

Opinion

by Prof. Stefka Stefanova Naoumova, Ph.D.

by competition for the academic position

"professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.6 Law, in the scientific specialty "Labor law and social security"

In the competition announced in SG No. 44 /21.05.2024, amendment SG No. 49/11.06.2024 for the academic position of "Professor", in the scientific specialty "Labor Law and Social Security", for the needs of the Department of "Legal Sciences" at the University of Economics - Varna participated as the only candidate associate professor, doctor of law Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva, lecturer in the "Legal Sciences" department at the FSF of UE-Varna,

Grounds for presenting the opinion:

Order No. RD 06-98/09.07.2024 of the Rector of UE -Varna and decision of the Scientific Jury from its first meeting on awarding and preparing reviews and opinions on this competition

1. Presentation of the candidate's academic development and her professional activity:**1.1. Inventory of documents submitted**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova has submitted all the necessary documents for the present competition, described in the list of annexes, which establish the fulfillment of the substantive requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 Law (Labour Law and Social Security), provided for in the Law on Labour and Social Security and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and the Holding of Academic Positions at UE-Varna.

The set of materials presented by Associate Professor Yolova on paper and electronic media is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of UE-Varna.

1.2. Inventory of the works submitted to the competition:

The candidate is the author and co-author of a total of 138 scientific publications, including 14 monographic works, 5 studies, 43 articles, 50 reports. He has developed 26 textbooks and teaching aids.

In the competition for professor the candidate Assoc. Prof. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva participated with a total of 92 publications, including:

1. 1 independent monograph (main habilitation work) - "Rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance"
2. 7 monographs (independent chapters in collective monographs)
3. 4 collective studies
4. 33 articles, of which 9 are independent;
5. 40 reports, of which 17 are individual
6. 6 textbooks and teaching aids.

Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskalev graduated in Law from the Faculty of Economics, University of Economics - Varna. In 1996, after a successful competition, she was appointed assistant professor at the Department of Criminal - Legal Sciences of the Faculty of Law of the University of Economics - Varna, and in 1999 she held the academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor", and in 2002 - the academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor".

In 2005, after a successful defence of his dissertation on the criminal legal regime of intentional bankruptcy, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws (VAC Diploma No. 29998/2.09.2005).

In 2011. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva acquired the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.6 Law, scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance" (Certificate № D017/16.12.2011).

From the submitted reference on teaching workload it is evident that Galina Yolova - Paskaleva supervises seminar and lecture classes in full-time and distance learning, in Bachelor's and Master's degree disciplines: "Labour and Insurance Law"; "Labour Law"; "Fundamentals of Law", "Fundamentals of Public Law", "Family and Succession Law", "Civil Law and Procedure", "Criminal Law and Procedure", "Civil Status of Persons", "Special Seminar", etc.

He has a total of 28 years of teaching experience, and in different years he has held senior positions, namely Head of Department, Deputy Head of the Department of Legal Studies for two consecutive terms (2015 - 2023), and is currently the Head of the Department of Legal Studies.

Assoc. Yolova-Paskaleva is a member of the General Assembly of the University of Economics - Varna, a member of the FS of the Faculty of Law, a member of the Specialized Committee on Educational Activities at the Faculty of Law, a member of the Aesthetification

Committee at the Faculty of Law, a member of the Committee for Recognition of Educational Credits and Periods of Study at the Faculty of Law, a member of the Publishing Council at the University of Economics - Varna, a member of the Editorial Board of the monographic publishing house "Prof. Prof. Yolova-Paskaleva". Member of the Board of Directors of Tsani Kalyanjiyev Publishing House.

She has been a supervisor of two PhD students who have successfully defended their dissertation.

Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva was the chairperson of the section "Social and Legal Sciences" at the Union of Scientists - Varna for the period 2013 - 2017 and 2017 - 2021. She is a member of the Union of Scientists - Varna and the Bulgarian Association of Labour Law and Social Insurance.

Participates as a leader or member of the teams of numerous scientific projects, including 6 scientific research and 17 scientific and applied conferences.

The scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva are in the following areas: Labour Law, Insurance Law, Health Insurance, 'Electronic Healthcare, Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence, Mediation.

