# OPINION

by Professor Georgi Stoyanov Karastoyanov, DSc, "G. S. Rakovski" National Defence College

on Competition procedure for the position of Associate Professor in the field 3.2 Psychology (Transport psychology)

announced by the Institute for Population and Human Studies -BAS in the State Gazette, issue 46 / 26.05.2023 for the needs of the Section "Personality Psychology and Cognitive Psychology" at the Institute for Population and Human Studies -BAS. One candidate participated in the competition - Ch. Assistant Professor Zornitsa Petrova Totkova,PhD

The opinion was assigned according to Protocol No 1 / July 28, 2023 from the meeting of the Scientific Jury, appointed by decision of the of the Scientific Council of the IPHS (Institute for Population and Human Studies) -BAS of (Protocol No 5/July 19, 2023) and the order of the Institute for Population and Human Studies - BAS (No RD-6- 367/July 21, 2023) for conducting a competition for "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.2. Psychology (Transport Psychology) for the needs of the Section "Personality Psychology and Cognitive Psychology " at the Institute for Population and Human Studies, BAS. For participation in the announced competition has submitted documents of Ch. Assistant Professor Zornitsa Petrova Totkova, PhD, who is the only candidate. The submitted documents meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Filling Academic Positions at the Institute for Population and Human Studies - BAS for the academic position of Associate Professor.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Zornitsa Petrova Totkova graduated with a Bachelor's and master's degree in psychology from Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar". She obtained her PhD degree in Psychology in 2014, after defending her dissertation at the Institute for Population and Human Studies - BAS on "Perceived parenting style and attachment to significant others in early adulthood". Since 2015 she has been a senior assistant at the Institute for Population and Human Studies - BAS. She has been nominated for the Competition for Young Scientist Award "Prof. Marin Drinov" of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for 2017

and 2019, as well as in the 2018 she received Young Scientist Achievement Award in Psychology from the Institute for Population and Human Research. Dr. Totkova is a member of the Association of Psychologists in Bulgaria. She is a member of the State Public Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety Issues as well as the Academic Council of the State Traffic Safety Agency. Dr. Totkova participates in 8 scientific projects, as well as in the organizing committees of scientific sessions, conferences, and doctoral schools.

The candidate has an academic experience of 8 years as a Ch. Assistant Professor at the Institute for Population and Human Studies - BAS.

For the competition Ch. Assistant Professor Totkova, presented her habilitation thesis, the monograph "Transport psychology. Personality and driving behavior." (BAS Publishing House "Prof. Marin Drinov", 2023), and 29 more publications, in fulfillment of the minimum requirements of the law: 1 book based on a dissertation work; 4 scientific articles in English, referenced in global databases; 3 studies (2 of which in English) published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and edited scientific volumes; 21 scientific articles (of which 1 in English) published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and edited scientific volumes. These works have not been submitted for participation in other competitions for awarding scientific titles and degrees and are accepted for review.

The overview of the texts submitted for review from the candidate shows that they are mainly in the field of transport psychology, and to a lesser extent related to developmental psychology and child-adolescent psychology, i.e. on the subject of the announced competition. A central place in the candidate's scientific production is occupied by the habilitation thesis, which summarizes and systematizes a significant part of the obtained scientific results. The monograph presents the emergence and development of transportation psychology as a discipline and outlines the directions for its development. Personal factors directly related to the driving process were thoroughly studied, and the obtained scientific and methodological results, which I accept as scientific contributions, facilitate the continuation of research in the field and by other psychologists. The monograph is distinguished by high scientific and practically applied value, as it enables professionals in the field of transport to be more efficient in their activities. The texts presented by the candidate are available to the scientific community, they were published in authoritative Bulgarian scientific publications, but also in renowned scientific journals, referenced and indexed in WoS and SCOPUS, and worth mentioning are three articles published in the influential journal Behavioral Sciences (III. 1, III.2, III.3 of the Complete list of the candidate's scientific publications)

My assessment is that the scientific works submitted for review are distinguished by high scientific value, which is also confirmed by the data under indicator D for citability of scientific production from the minimum national scientometric requirements under Art. 2b of Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, which can be taken as an indicator of the high scientific value of the scientific production given by colleagues in the professional field. The candidate not only fulfills, but also exceeds the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology, as well as the additional requirements of the IPHS (Institute for Population and Human Studies) -BAS for occupying the academic position "associate professor."

The authorship of the candidate in the scientific works submitted for review is indisputable. I accept the contributions stated by the candidate in the way they are formulated, because they are correct from a scientific point of view and correspond to the content of the presented texts, they are undoubtedly author's and characterize the candidate as a thorough and responsible scientist, striving to apply the scientific results in practice. The monograph and publications are useful both to students and the scientific community, as well as to practitioners in the field of transportation psychology.

I have no significant critical comments on the presented documents and scientific works for review, which deserve attention and should be indicated in the opinion.

I have personal impressions of the candidate, acquired as a result of joint work and participation in various projects and scientific forums. Ch. Assistant Professor Zornitsa Petrova Totkova, PhD, is an excellent professional in the field of psychology, correct and collegial in her professional relationships, characterized by responsibility and loyalty, which is evidenced by her skills in working in a team and co-authorship. She is respected by her fellow psychologists, has a high established authority as a researcher.

I am convinced that the accumulated experience in conducting research and the application of the results in the field of transportation psychology, the quality of the scientific production (evident from the presented documents and texts), and the active public activity of Dr. Totkova fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor".

The specified arguments for the contributions in the scientific production, and the professional training of Ch. Assistant Professor Zornitsa Petrova Totkova, PhD, give me a reason for a categorical positive assessment and I am convinced to propose that she be elected

by the Scientific Council of the IPHS (Institute for Population and Human Studies) -BAS to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Transport Psychology).

September 9, 2023 Signature:

(Prof. Georgi Karastoyanov, DSc)