

WRITTEN OPINION

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Subject: *Competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field:
7.4. Public Health at the Master's Faculty of the NBU.*

By Order № 3-PK-288/13.7.2023 of the Rector of the NBU Prof. P. Doinov, DSc, I am designated as a member of the Scientific Jury, and at its first meeting I was selected to prepare an opinion on the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 7.4. Public Health at the Master's Faculty of the NBU, announced in the Official Gazette, no. 30/06/2023

One candidate took part in the announced competition - Ch. Assistant Professor Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev, MD, PhD.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

Dr. Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev holds a master's degree in Medicine (1994, MU-Sofia) and a recognized medical specialty in Psychiatry (1998, MU-Sofia). He also obtained a psychoanalytic diploma (2008, International Psychoanalytic Association). He defended his doctoral dissertation in psychology in 2012. He was initially a part-time assistant (1996-1999) and since 1999 he has been appointed a full-time assistant at the Department "Bulgarian Institute of Human Relations" at the NBU. In 2017, after winning a competition, he held the academic position of "Chief Assistant Professor" in the Department "Healthcare and Social Work" of NBU. Since 1996, he has been actively involved in scientific research and participated in numerous international projects. He also has many years of clinical practice, currently working as a psychoanalyst in the „Analytica“ group practice.

According to the report provided to the documents by the Attestation Commission for long-term evaluation of NBU, the recognized points for fulfilling the minimum national requirements according to the RAADASRB¹ and the requirements of the ODANBU² are as follows:

¹ REGULATIONS FOR APPLICATION OF THE ACT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

² ORDER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE NBU

Group of indicators	Content	RAADASRB	ODANBU	Points recognized by the Attestation Commission Dr. S. Vassilev
A (A in bg)	Indicator 1	50	50	50
B (B in bg)	Indicator 2	-	-	-
V (B in bg)	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100	100
G (Г in bg)	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200	200	213,4
D (Д in bg)	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	50	50	105
E (E in bg)	Sum of indicators 13 to 24	-	-	105
J (Ж in bg)	Sum of indicators from 25 to the end (mandatory for NBU)	-	50	165
Z (З in bg)		-	70	100
I (И in bg)		-	50	100

The above-mentioned points from the calculation of his scientometric indicators categorically show that Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev fully meets the minimum national requirements and the specific requirements of New Bulgarian University for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in a professional field 7.4. Public Health.

II. Evaluation of the research activity and the results in the articles

For the current competition, Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev has submitted 14 scientific works, divided as follows:

- Habilitation thesis - Monograph: "Mirror of the imagination: the psychoanalysis of the film experience", ISBN: 978-619-02-0387-2, "Kolibri" publishing house, 2019, 286 p.
- Publications and reports in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in a global database with scientific information - 5 items.
- Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 2 items.
- Published chapter of a collective monograph - 6 items.

The contribution of the candidate Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev in the publications is significant. According to the summary of his scientific works, he is the first author in almost two-thirds of them (9 works – 64.28%).

Most of the candidate's actual publications are published in national and international journals in the field of public health and social medicine. I would highlight publications in the following journals: The British Journal of Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology, Schizophrenia Research. The scientific work of Dr. S. Vassilev is accessible not only to the psychiatric and medical scientific community, but also to specialists in the field of public health, as well as to the wider medical audience at home and abroad.

According to their thematic orientation, the printed articles are divided into 4 (four) main directions:

1. Psychoanalysis of the film experience;
2. Childhood adversity and adult psychopathology;
3. Promoting early intervention in psychosis;
4. Epidemiology of mental disorders.

I give a high rating to the originally developed monographic work "Mirror of the Imagination: Psychoanalysis of the Cinematic Experience", where the development is examined and the experience and author's theses generated by the method of "analysis of the viewer's experience" within the framework of the "Psychoanalysis and Cinema" initiative are reflected. This team arose as an informal initiative of a group of analysts, psychotherapists and university professors, among whom is Dr. S. Vassilev. The method used is based on the understanding that psychoanalytic film reading requires consideration not only of the aesthetic and meaningful messages of the work, but also of emotional experiences. This approach is known as "viewer experience analysis" and implies the researcher's personal experience with psychoanalysis. I am confident that this will be a very valuable teaching and practical tool for psychologists, doctors and health managers.

