

OPINION

НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ	
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by Professor Dr. Petko Nenkov Salchev, Ph.D. in a competition for the academic position of "Professor", field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management", for the needs of the Department of Mental Health, Directorate of Mental Health and Addiction Prevention at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis, announced in SG, issue 99 / 26.11. 2021 and at <http://ncpha.government.bg/> on 26.11.2021

One candidate participates in the announced competition - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Ruskov Hinkov, Ph.D.

The candidate has submitted all required documents for participation in the competition, meeting the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the National Center for Public health and analysis

Assoc. Prof. H. Hinkov, MD meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 1a of the Regulations for implementation of ZRASRB.

1. Brief data on the candidate's career development

Assoc. Prof. Hristo Ruskov Hinkov graduated in medicine in 1980 at the Faculty of Medicine, MA, Sofia.

Since 2002 he has a master's degree in health management from the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

In 1987 he acquired the specialty "Psychiatry" at the Medical Academy, Sofia, and in 2011 after defending a dissertation on "Mental health services in Bulgaria - availability, accessibility, turnover, efficiency"

Assoc. Prof. Hinkov obtained an educational and scientific degree. Doctor of Medicine in the specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy".

Since 2013 he has been an associate professor in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy".

Assoc. Prof. Hinkov's career at the NCPHA began in 2001, and until 2008 he was a chief expert in the Mental Health Policy, Programs and Projects Sector, and until 2009 - Head of the Global Mental Health Section.

From 2009 to 2011 - Deputy Director of NCPHA.

From 2011 to 2014 - Head of Mental Health.

Since 2014 he has been the director of the National Center for Public Health and Analysis at the Ministry of Health.

Assoc. Prof. Hinkov is an expert at national and international level, a member of national and international working groups and advisory committees and research networks in the field of psychiatry and public health.

He has participated as a leader, coordinator and lead executor in over 25 national and international projects and programs in the field of mental and public health.

He is the supervisor of two doctoral students who have successfully defended.

2. General characteristics of the research and applied activity of the candidate

The total of 94 publications and references presented for participation in the competition prove the scientific productivity of the candidate focused mainly in the field of mental health, public health and psychiatry.

Assoc. Prof. Hinkov participated in the current competition with 49 scientific papers, divided into types as follows:

- Published habilitation thesis - monograph - 1 issue (100 points)
- Publications and reports published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 45 issues (239.4 points)
- Publications and reports published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 2 issues (13.75 points)
- Published chapter of a collective monograph - 1 issue (9 points)

All publications are presented correctly. The publications after the acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor" are attached in full to the materials for the competition.

Assoc. Prof. Hinkov presents 68 participations in scientific forums, discussions and expert discussions at national and international round tables, seminars and webinars (9 of them after obtaining the academic degree of "Associate Professor").

The presented report on the scientific contributions of the works of Assoc. Prof. Hinkov covers the period from 2014 to 2021, ie. after his election as an associate professor, and it includes all areas of scientific, scientific-applied and political-analytical nature in which the candidate has worked.

The main thematic areas of the candidate's research activity represent his overall creative and professional path in the field of public health and mental health, and can be divided into the following areas:

- ***Epidemiology of mental disorders and study of the psychosocial determinants of mental illness;***

The creation of a Bulgarian database of common mental disorders, within the implementation of the EPIBUL 1 project, as part of the World Consortium for Mental Health, based on an epidemiological study of common mental disorders - anxiety, depression, reactive, affective and affective etc. disorders, which is the only one in Bulgaria. Based on the collected data, an assessment of the etiology of mental disorders, environmental factors, traumatic life events and disorders of social functioning, as well as the needs of psychiatric care and psychiatric services.

- ***Comparative analysis of epidemiological databases;***

On the basis of a second epidemiological study - EPIBUL 2 using the tools of EPIBUL 1 tracked the dynamics of the prevalence of frequent mental disorders over a ten-year period.

Based on the comparative analysis of the two studies, the candidate presented a vision of the reaction of stressors in historical and philosophical contexts. It is developed in depth in the presented monograph "Bulgarian anxiety".

• ***Organizational, legal, informational and financial aspects of the provision of mental health services in Bulgaria;***

A significant part of the candidate's scientific activity is aimed at analyzing the state and legal framework of the provision of mental health services in Bulgaria by analyzing the specifics of the organization of psychiatric care in different countries. A model of mobile psychiatry in outpatient care has been proposed.

• ***Health policy and health reform, suicidology, impact of the KOVID 19 pandemic on mental health.***

The candidate has contributed to the development of health policy and the implementation of health reform in Bulgaria, reflected in the prepared National Strategy for Mental Health (2020-2030). An analysis of suicide actions and suicide attempts is presented, which serves as a basis for building an adequate preventive strategy. The basis of the above analysis is the information portal of suicidal actions, within a project funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, of which Assoc. Prof. Hinkov is the head. Scientific publications concerning the impact of the KOVID 19 pandemic on the mental health of the Bulgarian population are presented.

The reference presented by Assoc. Prof. Hinkov from the Central Medical Library for citations by Bulgarian and foreign authors contains 3321 citations in the Scopus database and 3145 citations in the Web of Science Database (the databases are partially covered).

Assoc. Prof. Hinkov takes an active part as an expert and coordinator in national and international research projects, 5 of which after holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

CONCLUSION

Based on the materials presented in the competition and the analysis of the assets in the research activity, I give a positive assessment to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Ruskov Hinkov, MD. In all respects he meets the quantitative and qualitative indicators and criteria for the academic position of "professor".

In connection with the above, I recommend to the esteemed scientific jury, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Ruskov Hinkov, MD, to be awarded the academic position "Professor", field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management", for the needs of the Department of Mental Health, Directorate of Mental Health and Addiction Prevention at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis.

March 13, 2022

Prof. Dr. Petko Salchev, MD