As can be seen from the attached reference it has a remarkable number of citations.

3. General characteristics of the habilitation thesis submitted in the competition:

For participation in the present competition Assoc. Prof. Yolova has submitted a printed habilitation monographic work "**Rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance**", Varna: Science and Economics, 2024, 263., ISSN(in print) ISBN 978-954-21-1170-2.

The paper is structured in a preface, three chapters and a conclusion.

The scientific aim of the monographic work is to make a comprehensive theoretical study of the rights of the insured persons by bringing them out in a systematics of the individual acts, clarifying their nature and the related specifics of practical application and in the aspect of the most adequate legal protection. Such a study has not yet been carried out in the national legal doctrine, which is what provoked the increased scientific interest in carrying it out with a direct objective - systematics of the norms and their consideration, despite the different nature of their nature, as a complex and comprehensive system.

The object of the study is the current legislation regulating the rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance, its various, given the hierarchy of the acts, levels, as well as the relevant norms of the European and international legislation.

The subject of the research is health insurance - in particular and in general, patient rights, in cases where the health insured person has the status of a patient.

The study is structured in a classic content of three chapters, in which various aspects of the essence, character and procedures and mechanisms for the realization of health insurance rights are analyzed in relation to each other.

Chapter one examines the general theory and systematics of the concepts "health insurance status" and "concept and types of health insured persons" and outlines the place of health insurance rights in the context of the principles of mandatory health insurance and the mechanisms of functioning of the health insurance system, as well as national, supranational and international sources of the rights of health insured persons.

Chapter two is dedicated to the analysis and systematization of health insurance rights under the Health Insurance Act in the aspects of their legal establishment, systematization, nature and characteristics, as well as implementation mechanisms established in the by-laws further developing them.

Chapter three examines the special category of patient rights under the Health Act, applicable to the status of the insured in their capacity as patients, in comparative and systematic aspects considering the specifics of their establishment in the national and some foreign legal systems.

Based on the analysis, summaries, conclusions are formed in the individual parts, trends and proposals *de lege ferenda* for improving the legislation are noted.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's other scientific publications:

In the current competition, Assoc. Prof. Yolova also participated with individual parts of joint monographs, as well as with 4 collective scientific studies and 33 articles (of which 9 were independent). The relevant parts of monographs are correctly described and analyzed. They are united by the common issue of labor and social security legislation in the context of a constant trend of continuous improvement and upgrading of the national legal framework in accordance with the new social relations and the related specificity of these legal relations. The presented studies and articles are primarily aimed at researching the specifics and mechanisms of functioning of the health insurance system in individual aspects of the health insurance mechanism and through the prism of protection of health insurance rights.

5. Contributions to the monograph "Rights of insured persons under compulsory health insurance":

In general, the contributions in this monographic work can be presented as follows:

- 5.1. A systematized and comprehensive theoretical study of the rights of the insured persons has been carried out by presenting them in a systematization of individual acts, clarifying their essence and related specifics of practical application, and in the aspect of the most adequate legal protection possible. The national legal doctrine lacks such research and this has provoked scientific interest in its implementation.
- 5.2. There is a complex theoretical study of the rights of health insured persons in the context of the overall national legal framework and by building a system, examining the essence, characteristics and peculiarities of their realization. In this sense and through their respective correlation both within the framework of the narrow insurance rights under the health insurance and through the general patient rights under the Health Act, a complete complex of applicable norms and institutes is created, building the overall health insurance status of the insured persons
- 5.3. By analyzing the provisions of the general and special normative acts, some comparative legal aspects in the regulation of individual patient rights and the applicable acts of supranational legislation, a number of controversial issues, concepts and terms are clarified in a complex manner, the clarification of which in the context of the philosophy of general social rights aims to establish and point out both the need to improve the legislation and purely practical problems in the implementation and procedures for the realization of these rights.
- 5.4. The concept of "health insured person" has been clarified, and its consideration in the classification of persons under the Health Insurance Act (HHI) has led to a terminological clarification of the concept of "health insurance status";
- 5.5. Important aspects in the provision and implementation of the health insurance rights of the insured persons with foreign citizenship, statelessness or refugee status, persons with temporary protection or humanitarian status have been analyzed, given their current legal regulation and the related changes in the HHI;
- 5.6. The individual types of rights are examined through the prism of the common European policies for the development of e-health and the related national health strategies and road maps for the development of e-governance;
- 5.7. The comparative legal analysis of individual patient rights was carried out through the prism of their establishment in European acts and the legislation of other European countries;
- 5.8. An up-to-date normative analysis of individual rights has been carried out in the context of the essence, principles and procedures for the implementation of e-health where

possible and their nature allows this, through the prism of their protection and development in a digital environment, as well as in view of the policies and principles to protect personal data.

