

OPINION

Member of the scientific jury:

Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Valentinova Miteva, MD

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Head of the Department of "General Medicine, Forensic Medicine and
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For the competition procedure for the academic position "Associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Social medicine and health management" for the needs of the department "Mental health" to the National Center for Public Health and Analysis.

The documents of the candidate were submitted for participation in the competition. The candidate is chief assistant Vladimir Venkov Nakov, MD, PhD. The candidate has submitted a complete set of the necessary documents according requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules on the terms and conditions for the occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis. The competition was announced by a decision of the scientific committee of the National Center for Public Health and Analysis - No22/25.11.2022, was published in SG No90/11.11.2022 and on the website of the National Center for Public Health and Analysis.

1. Professional development.

Vladimir Nakov completed his basic medical education at the Medical University - Pleven in 1997. He worked as a psychiatrist in the Municipal Hospital - Levski, in the day hospital of the University Hospital "G. Stranski" - Pleven, in an inpatient facility for the treatment of mental illnesses - Sofia, in medical Center XXVIII and in medical Center "Avicena" - Sofia. He is working as a Principal Assistant at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis, office of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Department of Mental Health. In 2002 Vladimir Nakov completed specialization in psychiatry at Medical University-Pleven, and in 2015 successfully concluded a dissertation on the topic: "Epidemiological study on suicide attempts in the Republic of Bulgaria" for the PhD degree in social medicine and organization of health care and pharmacy at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis. He improved his professional skills and competences by studying in the Program for Young Researchers/Doctoral Students after a doctoral degree at the University of California, Berkeley, USA in 2012-2015. Vladimir Nakov participated in national and international research projects such as: "Improved

Mental Health Services", BG07 Public Health Initiatives Program, Joint Action FRAILITY, DAQUMECA, EUDIMEN, COST Action 91133 FOSTREN, RECOVER-E (LaRge-scale implementation of Community based mental health care for people with seVere and Enduring mental ill health in EuRopE), funded by the Horizont 2020 program, "Mental health and social inequalities", funded by "Scientific Research" fund of SU "Kliment Ohridski".

2. Scientific development and scientific production.

Dr. Nakov's research interests are focused on mental health assessment, suicide and its prevention. He has a defended dissertation work on the topic: "Epidemiological study of suicide attempts in the Republic of Bulgaria" in 2015 and 12 publications related to it. He participated in the competition with a habilitation thesis-monograph on the topic: "Suicides in Bulgaria. Historical context. Current data", a published book based on a defended dissertation, a collective monograph, a scientific output of 12 articles published in scientific refereed peer-reviewed journals and 11 articles published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. 143 citations were found for his publications, and the IF of the publications submitted for the competition is over 5. Dr. Nakov take part in more than 20 scientific congresses and events in different countries.

The candidate's scientific researches are in several main directions. The largest share have his studies related to the burden and significance for the individual and for society of the most common mental disorders. A serious emphasis in this area are researches related to anxiety, depression and suicide. The share of scientific production related to the treatment and prevention of depressive episodes is significant. Another direction in candidate's scientific output is the problem with the organization of psychiatric care in Bulgaria and the development of integrated community-based psychiatric services. His latest research covers the current problem related to the spread of the pandemic of COVID 19 infection and its impact on the people's mental health in Bulgaria. The presented scientific production is sufficient for the required scores according to the national requirements for the scientific and teaching activities of the candidates for the scientific degree "Associate Professor".

3. Educational and teaching activity.


Teaching activity of the Dr. Nakov began in 2013 as a part-time assistant at the Southwest University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad, Department of "Public Health and Sport", and in 2016 he became a part-time assistant at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Department of "Primary and Preschool Pedagogy", where there is currently a horary of 30 hours of lectures on Basics of Psychiatry.

I have no critical remarks about the candidate.

Conclusion: I believe that Dr. Vladimir Venkov Nakov has proven qualities of an experienced researcher and teacher and great potential for future development. The presented scientific production and educational activity of Dr.

Nakov fully comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules on the terms and conditions for the occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis. I support the candidacy of Dr. Vladimir Venkov Nakov and propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively Dr Nakov to be qualified as an "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Social medicine and health management" for the needs of the department "Mental health" to the National Center for Public Health and Analysis

15.02.2023


/Assoc. professor Tsv. Valentinova Miteva, MD, PhD./