assistant Zhaneta Nikolaeva Tsoneva, PhD, be elected as an "associate professor"

in the Field of Higher Education - 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences
professional field – 3.4 Social activities,
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20.10.2026 г.

Member of the scientific jury:
/Assoc. Prof. Lilyana Rusanova, PhD/