

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Momchil Badjakov, PhD, NBU, 3.3. Political Science

on the scientific works for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.3 Political Science, announced in the State Gazette, issue 41 / 18.05.2021,

with candidate Assistant Professor Evelina Radoslavova Staykova-Mileva, PhD

Following the Regulation for the Development of the Academic Staff of New Bulgarian University and the Model for the Structure of a Review/Advisory Opinion in a Competition for the Academic Position of Associate Professor/Professor at NBU, Appendix No. 5, this opinion is structured in several parts, which evaluate research activities and results, teaching and learning activities, administrative and public activities, as well as personal impressions, opinions and recommendations to the candidate for the academic position of Associate Professor. For each of these groups, an opinion is expressed which justifies the overall assessment of the candidate's performance concerning the competition.

Evelina Staykova's candidature for Associate Professor complies with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of New Bulgarian University. The submitted habilitation thesis CITY POLITICS AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY: Global Trends, European Perspectives, Bulgarian Realities. (2020) Sofia. It is about elaborating a comprehensive political science concept of the development of the modern city, urban policies, and the improvement of local self-government. The work betrays the author's achieved creative maturity and ability to systematize and analyze the main issues, especially related to the development of the modern city - from the global and regional to the national and local level.

The other attached publications and creative appearances made after the appointment to the academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor" of Evelina Staykova are numerous and made in prestigious and peer-reviewed publications. They have been cited in a sufficient number of international and national publications.

Evelina Staykova is involved in numerous research and creative projects.

Evelina Staykova's academic and non-academic employment is in a wide range, she actively teaches many courses that are the required volume and in the required quality of learning and teaching activity. Therefore, they meet the interest and high appreciation of her students. Her work in the e-learning module "MOODLE - NBU" is extremely successful, she is actively involved in providing student internships and placements, working tirelessly with undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Candidate for Associate Professor Evelina Staykova actively participates in collective management bodies of NBU. She manifests herself as an active and competent researcher and citizen, capable of creative ideas with practical applicability. She actively participates as a member of the NBU Academic Council from the fall semester of the academic year 2020/2021, a member of the Faculty Council of the Undergraduate Faculty from the spring semester of the academic year 2018/2019 to the present, the Vice-Chair of the Faculty Council of the Undergraduate Faculty from the fall semester of the academic year 2019/2020 to the present.

Evelina Staikova has participated in or led national and international projects that have attracted external funding and students under NBU programs.

Already as an excellent student, Evelina Staykova has left wonderful impressions on me with her diligence in mastering the course material, consistently achieved competence in the ability to make political analysis, and active participation in the scientific life of the NBU.

Evelina Staykova's theses contribute to the discussion of the place and role of the modern city, the trends in its development, and the importance that modern urban policies acquire in the context of an overall concept of local government development. This discussion takes on both very clear and significant practical dimensions in Bulgaria and the context of contemporary political transformation.

The results achieved and the candidate's well-founded scientific theses give grounds to claim that Evelina Staykova possesses the necessary degree of scientific maturity and ability to consistently contribute to the development of political science knowledge in the specific and promising field of her activity. The indicators of the success of the candidate's academic and teaching activities meet the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor at New Bulgarian University. The scientific results of her research as well as her personal

and active position at the NBU reflect the presence of the necessary qualities for successful academic activity.

Taking all this into consideration, I express my strongly positive assessment of the academic activity of the candidate, Dr. Evelina Staykova and I support her admission to the election for the academic position of Associate Professor by the Academic Council of New Bulgarian University.

22.09.2021

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Momchil Badjakov