

O P I N I O N

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REGARDING: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7 "Health and Sports", by professional field 7.1. Medicine; specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management"

The competition for the academic position "Associate professor" in professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management" was announced in SG, issue. 90/11.11.2021 from the NCPHA for the needs of the Department of the "Mental Health and Prevention of Addictions", "Mental Health" Directorate

Based on Order No. RD 14/09.01.23 years of the Director of the NCPHA - Sofia, I have been appointed as an external member of the Scientific Jury for the selection of an associate professor.

Vladimir Venkov Nakov, Ph.D., MD, Head of the Department of the Mental Health at the NCPHA, participates in the competition.

The procedure for announcing the competition for "Associate Professor" has been followed. The candidate has submitted a set of materials on paper and electronic media, as well as the necessary documents for review, according to the requirements of ZRASRB / Section 27, The Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the NCPHA.

Requirements related to research activity

From the lists of scientific works and from the author reference for contributions, it can be seen that Dr. Nakov's publications are in the field of mental health. Scientific articles and reports have been published in authoritative journals at home and abroad: Social Medicine, Bulgarian Journal of Public Health, Neurology and Psychiatry, Bulgarian medicine, Depression and Anxiety, European Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology и др.

In terms of structure, works are classified according to their type:



- **Dissertation work** for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" "Epidemiological study of suicide attempts in the Republic of Bulgaria".
- Publication of a **book based on a defended dissertation work** for the award of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor".
- **Habilitation work** - monograph
- **Journal publications**
 - 12 publications in scientific publications are presented, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information.
 - 8 publications and reports are presented, printed in non-refereed Bulgarian journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes /included in the National Reference List of NACID/ and 3 - in foreign publications.
 - **Reports and posters in scientific international forums at home and abroad - 26.** In some of them the author participated as an invited speaker. Winner of the best e-poster award of the European Psychiatric Association.
- **Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in our and foreign literature.** The scientific works were cited a total of -143 times. The high number of citations of the candidate's scientific works by other authors is proof of his familiarity and influence.
- **Impact factor** – 34,606
 - In addition to the mentioned research activity, Dr. Nakov participated in the implementation of 8 research projects, most of which were financed by the EU, Germany and Norway. The implementation of such project and expert activity confirms the relevance of the scientific issues developed by Dr. Nakov and his good organizational qualities.

More important contributions from research work

A more general characterization boils down to this:

1. Ch. assistant Nakov chooses **mainly less represented areas** in our country as the object of scientific research and analysis: Organization of psychiatric care; Patients' rights and mental illness stigma, Epidemiological studies of suicidality and mental illness, History of psychiatry, Public health, and other areas that for one reason or another

have been undeservedly undervalued. Because of this, *I believe that much of his work provides valuable new information for health care needs.*

2. *The settings and methods of the studies are adequate to the set goals and tasks. The two large-scale epidemiological studies conducted on mental disorders allow Bulgaria to participate in large-scale international consortia and to be able to be compared with different countries from around the world,* to which Dr. Nakov made a certain contribution.
3. *The author participates in the development of complex projects of important theoretical and applied importance, which use knowledge from various scientific fields /* rights of patients with mental illnesses, National strategy for mental health of the citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria 2020 - 2030, Mobile community-based mental health teams for the treatment of severe mental disorders; Stigma in people with mental disorder /.
4. *I highly appreciate Dr. Nakov's monographic work - "Suicides in Bulgaria" and related publications.* The monographic work is an attempt to supplement the scarce information and analyzes made so far in Bulgaria in the field of suicidology. Issues of suicide prevention and the influence of media and risk factors on suicidal acts are examined. An important conclusion was drawn that evidence-based prevention should be at the forefront of the fight against suicide. Organizational measures are proposed in case of a pronounced suicidal risk.

The author's in-depth knowledge in the field of suicides has found a place in the developed National Suicide Prevention Program in Bulgaria 2013-2018.

Requirements related to educational and teaching activities

1. The academic workload of the Dr. Nakov for the last year amounts to 30 hours / Sofia University «St. K. Ohridski»/.
2. Fluent in English and Russian languages.

Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements


The attached electronic reference shows that Dr. Nakov, PhD, exceeds in many times the required scientometric requirements specified in the Regulations for the terms and conditions for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

Conclusion

As a summarizing feature of the scientific works, I emphasize the topicality of the subject under consideration, the sensitivity of the author to poorly researched health problems, his belonging to national and international research teams and the proven practical applicability of the obtained results.

Dr. Vladimir Nakov definitely has the qualities of an established researcher. These qualities are built on the basis of his clinical psychiatric experience, supplemented by expertise in the health care system. Everything stated in the opinion gives me the reason to vote *positively* and with conviction to propose to the members of the respected scientific jury to also vote positively for awarding Dr. Vladimir Venkov Nakov, PhD Academic Position "*Associate Professor*" in the field of higher education 7 "Health and Sports", by professional field 7.1. Medicine; specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management".

Febr. 18, 2023
Sofia

Member of the scientific jury 
(Prof. Dr. E. Shipkovenska, PhD)