5.9. Formulated on the basis of the performed complex normative and scientific analysis, conclusions and generalizations with a practical focus, as well as substantiated and reasoned proposals *de lege ferenda*;

5.10. Of particular value is the thesis that the rights of persons under compulsory health insurance are specific in nature social rights, constituting a complex legal institution, which should be specified and clarified through the prism of all elements and mechanisms from the national legal system and which present in their entirety the essence, character and type of individual rights and the possible procedures for their realization.

6. Contributions from studies and articles:

First of all, as a contribution, the study of the specifics and mechanisms of functioning of the health insurance system in individual aspects of the health insurance mechanism through the prism of protection of health insurance rights can be indicated;

Another point of contribution is the study of the impact of digitization and electronic health care on the health insurance system;

The analysis of the impact of digitization and the use of artificial intelligence in labor relations, as well as their impact on individual labor rights and forms of employer control is also an important contribution that has a particularly strong modern resonance;

And finally - the study of trends in the creation and evolution of basic labor-law and insurance-law principles is a contribution that will still be evaluated with a view to future legislation.

7. General assessment of compliance with the normative requirements for occupying the academic position "professor":

From the attached reference, supported by ample written evidence of the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of ZRASRB, it can be concluded that with her individual research achievements and results of her academic and teaching activity, Assoc. Dr. Galina Yolova not only meets the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activity, which are set in relation to candidates for the academic position "professor" for scientific field 3. Social sciences, professional direction Law - (Labor law and social security), but also significantly exceeds some of these indicators.

In view of the above, I find that with regard to Assoc. Prof. Yolova all conditions for occupying the academic position have been met "Professor", provided for in the Law on the

Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application and The regulations for the development of the academic staff of IU-Varna.

There is no evidence of plagiarism in the sense of § 1, point 7 of the additional regulations of ZRASRB in the peer-reviewed scientific works of Assoc. Prof Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova – Paskaleva.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above considerations I find that the candidacy of Associate Professor Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva meets all the necessary material and legal requirements established in the provisions of Art. 29, para. 1 ZRASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the law and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at UE - Varna in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.6 Law (Labor law and social insurance).

In view of this, I propose to the honorable scientific jury to vote positively and propose to the Faculty Council of UE-Varna Associate Prof. Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva to be elected to the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.6 Law (scientific specialty Labor law and social insurance).

12 September 2024

Заличена информация съгласно
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

(Prof. Dr. Stefka Naoumova)

REVIEW

From: Prof. Dr. Sc. Jivko Ivanov Draganov, Department of International Law and EU Law, Law Faculty of the University of National and World Economy

Subject: competition for the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.6. Law, scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Security", announced by the University of Economics - Varna

1. Information about the competition

The competition is announced in SG no. 44/21.05.2024, amended SG no. 49/11.06.2024 for the needs of the "Legal Sciences" department of the Faculty of Finance and Accounting of the University of Economics - Varna. I participate in the composition of the scientific jury of the competition in accordance to Order № RD-06-98/09.07.2024 of the Rector of the University of Economics – Varna.

