**OPINION**

by Assoc. Prof. Evgenia Trifonova Bratoeva – Vasileva, PhD
University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev", Department of Management and Social Activities,
Member of the scientific jury

**Subject:** The materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, in the professional field 3.4. Social Activities, specialty - "Social Activities (Counseling and Competence for Social Work)"

The competition is announced in the State Gazette, No. 53 of 09.06.2026 and on the website of the Technical University of Gabrovo for the needs of the Department of Social and Economic Sciences at the Faculty of Economics. The only candidate in the competition is Assist. Assist. Dr. Zhaneta Nikolaeva Tsoneva.

**1. Overview of the content and results of the presented works**

For participation in the competition, Assist. Assist. Zhaneta Tsoneva has presented the required documents and scientific production, which fully meet and exceed the minimum national requirements:

• Group A: Diploma for the acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (50 points).

•Group B: Habilitation Work – Independent Monograph "Counseling in Helping Professions" (2025), winner of 100 points.

• Group D: 20 publications were presented, of which 2 studies, 7 articles and 11 reports. Of these, 2 scientific papers (1 report and 1 study) were refereed and indexed in the world database SCOPUS, and 18 were published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review. The high share of independent works is impressive – 17 (with the minimum required 4), and 3 are co-authored. The total number of points in group G amounts to 245 points (with the required 200 points). All publications are in the field of the competition.

• Group D: A reference is presented for 14 citations noticed, which bring a total of 70 points (with 50 points required).

• Study literature: The applicant submits evidence of 1 textbook and 2 teaching aids published (in the period 2024-2025).

• Research activity: The candidate proves participation in 1 national and 10 university projects for the period 2014–2026.

**2.General characteristics of the applicant's activity**

**2.1. Educational and pedagogical activities** (work with students and PhD students)

Assist. Assist. Dr. Zhaneta Tsoneva has serious teaching experience. Since 2010, she has been an academically employed person at the Technical University of Gabrovo, where she alternately holds the positions of "assistant" and "chief assistant". Her classroom workload is intensive: for the academic year 2025/2026 it amounts to 865 hours, and for the current academic year, according to the plan, it is 761 hours.

Dr. Tsoneva is a leading lecturer in fundamental and profiling compulsory disciplines in the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, including: Social Competencies, Family counseling and family therapy, Social work with children at risk, Social work with people with deviant behavior, Social work with people with addictions, Teamwork, etc.

Her pedagogical commitment is complemented by:

• The development of 50 curricula since 2017.

• Annual performance of the functions of a group leader of students.

• Supervision and review of graduates, as well as participation in state examination committees for the specialties "Social Activities" and "Public Administration".

• Scientific supervision of 27 students who presented reports in the Student Scientific Session of the Technical University of Gabrovo.

• Active participation (2024–2025) in the Working Group at the Accreditation Commission for the preparation of the documentation for program accreditation of PN 3.4. Social activities and of the doctoral program "Organization and Management of Social Activities".

**2.2. Scientific and applied scientific activities**

The candidate's scientific output is fully profiled in the field of the competition and includes: 1 independent monograph, 1 textbook, 2 teaching aids (one co-authored), 2 studies (1 in SCOPUS), 8 articles and 10 reports from national and international forums (1 in SCOPUS).

Evidence of Dr. Tsoneva's aspiration for continuous professional development is the presentation of 11 certificates and certificates for specialized trainings. They cover key areas for modern social work: prevention of domestic violence, art therapy, communication skills, working with difficult clients, digital competencies, foreign language teaching and application of artificial intelligence in education.

**2.3.Implementation activities**

No explicit documents for implementation in the practice have been presented. The results of the scientific and applied activities of Assist. Assist. Tsoneva, however, have been successfully reflected and implemented in the direct educational process through the author's textbooks and teaching aids.

**3.Contributions** (scientific, applied science, applied). **Significance of contributions to science and practice**

I accept in essence the contributions formulated by the candidate, which have a clearly expressed scientifically applied character and are relevant to the theory and practice of social work. They are structured in two main thematic areas:

1) Consulting and development of professional competences in social work: focuses on educational technologies, innovations in the training of specialists and the building of social competences.

2) Competence-oriented models and social interventions in working with vulnerable groups: covers models of social work with children, families and vulnerable communities, as well as research on the professional well-being of social workers.

**4.Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution**

I believe that the defined contributions are a personal matter of the candidate. Assist. Assist. Dr. Zhaneta Tsoneva is an established researcher with over 15 years of academic experience. The analysis of her scientific production, distinguished by a predominant number of independent publications (17 out of 20) and independent monographic and academic works, gives every reason to confirm her decisive personal contribution and leading participation in the presented research.

**5.Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks on the materials submitted for review. The scientific production is excellently formed.

**6.Personal impressions**

I do not know the candidate personally, but I was familiar with some of her scientific activities in advance. Of particular interest to me are her in-depth publications and contributions in the specific field of social work with dependent persons.

**Conclusion:**

**Taking into account the above, I propose Chief Assist. Assist. Dr. Zhaneta Nikolaeva Tsoneva to be elected as an Associate Professor in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, in the professional field 3.4. Social Activities, specialty "Social Activities (Counseling and Competence for Social Work)"**

22.10.2026 Jury member:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Evgenia Bratoeva/