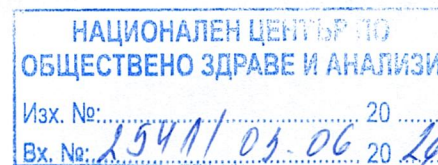


STATEMENT



by Prof. Elena Mladenova Shipkovenska, MD, PhD member of the scientific jury with Order No. RD- 238/07.05.2026 of the Director of the The National Center for Public Health and Analysis

Regarding: competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7 "Health and Sports" in the professional field 7.1 "Medicine", scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management", announced in the S. G. No. 25/10.03.2026.

In the announced competition for "Professor" for the needs of the "Mental Health" Department at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis, only one candidate participated, Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Venkov Nakov, MD, PhD.

The documents submitted to me for review are in full volume and are in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation for occupying the academic position "Professor" at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis - Sofia. All materials submitted by the candidate in form, content and completion are in accordance with the indicators for minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activities from the appendix to Art. 1a, para. 1 to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Area 7. Health and Sports; Professional Direction 7.1. Medicine), as well as with the Regulations on the terms and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the NCPHA.

Scientometric indicators

Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Venkov Nakov participated in the competition with 19 scientific papers, of which a monograph on the history of psychiatry in Bulgaria, participation in two collective guides and 16 real publications /8 are printed in Bulgarian scientific journals and 8 in foreign publications/.

The dynamics of publication activity by year is gradually increasing with a peak in the last 3-4 years, which indicates a well-planned career development.

Indicator group A - Dissertation work

Assoc. Prof. Nakov acquires the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" after defending a dissertation on the topic "Epidemiological study of suicide attempts in the Republic of Bulgaria" Diploma No. 16/20.01.2015. The candidate demonstrates in-depth theoretical knowledge and clinical validity in the topic under consideration. The topic of the dissertation finds application in psychiatric practice.

Indicator group B - Habilitation work -monograph

The habilitation work is entitled "Bulgarian psychiatry in the mirror of history", Plovdiv, Niton, 2026, p. 288; ISBN 978-954-347-144-7. In it, the author presents the history of Bulgarian psychiatry as a continuous process associated with a number of difficulties and problems, with attempts at institutional and theoretical solutions and with recurring discrepancies between intentions and results. The objective difficulties in the functioning of psychiatric services are studied. The consequences for medical institutions of underfunding due to a restrictive regime are analyzed. The difficulties in the healthcare system are reviewed through the focus on human resources.

The in-depth analysis emphasizes the role of the state in the insufficient resources /human, financial and material/ for psychiatric services, the lack of strategic vision in healthcare leaders, poor organization and management of the psychiatric sector. Some hope in recent years has been given by the National Strategy for Mental Health 2021 - 2030 and the rate of increase in financial resources allocated for this assistance.

The monograph offers practically targeted recommendations, possible scenarios for financing psychiatric care in Bulgaria until 2030 supported by modern scientific data.

The value of the work is the appendix, with biographies of significant figures from psychiatric science and practice in Bulgaria.

Indicator group G - Scientific publications

The candidate participates in this competition with 18 publications /12 - in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world databases and 6 publications in non-referenced publications with scientific review/.

The scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Nakov are in the following main areas: History of medicine and psychiatry; Epidemiological studies in the field of suicidology and suicide prevention; Organization of healthcare and in particular psychiatric services, patients' rights and stigma in patients with mental illnesses; Clinical therapeutic and clinical diagnostic studies; Psychosocial rehabilitation, burnout syndrome, public health, the Covid 1 pandemic.

These interests bring numerous contributions with a scientifically applied and theoretically applied aspect. The more significant of them stand out: In-depth analysis of the state of psychiatric care facilities; Evaluation of institutions for long-term accommodation of persons with mental illnesses; Analysis of attitudes and reasons for personnel shortage of medical specialists; Prevention of suicides in our country, etc.

Indicator group D - Citations

The author has many citations (data from Research gate show a total of over 490 citations, and from Google scholar over 520 after 2021), Hirsch factor 7.

According to a report from NACID for the period 2022-2026, there are 95 citations in the databases of WEB OF SCIENCE, SCOPUS and other databases.

The total impact factor (IF) of the journals in which Dr. Nakov has published is 40.785, and the impact rank (SJR) is 14.888.

Indicator group E - Specialties, participation in scientific projects, publication of university textbooks and manuals and supervision of doctoral and postgraduate students:

Assoc. Prof. Nakov is a psychiatrist and PhD of Social Medicine. He participates in the following international projects: COST Action 91133 FOSTREN for reducing coercion in psychiatry; Joint Action Implemental – for the application of European good practices in the reform of psychiatric care and suicide prevention; RECOVER-E project Large-scale implementation of Community based mental health care for people with severe and Enduring mental ill health in EuRopE), funded by the Horizon 2020 program; coordinator for Bulgaria of the COST Action 91133 FOSTREN project funded by the EU; Coordinator for Bulgaria of the Joint Action Implemental, funded by the EU; Researcher in the Sport Coach + project, funded by Columbia University, New York, USA.

He is the supervisor of a doctoral student.

Indicator Group G Dissemination and application of the candidate's scientific and practical achievements among the scientific community

Assoc. Prof. Nakov is one of the authors of the "Strategy for Mental Health of Citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria 2021-2030" and actively participates in the monitoring of the psychiatric network in Bulgaria.

Based on the evidence presented by the candidate and the analysis made, I apply the number of points for indicators:

Indicator **A**: 50 points

Indicator **B**: 100 points

Indicator : **G** 278.49 points

Indicator **D** : 1425 points

Indicator **E**: 255 points

- **Total: 2 108.49** points

Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Nakov has been giving lectures and exercises since 2013 at the South-West University to students of social work. Since 2017, he has been a lecturer for speech therapists bachelors in the subject "Fundamentals of Psychiatry" with a teaching load of 30 teaching hours per year. In 2026, he is giving lectures in the master's program "Bioethics, Society, Culture", Department of Philosophy at the Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski". The workload of courses conducted is 24 hours.

Conclusion:

As a general characteristic of the scientific works, I emphasize the relevance of the topic under consideration, the author's sensitivity to poorly researched health problems, his affiliation with national and international research teams, and the proven practical applicability of the results obtained.

The attached reference shows that Assoc. Prof. Nakov exceeds many times the required scientometric requirements specified in the Regulations of the NCPHA for the Conditions and Procedure for Occupying the Academic Position of "Professor".

Everything stated in the opinion gives me reason to vote positively and to confidently propose to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to also vote positively for awarding the academic position of **"Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Venkov Nakov, MD, PhD** in the field of higher education 7 "Health and Sports" in the professional field 7.1 "Medicine", scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management" for the needs of the Department of "Mental Health" at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis.

2.06.2026

Sofia

Signature:

Заличено на основание
на чл. 5, §1, 6, 7
от Регламент (ЕС) 2016/679

/Prof. E. Shipkovenska, MD, PhD /