2. Information about the candidates in the competition

Associate Professor Dr. Galina Yolova – Paskaleva is the only candidate in the announced competition. Galina Yolova graduated in "law" at the University of Economics - Varna. After graduation, she joined the same university as an assistant professor and successively held the academic positions of "senior assistant professor", "chief assistant professor" and "associate professor". In the period 2015 - 2023, Prof. Yolova served as deputy head of the "Legal Sciences" department of the University of Economics - Varna, and in 2023 she was elected as the head of the "Legal Sciences" department. In 2005, she obtained a PhD in the scientific specialty "Criminal Law", with a dissertation on the topic "Criminal Law Regime of Intentional Bankruptcy". The candidate for the competition is a member of the "Social and Legal Sciences" section at the Union of Scientists - Varna, and in the period 2013-2017 she was also its chairperson. Prof. Yolova is a member of the Bulgarian Association for Labor Law and Social Security. Her research and teaching work is mainly in the field of labor

law, but also includes health insurance law, electronic health care, digitalization, mediation, etc. She is an active participant in educational and other cooperation projects between University of Economics - Varna, the judicial system, the secondary education system, etc. Prof. Yolova is the author of nearly 140 scientific publications, of which 14 monographs (1 as a sole author and 13 co-authored), 5 studies (co-authored), 43 articles (17 as a sole author and 23 co-authored), 50 reports (24 as a sole author and 26 in co-authorship) and 26 textbooks and study books (co-authorship). She speaks English and Russian.

3. Fulfilment of the requirements for holding the academic position

The candidate's fulfilment of the minimum national requirements by groups of indicators is as follows. Under the letter "A" - dissertation work for the award of the degree "doctor" - 50 points. Under the letter "B" - habilitation work "Rights of insured persons under the mandatory health insurance" - 100 points. By indicator group "G" -831.65 points. By letter "D" - cited - 720 points. By letter "E" - 342.35 points. The fulfilment the additional requirements of the University of Economics – Varna, according to the Declaration of the candidate under Art. 77, point 5 of the Rules of the University of Economics–Varna, is as follows. Under paragraph 1 "Scientific reports" - 263 points with a minimum number of 60. Under paragraph 2 "Scientific articles and studies" - 198,32 points with a minimum number of 115. Under paragraph 3 "Publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science" - 230 points with a minimum number of 30. Under paragraph 4 "Citations in Scopus and/or Web of Science" - 105 points with a minimum number of 15. Under paragraph 5 "Defended doctoral students" - 60 points with a minimum number 40. Under paragraph 6 "Research projects participation and/or management" - 185 points with a minimum number of 15. The candidate has developed curricula in a total of 12 disciplines and lecture courses in 10 disciplines, participated in a large number of projects and in organizational committees of scientific forums, is a member of the editorial boards of scientific publications such as "Law and Business in Modern Society", University of Economics - Varna, "Mediation in different public spheres", etc. The sum of the points of Assoc. Prof. Galina Yolova exceeds the required minimum number of points of all groups of indicators. The significant exceeding of the minimum requirements for publications and for citations in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases

with scientific information (Scopus and/or Web of Science) is impressive. The H-index of the candidate is 4.

4. Teaching

The candidate in the competition has extensive teaching experience. Assoc. Prof. Yolova had taught and continues to give lecture courses on the disciplines "Labor and social security law", "Fundamentals of public law", "Criminal law and process", "Fundamentals of law" and others. Her teaching workload amounts to 207 hours for the academic year 2022/2023 and 391 hours for the academic year 2023/2024, before the bachelor students and, as well as 25 hours before the students in master degree. From the submitted documents, it is evident that the candidate has teaching experience that fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position of "professor".

5. General characteristics and contributions of the presented scientific papers

For her participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted a habilitation work and a large number of other publications, including 7 monographs in co-authorship, 4 studies in co-authorship, 9 articles of sole authorship and 24 in co-authorship, 17 scientific reports of sole authorship and 23 in co-authorship, six textbooks and educational materials and one other publication in co-authorship. The total number of publications submitted for participation in the competition is 92, of which 27 are of sole authorship and 65 are co-authored. Assoc. Prof. Yolova's scientific work covers research on current problems of labor and insurance law, health insurance, medical law, data protection, mediation, the use of artificial intelligence, etc.

5.1. General characteristics and contributions of the candidate's habilitation work

The habilitation thesis "Rights of the insured persons under the mandatory health insurance" is an original scientific research work dedicated to current theoretical problems and at the same time with important applied significance. The volume of the study is 263 pages. The literature used covers 107 publications in Bulgarian and in English. The work is structured in an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. A summary in Bulgarian, English, Russian and German is included. 199 footnotes are made.

