

**TO
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY,
DETERMINED BY ORDER No. 3-RK-289/13.07.2023
TO THE RECTOR OF THE NBU
PROFESSOR DOINOV, DSc**

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Iskra Georgieva Raynova, DSc

National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases - National Center for Infectious and
Parasitic Diseases

Field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine

CONCERNING: The materials submitted for participation in a competition for the occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health, "Health and Social Work" Department of the NBU, announced in the State Gazette no. 50/09/06/2023

One candidate appeared at the competition - Dr. Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev, PhD, chief assistant at the Department "Bulgarian Institute of Human Relations" (BIOH), New Bulgarian University;

The opinion is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation, the requirements of the Regulations for the Application of the Law and the Ordinance on the Development of the Academic Staff in the NBU and Rector's Order No. 3- RK-289/13.07.2023 for the appointment of the scientific jury for the competition.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the NBU

The submitted materials for the competition show that the scientific production, educational and administrative activities of Dr. Svetlozar Vasilev meet the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the Law for the Development of academic staff, for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional direction 7.4. Public health, as well as the requirements of the NBU

II. Research activity and results

Dr. Vassilev is a renowned author in the field of mental health. He has written a monograph called "Mirror of the Imagination: The Psychoanalysis of the Cinematic Experience" (2019) and has edited and written the foreword to the collection "Contemporary Kleinian Psychoanalysis" (2021). He is also the scientific editor of various other publications, such as Bruno Clavier's "Family Phantoms" (2022), "The Child and His Complexes" by J. Bess and M. Ferrero (2023), and "Perhaps You Need to Talk to Somebody" by L. Gottlieb (2023). These works showcase his deep research interests in the field of mental health and provide opportunities for comprehensive analyses.

Dr. Vassilev's scientific publications have been cited over 3100 times, demonstrating their importance and the wide resonance of the research in which he has participated. For instance, his articles "Childhood Adversities and Adult Psychopathology in the WHO World Mental Health Surveys" which has received so far 2500 citations, and "Childhood Adversities as Risk Factors for Onset and Persistence of Suicidal Behavior" were published in the prestigious journal *The British Journal of Psychiatry*. Dr. Vassilev's dissertation, which focused on the Bulgarian population, also dealt with the impact of childhood adversity on adult mental health and contributed to the development of healthcare programs and the need for health professionals in various regions. Dr. Vassilev is the author of a monographic work entitled "Mirror of the Imagination. The Psychoanalysis of the Cinematic Experience" (2019) and compiler, editor and author of the foreword to the collection *Contemporary Kleinian Psychoanalysis* (2021). He is also the scientific editor of several other publications in the field of health and mental health: Bruno Clavier's *Family Phantoms* (2022), *The Child and His Complexes* by J. Bess and M. Ferrero (2023) and *Perhaps you need to talk to somebody* by L. Gottlieb (2023). These contributions demonstrate the presence of deep research interests in the field of mental health and opportunities for comprehensive analyses.

Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev participated in a number of research projects (8), some of which he was the national or international coordinator of, e.g. the study "Early interventions in psychoses" and "Child-adolescent mental health in an expanding Europe" (2007-2010), funded by the European Commission, "Psychoanalytic Training in Different Settings" (2011-2017), funded by European Psychoanalytical Federation and "Transmission of Psychoanalysis" funded by the International Psychoanalytical Association (2022-).

III. Learning and teaching activity

Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev teaches at the Bulgarian Institute for Human Relations department of New Bulgarian University. He trains students, interns, and specialists, and contributes to organizing and conducting scientific seminars. He also helps launch new programs and creates study materials for students. Additionally, he delivers public lectures on behalf of the University when invited by national or international organizations or higher school. His professional skills are highly rated by students he has trained, according to surveys.

IV. Administrative and public activity

Assistant Professor Svetlozar Vassilev is a member of the academic administration of the NBU and regularly participates in the meetings of the departmental council. His public activity is related to the Bulgarian Psychoanalytic Society, of which he is the chairman. He is the head of the Committee on New Groups in Eastern Europe of the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA) and a member of the Council of the European Psychoanalytic Federation (EPF).

Conclusion

Assistant Professor Dr. Svetlozar Metodiev Vassilev presents himself in the competition as a well-established researcher with a sufficient volume of publications, experience in scientific research, an active teacher and public figure with many creative ideas. The submitted materials for the competition indicate that he fully meets all the requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" contained in the Law for the Development of academic staff and the Regulations for its application.

In connection with the above, I give my positive assessment for the appointment of the Assistant Professor Dr. Svetlozar Vassilev to the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. "Social Sciences" for the needs of the NBU.

05.10.2023 г.

Signature

