

REVIEW

By: Prof. PhD Aleksandar Ivanov Marinov,
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member of scientific jury, appointed by the NBU Rector,
Order № 3-PK 194 от 24.06.2021

Regarding: Competition for awarding the Academic Position “Associate Professor” in
Professional Field 3.3. Political Science

In the competition takes part a sole candidate - Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva, PhD in Political Science.

1. Assessment of fulfilling requirements for admittance to evaluation

According Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), to the evaluation stage of the procedure are admitted candidates, fulfilling the requirements, including fulfillment of the minimal national requirements. The verification of the file, namely the information regarding the mentioned fulfillment, proves that Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva is in line with the requirements and should be admitted to the evaluation stage of the procedure.

2. General characteristic of the candidate’s work submitted for evaluation

The candidate Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva, PhD has submitted for participation in the procedure 14 papers, including 1 monographic study and 13 scientific articles (6 in English and French). All submitted publications are admitted to evaluation, since none of them duplicates papers submitted in procedures for her scientific degrees and positions.

3. Brief outline of the candidate’s scholar career

Evelina Staykova-Mileva graduated with Master's degree at NBU in 2009. In 2013 she was awarded the PhD degree for her work on migration and the new boundaries of

citizenship. Her academic career developed entirely at the NBU (since 2012).

Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva was appointed as Program director of the Department of Political Sciences at NBU (2010-2018) and since 2020 is Head of the Department. The scholar profile of Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva fully corresponds to the announced competition and presents her as a qualified candidate in the field.

4. Overview of the teaching and pedagogical activity of the candidate

The teaching activity of Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva ranges over 10 years at NBU. At the present she teaches several courses in the bachelor and master programs of the University, which fall entirely in the field of competition: Human Rights, Migration and Citizenship, Digital Government, City Development Government and Policies, etc. She teaches 6 courses in foreign language (English and French).

Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva is also a successful mentor and supervisor. She has supervised 11 master theses.

5. Evaluation of the scholar and applied contributions of the candidate

In the competition for associate professor, Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva applies with 1 habilitation monographic work of considerable volume and quality, 13 articles and studies (after 2013). The publications proposed by the candidate fully meet the requirements of the competition. In this review I devote special attention to the monographic study **City policies and local democracy at the beginning of the 21st century**, NBU, ISBN 978-619-23-3106-1, Sofia, 2020. This monographic work has not been used for participation in other competitions.

Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva is author – except of above mentioned monographic study - of multiple studies, articles and other publications, amongst which 13 articles are presented in this competition. Among this broad field, the following publications seem to me of particular significance, both theoretically and in applied context:

- Е. Стайкова (2020) Градове и глобални кризи: COVID-19 и ролята на местното самоуправление, В: Сборник научни трудове. Том 2 Киберсигурност. Икономическа, социална и културна сигурност, стр. 488-495, ISBN: 978-619-7383-19-5

- Staykova, E., Otova, I. (2019) National report on the governance of the asylum reception system in Bulgaria, CEASEVAL RESEARCH ON THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM (17). Available at: http://ceaseval.eu/publications/WP3_Bulgaria.pdf, ISSN 2627-339X

- E. Staykova, I. Otova (2018) (Urban) Civic Activity and Corruption Scandals. Sofia As A Case Study, In: IANCU, A. , ANTONY TODOROV (coord.) Reforms, Democratization and Anti-Corruption in Romania and Bulgaria: Ten Years of EU Membership, Bucuresti: Editura Universitatii din Bucuresti, 231-246 ISBN: 978-606-16-1040-2

- E. Staykova, I. Otova (2017) Antielitisme: la reponse populiste aux crises, In: Gueorguieva, P., Antonii Todorov (Ed) A la recherche de la representation perdue : Nouvelles voies a l'ouest, a l'est et au sud, Paris: L'Harmattan ISBN: 9782343135649

- E. Стайкова, И. Отова (2017) Европа под въпрос! Антиелитизмът: популистският отговор, В: Политически изследвания, Брой 1-2/2017, София: Университетско издателство "Св. Климент Охридски" ISSN: 0861-4830

- E. Стайкова (2014) Политическото участие: нормативни и институционални рамки, В: Тодоров, Антоний и Добрин Канев (съст.) Качество на демокрацията в България, София: Изток-Запад. стр. 113-140 ISBN: 978-619-152-473-0

- E. Стайкова (2013) Е-гражданственост – (р)Еволюция, В: Кръстева, Анна (съст.) Дигиталния гражданин, София: НБУ. стр. 138-148 ISBN, 9789545357718.

It should be mentioned that Evelina Staykova-Mileva's ideas have been cited by a lot of researchers in the field – the registered citations amount to 15, including 8 in works published in foreign language.

There are at least two interrelated conceptual areas proving the ability of the candidate to ask and answer complex theoretical questions, following a very sound logic of scholar evolution and scientific contributions.

First. A theoretical approach based on integrating the conceptual frameworks of research on modern city, city policies and city government is developed and applied. Using this approach, several important results are met - the development and change of modern cities and city studies, European policies and visions of sustainable city development, key characteristics of Bulgarian cities etc. Special attention is devoted to the civic participation in city government.

City governance is considered as an interconnected process at two levels – global and local, which is a part of an overall trend toward globalized change of the city role and policies.

Second. Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva offers an original interpretation of the changes in XXI century citizenship and citizenship policies. The interdependence of migration and citizenship plays a key role in the author's conceptual framework. Alternative options for development of citizenship are outlined as the formation of new forms of citizenship, significantly different from the traditional nation-state citizenship (post-national, trans-national and cosmopolite citizenship). Therefore, the recent development at regional level of governance represents both a change in its institutional organisation and a change in the functions it performs in the public governance system.

The author proves that Bulgarian migration policy is only at the initial stages of priorities formulation, especially from the point of view of integration instruments.

6. Evaluation of the personal contribution and authorship

The scholar texts and corresponding contributions are with no doubt personal work of the candidate Evelina Staykova-Mileva. I accept entirely the self-assessment of the contributions.

7. Personal impressions

I know Dr. Evelina Staykova-Mileva for 12 years and have a respect for her high personal standards for research, teaching and scholar moral.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant critique on the publications submitted and the applicant's past activities.

CONCLUSION

The scholar production and contributions of Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva are entirely in line with the requirements of the Academic Staff in the Republic of

Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and other corresponding regulations. The qualification of the candidate is solid and well proven.

These results give me compelling reasons to propose to the honorable scientific jury to vote unanimously for the awarding of the academic position “Associate Professor” in the professional field 3.3. Political Science to Assistant Professor Evelina Staykova-Mileva, PhD.

17.09. 2021

Prepared and signed by:

(prof. PhD Aleksandar Marinov)