The habilitation work is a study of the scope, features and content of the rights of health insured persons. For its purposes, the author first analyzes the health insurance status, the

groups of health insured persons and the principles of compulsory health insurance (Chapter one), systematizes and examines the individual types of health insurance rights (Chapter two) and examines patient rights under the Health Act, including them to the health insurance rights under the Health Insurance Act.

The work has a number of merits and is distinguished by numerous scientific and scientific-applied contributions. It is the first monographic study in our country dedicated to the analysis and systematization of the rights of health insured persons. It is on the basis of the conducted in-depth and comprehensive analysis that the author carries out a systematization of the rights of health insured persons, which represents a valuable contribution to the development of scientific research in the specified field. The research approach adopted involves examining firstly the questions regarding the status of health insured persons, as well as other groups of insured persons under the Health Insurance Act, which in turn allows a number of specific questions regarding the scope and content of rights to be clarified.

Among the contributions of the work, the following should be mentioned: the systematization and grouping of the rights of health insured persons under the Health Insurance Act; the analysis of the problems raised regarding the exercise of rights with a view to the development of electronic health care and the digitalization of health services; the performed comparative analysis of individual patient rights; the study of the trends in the development of the regulatory framework, including on the basis of the analysis of the EU policies for the development of electronic health care; the consideration of individual aspects of insurance and the exercise of rights by insured persons who are not Bulgarian citizens; the clarification of individual normative concepts, etc. The candidate's original contribution is the examination of the content of individual rights in the context of the procedures for implementing electronic health care and from the point of view of their exercise and protection in an electronic environment. A large part of the contributions mentioned above are important for the development of practice and will support the implementation of national and European legislation in the field. The analysis of judicial practice also is also a contribution in regards to the above. The author has made and substantiated a number of proposals for the development of the regulatory framework, a large part of which may be supported.

5.2. General characteristics and contributions of the candidate's other publications

A significant part of the candidate's other publications also contains contributions. Among them, we can point out the studies of the impact of digitization processes on the development of the health insurance system, which are the subject of research in the articles "Digital transformation in health care in the context of the right to access to medical care" in: *Medical Law and Healthcare* No.1, 2021, "Building the national health information system - trends and legal framework" in: *Medical Management and Health Policy*, 2020, the reports: "European health data space - regulatory mechanisms and legal challenges", "On electronic health records in the context of personal data protection. The protection of personal data and digitization - challenges and perspectives", "Evolution of the legal framework for the development of electronic health care", etc. Another part of the contributing publications is devoted to research on various aspects of digitization in the context of labor relations. Such are the monographs "Legal aspects of digitization in the field of higher education and in labor relations". Varna, 2024, „On Humanizing Work in the Digital Age“ : Chapter 11. *Redefining Global Economic Thinking for the Welfare of Society*, Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA : IGI Global Publ, 2022, etc.

Without being able to list them exhaustively, it can be concluded that in its entirety the works of Associate Professor Galina Yolova contain numerous contributions that are of a scientific and scientific-applied nature in the field of labor and insurance law, health insurance research, digitalization and the development of the health insurance system, etc.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

Some remarks and recommendations can also be addressed to the candidate in the competition.

On page 34 of the work it is stated that EU primary legislation includes the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance of 1953, the European Convention on Social Security, etc. The cited acts are not sources of EU primary law. The same remark can be made regarding the designation of acts as such belonging to secondary (derivative) EU law without being part of it.

The proposal to define in acts of domestic law concepts that are related to cross-border healthcare, made on page 123, cannot be supported, insofar as they can be concepts of Union law. When a given concept is from EU law, its uniform interpretation when applied throughout the EU territory can be called into question by the introduction of different national definitions.

In Chapter Three, the author goes beyond the framework he defined in the title of the work, namely a study of the rights of "insured persons under the compulsory health insurance". The stated wording does not include all patient rights, but only those arising from the status of health insured persons. The analysis of other rights also allows making comparisons and conclusions that are important for the study, but the author's thesis that the same should be considered as part of the rights under the mandatory health insurance cannot be supported, since they arise on other legal grounds.

The critical comments made above do not change my positive assessment of the habilitation work and of the other publications submitted for participation in the competition.

