

S T A T E M E N T

by Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova,

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regarding the submitted materials for participation in a promotion procedure for the academic position of associate professor in the field of 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional area 3.2 Psychology, announced in the "State Gazette", no. 5 of 16.01.2024 with candidate Dr. Evgenia Dimitrova Hristova

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

Dr. Hristova's statement according to the requirements of the NACID clearly shows that with her work and achievements she satisfies and exceeds the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of the Law on Academic Promotions and the additional requirements of the New Bulgarian University for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional area 3.2 Psychology.

II. Research activity and results

Dr. Hristova's book "Life vs. Life: Moral Dilemmas in Allocating Limited Medical Resources" meets the requirements for a monograph in its nature, entirety, and volume. It is an in-depth and comprehensive study on a topical research theme. It is the result of many years of creative efforts of the author and makes significant contributions to the scientific field of decision-making from the perspective of psychology. At the same time, this work is indicative of the interdisciplinary nature of much of the research questions in contemporary psychology and competently reflects the relationship with other scientific fields.

The contributions of the monograph can be summarized in terms of an overview of theoretical frameworks and real practices, but also what is particularly valuable are the empirical contributions relating to a rich palette of research questions and their investigation through well-considered and carefully controlled methods of experimental psychology. The results of this author's research can benefit a wide scientific audience as well as practical applications in the allocation of limited resources in crisis situations.

In addition to the monograph, Dr. Hristova includes 22 articles and 3 extensive studies which are indicative of her systematic and goal-oriented work for many years on currently important topics. The majority of these publications are in referenced and indexed databases for scientific publications, a sign of the high quality of the research tasks she sets herself. Beyond any doubt, they represent an original contribution to scientific knowledge.

Evgenia Hristova has a clear methodological contribution regarding the use of modern techniques for eye-tracking and registering physiological responses, the kind of experience that points to original and – in the context of our country – particularly rare skills and competences.

The reference also lists 22 citations of Dr. Hristova's publications by other authors in scientific publications from international databases with scientific information. In fact, the number of citations of the author is many times more, according to Scopus data, as of today, her publications have a total of 324 citations. Evgenia Hristova's research and achievements have received well-deserved recognition by the international scientific community.

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III. Teaching activity

With her teaching activities, Dr. Hristova contributes to the development of the study programs in area 3.2 Psychology at the New Bulgarian University and meets the requirements of NBU on this indicator. She is the author of a series of courses in the bachelor's programs in Psychology and the master's program in cognitive science, and others, and has created and updated study materials for them, available in the electronic learning module "MOODLE - NBU". Dr. Hristova has teaching experience also in universities abroad within international academic exchange programs.

Her contribution is no less important for the development of young specialists through scientific supervision of 25 successfully defended diploma theses of students and doctoral students and joint publications with them. In the last five years alone, she reports six joint publications with them. According to regular surveys, student satisfaction with her teaching is high and shows that she has the knowledge and skills to engage, support and guide students' work and professional learning.

IV. Administrative and public activity

Evgenia Hristova is an active participant in the life of the department and the study programs with her public and personal commitment to causes and striving to improve a number of administrative and organizational practices, including as the long-term director of the master's program in cognitive science at NBU, as the head of the laboratory for decision and behavior research, of which she is currently the director. She was also the director of the Neurosciences Laboratory, program director at the Department of Psychology, etc. She is a long-standing member of the Cognitive Science Society. Dr Hristova has no doubt made a contribution to attracting students to our programs.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Evgenia Hristova for many years as a student, colleague, teacher, researcher, socially engaged person. In joint courses, I have had the opportunity to observe her interaction with students, her attitude to teaching and her ability to present topical issues in a clear and accessible way, while at the same time encouraging critical and in-depth thinking in the audience. I am impressed with her consistency and responsibility in developing and executing multiple research assignments.

She also has a personal contribution to the work, discussions and striving for active movement towards important and goal-oriented tasks of the department's faculty, as well as a readiness to always respond to emerging needs and take new initiatives in order to improve the quality and ethics of our work.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

Bearing in mind the research contributions of Dr. Evgenia Hristova, reflected in her monograph and other publications, the international recognition of her scientific achievements, her positive participation in the teaching and administrative work at NBU, I remain convinced that in reality and according to the materials presented by Dr. Evgenia Hristova, materials for the promotion procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of 3. Social, economic and law sciences, professional area 3.2 Psychology, her application fully meets the requirements.

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Signed

Elena Andonova