Citability. A reference list is provided for 7 citations, respectively carrying 105 points and meeting the minimum requirement for indicator group E (which is 100 points). In fact, checking the Scopus database, I find 1902 citations for the author *Vassilev, Svetlozar M. (Scopus ID 36238524300)*, which is a truly impressive result.

III. Assessment of learning and teaching activities

Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev has more than 26 years of teaching experience. He actively teaches students in several bachelor's and master's programs at NBU. He has given 5 (five) public lectures on behalf of NBU at the invitation of prestigious international organizations. Conducts training in practical skills, clinical internship and supervision for MA program in clinical social work and BA in social work.

In his capacity as a teacher at NBU, Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev participated in the administrative preparation and initiation of 3 new master's programs:

- Master degree programme "Psycho-social interventions with children and families" - successfully launched Fall 2018/2019.
- Master degree programme "Management of Health" - RO, successfully launched Fall 2017/2018.
- Master degree programme "Management of Health" - DO, successfully launched Fall 2019/2020.

Dr. Vassilev was the coordinator of the project "Institutional Development of NBU" (period of implementation 1999 - 2000), financed by the Higher Education Support Program, Open Society Foundation, New York.

From the many participations in national scientific or educational projects of Dr. Vassilev, I would highlight the following:

- "Training in psychological competence and creation of care programs for police officers in Bulgaria", financed by "IREX Foundation", USA, 1996-2000.
- "Early interventions in mental disorders", funded by the "Geneva Initiative in Psychiatry" 2001-2003.

He was the manager for Bulgaria of the project "Child and adolescent mental health in an expanding Europe: revision of policies and practices", which has the status of an international project financed by the European Commission.

IV. Assessment of administrative and public activities

I give a very high rating to the compiled author's study materials for several courses on the "Moodle NBU" platform, which are named as follows:

- POLS256 INDIVIDUALS, MASSES AND CITIZENSHIP, BA program "Politics and Society";
- CSPM317 Groups, teams, management, MA program in Strategic Leadership;
- OOOK048 Ideas and practices in psychoanalysis, BA program "Art studies and art management"
- OOOK039 Human relations, BA program "Art Studies and Art Management"

Dr. Vassilev is the author of a translation from English of the material "Experienced Learning through Supervision: The Contribution of Betty Joseph", a chapter in the collection "Contemporary Kleinian Psychoanalysis" (Kolibri publishing house, pp. 236-254, ISBN978-619-02 -0750-4).

From the rich administrative activity of Dr. S. Vassilev, I would highlight:

- Member of the faculty council at the Faculty for Basic Education since 2020.
- Participation and project coordinator of the NBU Board of Trustees.
- Organization and holding of an international seminar: THE "PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CINEMA" METHOD at the NBU in 2018.
- Organization and holding of an international seminar "Understanding neutrality in psychosocial interventions" at the NBU in 2018.
- Chairman of the Bulgarian Psychoanalytic Society.
- Member of the Board of the European Psychoanalytic Institute (European Psychoanalytic Institute).
- Member of the Council of Presidents of the European Psychoanalytic Federation.

- Chair for East Europe of the International New Groups Committee of the International Psychoanalytic Association.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I do not know Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev personally. We have no joint scientific developments and have not jointly participated in scientific or educational projects. My impression of the candidate is formed by the set of documents presented to me, and I can say that I am impressed by the organization, precision and accuracy with which it has been prepared.

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

Ch. Assistant Professor Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev, PhD, presented himself in the announced competition with a significant number of original real scientific articles, 1 monographic work, published chapters of monographs and a huge number of citations. His publications cover a wide range of issues in public health, psychoanalysis and social medicine. The scientific works of Dr. S. Vassilev contain significant scientific-theoretical and applied contributions. The candidate has many years of teaching experience and a study load that is formed by seminars, practices and internships. He has participated in numerous national and international scientific projects, as well as a large number of educational projects. With all his data, Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev fully meets and exceeds the uniform minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor", according to the ZRASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of the NBU.

CONCLUSION

Everything stated so far gives me grounds to vote positively and fully convinced to propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to choose Ch. Assist. Dr. SVETLOZAR METODIEV VASILEV, PhD, on the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 7.4. Public Health at the NBU Master's Faculty.

Varna

14 October 2023.

Member of the scientific jury:

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(Assoc. Prof. I

*By signing here, I declare
have no private interest in
giving an opinion in the
Professor"*

.....
, PhD)

*date, and that I
implementation of
academic position of "Associate*