7. Conclusion

The candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova – Paskaleva meets all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the additional requirements of the Regulations of the University of Economics - Varna.

Based on my overall assessment, I consider that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova – Paskaleva possesses all the necessary qualities, research and teaching experience, to hold the academic position of "professor" and I recommend to the scientific jury to adopt a decision to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Finance and Accounting of University of Economics - Varna, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova – Paskaleva to be elected to the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.6. Law, scientific specialty "Labor Law and Social Security".

Заличена информация съгласно
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

16.09.2024

Prof. Dr.Sc. Jivko Draganov

To
the Chairperson of the Scientific Jury,
according to the Order of the Rector of the Varna University of Economics
No. 06-98/09.07.2024 on the appointment
of the Scientific Jury for the competition
for the academic position "Professor",
in the professional field 3.6. 44 /21.05.2024,
corrected in State Gazette No. 49/11.06.2024.

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Maria Gavrailova Slavova
Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'

Dear Chairperson of the Scientific Jury,

By the Order of the Rector of the University of Economics - Varna No. RD 06-98/09.07.2024 on the appointment of the scientific jury for the competition for an academic position at the University of Economics - Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the jury, and at the first meeting of the jury - as an author of an opinion.

There is only one candidate for this competition - **Galina Yolova-Paskaleva**, Associate Professor at the University of Economics - Varna. It is evident from the materials submitted for participation in the competition that the formal requirements of the procedure have been met, in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.

My acquaintance with the submitted materials, as well as my observations in the legal and educational community indicate that the candidate's professional career

is characterised by the fruitful combination of teaching, research and practical activities. This is due to her high expertise as a specialist in social security and labour law, but also in administrative law and administrative procedure, international law and European Union law. In turn, this capacity allows the candidate to select, research, substantiate significant conclusions and make *de lege ferenda* proposals on topics of strategic importance for law as a branch of legislation, as a scientific and academic discipline.

A series of research studies, grouped in a table by type, area of interest and time of publication, are presented for comment. The visibility of the works proposed for evaluation facilitates the preparation of an opinion only at first glance, because the volume of research requires a thorough follow-up of the candidate's scientific efforts in the time since obtaining the post of Associate Professor.

Among the 139 scientific studies described, the main one is the habilitation thesis entitled 'Rights of Insured Persons under Compulsory Health Insurance'.

The work has a length of 263 pages and consists of an introduction, an exposition in three chapters, a conclusion and a list of the used literature sources of 117 titles and 17 judicial acts. The bibliography also includes a list of statutory references.

The habilitation thesis "Rights of Insured Persons under Compulsory Health Insurance" is devoted to a classical theoretical and practical question, the study of which requires an analysis of the legal framework and practice in the field, with a method of work appropriate to the objectives of the study. The work is consistent in its exposition and the conclusions reached. The content is traditionally structured, outlining the important themes of the problem area and is devoted to health insurance as a specific normative mechanism for the implementation of insurance, protective and compensatory legal institutes that are special in nature. In terms of content, the

author's aspiration to assume the historical and legal-conduct background before setting out his narrowly scientific reflections on the status of legal subjects clearly stands out.

A comprehensive review of the system of free public health care implemented under the “Semashko” model and the system of health insurance under the Bismarck model, with which a package of health insurance laws was passed in 1998, is made, tracing its systematic development in the contemporary quest for improving the health insurance model. It focuses on health insurance and patients' rights and sets out approaches to changing the model of health protection by guaranteeing equal access to high quality medical care for insured persons, in the context of controversial administrative and judicial practice.

The legal accent of the study naturally focuses on the most vulnerable - the right to life and health in the aspect of the most adequate legal protection possible and here the main contribution of the study emerges. The study offers a precise systematization of the norms dedicated to health insurance in national, international and European Union law, which presents them as a comprehensive system and thus clarifies the perspective of its improvement.

Chapter One outlines the basic concepts in the field and outlines the place of health insurance rights among the principles of compulsory health insurance and the mechanisms of functioning of the health insurance system. The principles of health insurance have been the subject of continuing interest in the candidate's work, and in the trial the conclusions and recommendations about them have crystallized into a complete form and recommendations.

Chapter Two is devoted to the analysis of the special law of health insurance rights - the Law on Health Insurance.

Chapter Three is devoted to the patient rights regulated by the Law on Health, comparing them with models from foreign legal systems.

In the conclusion, conclusions are drawn, trends are traced and *de lege ferenda* proposals are made for improving the law. The proposals should not be considered in isolation from the overall philosophy of the candidate, in which the development of the research quest should be traced to establish the genesis of the contributions of the work.

The practical value of the research is rooted in the analysis of real situations, with immediately applicable conclusions. Thus, the peculiarities of the economic situation in the country and the complex set of relationships that arise in the management of social activity, the role of artificial intelligence and the corresponding change in the status of the legal entities under study are examined.

The tracking of the candidate's scientific research points to a wide range of legal institutes studied in the previous years between the two competitions, especially in 2018 and 2020, among which the following should be noted:

- the protection of the employee's individual subjective labour rights;
- European and national policy on digitalisation in education and the labour market;
- the impact of digitalisation on the labour process, in particular the impact of artificial intelligence on the transformation of labour law institutions and legal principles;
- exploring the work-life boundary in new flexible forms of work and in the context of digitalisation;
- legal regime of holidays and leaves of absence and leaves related to insurance benefits, maternity risk benefits;

- employment and social security aspects of working across a platform and possible legislative solutions;
- trends for the protection of the right to rest in the teleworking contract;
- building the National Health Information System, in the context of medical management and health policy;
- labour law educational policy framework for competitiveness in the labour market, along with educational courses on public law and foundations of law;
- liability in workplace incidents involving the use of artificial intelligence;
- equity and health inequalities in the digitalisation of healthcare;
- the principles of freedom to work and freedom of contract in the context of the need to update flexible forms of employment;
- the need for a new model for setting the minimum wage and minimum social security income;
- the legal regime of the Rector as the governing body of the higher education institution;
- the impact of artificial intelligence on the health status of workers and the need to change the insurance legislation;
- aspects of health insurance for refugees, persons with temporary protection and humanitarian status;
- the hospital ombudsman in mediation practice for conflict management and dispute resolution;
- administrative control under the Health Insurance Act;

- European Health Data Area and the right to information in compulsory health insurance;
- the ecosystem of trust in the use of artificial intelligence in employment relations;
- legal regulation of the social economy in Bulgaria;
- reimbursement control for cross-border healthcare; and aspects of employment contracts for short-term seasonal work;
- administrative control and administrative and criminal liability for breaches of health and safety at work;
- the humanisation of the labour process and the specificities of the digitalisation of labour relations.

The volume of the candidate's research experiences is registered in Google scholar with more than 1025 references (citations), h-Index 16, I - index 35 - <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Ng8bkSIAAAAJ&hl=en>, along with 7 rankings on h-Index indicators in the field of Economics & Econometrics.

The candidate's publications are impressively numerous, but this does not make them thematically fuzzy. The contributory nature of the conclusions and suggestions for improving the legislation on compulsory health insurance for the insured can be traced in the already popular scientific reviews, beyond the opinions of the members of the scientific jury.

In conclusion, I give a positive assessment to the candidature of **Galina Yolova-Paskaleva** for the academic position of Professor in the professional field 3.6. Law, scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Security" at the University of Economics - Varna and in view of the contributions in the reviewed works, the overall scientific creativity and the long-standing teaching activity of the candidate, I recommend the

jury to take a decision to grant the academic position of "Professor" to **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva.**

23.09.2024 г.

Sofia

Заличена информация съгласно
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

Prof. Dr. Maria Slavova

by Prof. Dr. Krasimir Simeonov Mutafov, lecturer
attax and financial in the Faculty of Law of PU
"Paisiy Hilendarski", external member of the
scientific jury for acquiring an academic position

"Professor" appointed by order
No. RD-06-98 / 09.07.2024 of the Rector of IU -
Varna

With the mentioned order of the Rector of IU - Varna, I am appointed
for an external member of a scientific jury to occupy an academic position
"Professor" by profession 3.6. "Law", scientific
specialty "Labor Law and Social Security". The only one
candidate who declared participation is Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva,
currently holding the academic position "associate professor" at IU-Varna.

From the provided materials, with which the candidate participates in the competition, it is
clear that they fully meet the scientometric requirements specified in LDAS (law on the
development of the academic staff), RIADL(regulations for implementation of the academic
development law), and RDASUE (regulations for the development of the academic staff of
the University of economics)-Varna, including additional ones adopted at the university level.

According to the submitted report, Assoc. Prof. Dr. G. Yolova-Paskaleva has presented for
participation in the competition a sole-authored monograph titled "Rights of Insured Persons
under Mandatory Health Insurance," as well as nine articles and seventeen reports, also the
result of independent scientific work. Additionally, seven monographs, four studies, twenty-
four articles, and twenty-three reports in which the candidate participated as a co-author
were presented. The impressive volume of scientific output demonstrates a deep and
sustained interest of the author in the legal subject matter in which they develop their work.

All works are reflected in NCID(national center for information and documentation) and have not been used in previous procedures for holding academic positions and/or acquiring the academic degree "Doctor."

The main habilitation work with which the author participates in the competition is "Rights of Insured Persons under Mandatory Health Insurance," published in 2024 by "Science and Economy" at the University of Economics - Varna.

The monograph is 257 pages long, with 199 footnotes. Structurally, it follows the classical model of a brief summary (in Bulgarian, English, German, and Russian), an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography. Additionally, exhaustive lists of used case law (specific rulings) and regulations are provided. A total of 107 literary sources are used and correctly cited, of which 10 are foreign.

The habilitation work addresses a topic that is important and timely, as it raises questions that until now have remained outside the focus of legal doctrine. It should be noted that there is a lack of comprehensive scientific reflection and critical analysis in our literature on the subject related to the rights of insured persons, despite sporadic attention in the field. This in itself represents a significant scientific contribution from the author, who takes a worthy place in legal science.

The scientific problem posed by the monograph, due to its interdisciplinary nature, requires in-depth legal knowledge not only in labor and social security law but also in other legal branches such as administrative, medical, and community law, administrative procedure, as well as general legal theory, all of which the author undoubtedly possesses. The work has significant theoretical and practical-applied value, with part of the conclusions containing recommendations for amending the current regulatory framework to improve it. The significant practical value is also supported by the case law used, subjected to in-depth analysis with reasoned and constructive criticism, including interpretative rulings from the Supreme Administrative Court and the Constitutional Court. The study of such a subject matter also requires relevant knowledge of community law, demonstrating the candidate's very good awareness in this aspect, which also adds significant theoretical and practical value to the work.

The relevance of the work is undeniable, as this is a comprehensive scientific study dedicated to this part of legal theory.

The first chapter of the work, titled "Legal Responsibility – Types," is devoted to the theoretical framework related to the studied subject matter and essentially serves as a useful and necessary introduction to the main part of the scientific development, which is systematized in the following two chapters of the monograph. The author has rightly judged that such an approach is necessary, as it achieves greater completeness and consistency in the examination of the subject matter, following the rule of moving from the general to the specific. Addressing the main topic of the monograph without paying attention to these concepts, rules, and mechanisms related to the rights of insured persons would lead to an incomplete work.

In the second chapter, "Health Insurance Rights under the Health Insurance Act," the author has thoroughly examined all subjective rights that insured persons have under the provisions

of the cited legal act. The in-depth analysis, including of the sub-legislative framework and relevant case law, undoubtedly has significant practical application.

In the final chapter of the monograph, as the title itself suggests, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paskaleva exhaustively examines the rights that arise for insured persons under the Health Act. Once again, the reader is left with a positive impression of the accessible language used to present this otherwise complex subject matter, without neglecting the scientific style.

In the Conclusion, motivated conclusions are drawn regarding the tasks and goals that the author set and achieved in researching this specific part of legal theory. Numerous well-reasoned proposals for amending the current legal framework are also made, aimed at improving it, and it should be emphasized that these proposals have a substantial contribution and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the legislation in this area.

Based on the above, I express a positive opinion and recommend to the members of the esteemed scientific jury that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva be selected for the academic position of "Professor" at the University of Economics - Varna in the professional field 3.6. Law /Labor Law and Social Security/.

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