

## REVIEW

From

Prof. Dr. Andriyana Yovcheva Andreeva

**On the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 "Law", scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance", announced in SG No. 44 /21.05.2024, corrected State Gazette No. 49/11.06.2024 for the needs of the University of Economics-Varna, Department of Legal Studies with a single candidate - Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva**

The present review is prepared on the basis of the Order RD 06-98/9.07.2024 of the Rector of the University of Economics-Varna for the appointment of the scientific jury for the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 "Law", scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance", announced in State Gazette No. 44 /21.05.2024, SG 49/11.06.2024 for the needs of the University of Economics-Varna, Department of Legal Sciences, and the decision of the first meeting of the scientific jury held on 23.08.2024.

**I. Competition Data**

The competition for the academic post of Professor is in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.6 "Law", scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance", announced in State Gazette No. 44 /21.05.2024, correction State Gazette No. 49/11.06.2024 for the needs of the University of Economics-Varna, Department of Legal Sciences.

**II. Candidate for the competition**

The only candidate for the competition is Associate Professor Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva. Assoc. Yolova - Paskaleva has been a lecturer at the IU-Varna, Department of Legal Studies since 1996 until the present moment. The documents submitted by the candidate are in full compliance with the RASRB Act, the Regulations for the Application of the RASRB Act and Article 77 and Article 80, paragraph 1 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at IU - Varna (PRASIV).

Assoc. Yolova - Paskaleva was admitted to the competition as meeting the requirements under Article 62 of the PRASIU - Varna and the quantitative requirements under Annex 1 of the same Regulations.

**III. Curriculum Vitae and personal profile of the candidate**

Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva was born on 10.10.1973 in Varna.

In 1991 she graduated from the secondary school "St. Kliment Ohridski in Sofia in 1991. In 1996 she graduated from the University of Economics - Varna with an overall grade in the state exams - excellent 6,00.

In 1996, after a successful competition, she was appointed assistant professor at the Department of Criminal - Legal Studies of the Faculty of Law of the University of Economics - Varna, and in 1999 she held the academic position of senior assistant, and in 2002 - the academic position of senior assistant.

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 (VAK 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 Security". She teaches seminars and lectures in full-time and distance learning, at Bachelor's and Master's level in the following disciplines. "Labour and Social Security 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 In addition to his rich teaching experience (28 years in total), Assoc. Yolova-Paskaleva also has a serious administrative experience, holding in different years managerial positions at the department level, respectively - Deputy Head of the Department of Legal Studies for two consecutive terms (2015 - 2023) and currently - Head of the Department of Legal Studies (2023 - 2027). Assoc. Yolova-Paskaleva is a member of the General Assembly of the University of Economics - Varna, a member of the FSF, a member of the Specialized Committee for Educational Activities at the FSF, a member of the Attestation Committee at the FSF, a member of the Committee for Recognition of Educational Credits and Periods of Study at the FSF, a member of the Publishing Council at the University of Economics - Varna, a member of the Editorial Board of the monographic publishing house "Prof. Member of the Board of the Publishing House "Tsani Kalyanjiyev", member of the team of working groups.

Since 2017, Assoc. Prof. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva is a member of the team of the PhD program "Labour Law and Social Insurance" at UE-Varna (currently discontinued after a legislative change), having been a supervisor of two PhD students who 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.

Head and team member of numerous scientific projects, including 6 scientific research and 17 conferences (including member of the organizing committee and the scientific council). He actively participates in the implementation of ongoing educational projects with institutions of the judiciary under cooperation agreements with the Varna Institute of Law - Project "The Young and Justice" with Varna District Court; Project "Civil Monitoring" with Varna Court of Appeal; Project "Law is Action" with Varna District Court; Project "Administrative Justice - Training in Practice" with Varna Administrative Court.

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

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 aid

**IV. Quantitative and substantive characteristic of the scientific works submitted after the last procedure (compliance with the requirements under Article 77, items 3, 4, 5 and 6 in conjunction with Article 86 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna)**

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

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

The main monographic work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva "Rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance" has a total volume of 263 pages, with a balanced structure of exposition and a high scientific level of the analytical part. It is written in a high academic language, with the prevailing normative topical analysis of the current legal norms. Numerous literary sources, case law and inclusive regulations are used. The developed

monograph is devoted to a topical and significant problem in the field of health insurance. Specifically, the author examines the rights of insured persons under the compulsory health insurance. A complex analysis of health insurance rights under the Health Insurance Act and the Health Act is made.

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

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

The topicality and importance of the topic is more than indisputable. By analysing the provisions of general and special legal acts, including supranational legislation, as well as by analysing some comparative legal aspects in the regulation of individual patients' rights, the author clarifies a number of controversial issues, concepts and terms of great importance for the improvement of legislation and their practical application.

Chapter 1 examines the general theory and systematics of the concepts of "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 compulsory health insurance and the mechanisms of the functioning of the health insurance system, as well as national, supranational and international sources of the rights of health insured persons.

Chapter two is devoted to the analysis and systematics of health insurance rights under the Health Insurance Act in the aspects of their normative establishment, systematics, essence and characteristics, as well as mechanisms of their implementation, established in the further developing sub-legislative acts.

Chapter Three examines the special category of patient rights under the Health Insurance Act, inclusive of the status of the insured as patients in comparative and systematic aspects, taking into account the specificities of their establishment in national and some foreign legal frameworks.

On the basis of the analysis, the individual parts systematize conclusions and generalizations, as well as identify trends and make a number of *de lege ferenda* proposals for improving the legislation.

In this sense, the development presents a comprehensive, complex and theoretical study of the rights of insured persons by summarizing them in the light of the 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 and efficient practical application. Such a study has not yet been done in the national legal doctrine, which is what provoked the increased scientific

interest in conducting it with a direct objective - systematics of norms and their consideration, despite the different nature of their nature, as a complex and comprehensive system.

The author correctly and fully proves the scientific thesis of his work, namely - that the rights of persons under compulsory health insurance are social rights specific in their nature, a complex legal institute, which should be specified and finds its clarification through the prism of all elements and mechanisms of the national health insurance system.

**The most important contributions of the monographic work that can be highlighted are the following:**

- The study is original and of important significance for legal theory in the field of public insurance. The subject is relatively little studied in the national legal doctrine, with the exception of individual articles, as well as more general monographic works. As such, the study is the first of its kind to focus on the rights of insured persons under compulsory health insurance.
- The material is also of marked practical relevance, both for health insured persons with a view to a good knowledge of their rights and for the competent authorities implementing them.
- The work is developed in a high academic language with its corresponding doctrinal level. At the same time, the necessary texts of the legal framework are also brought out in the work, which makes the development suitable for narrow specialists, as well as for all lawyers and the wider audience of insured persons in general;
- An up-to-date regulatory analysis has been carried out in line with recent changes in the health insurance regulatory framework;
- The author has researched and reported correctly on the research on the topic and has conducted a qualitative review of the scientific literature. It should be borne in mind here that the authors working on the subject are not numerous, and this makes the analysis and summary of existing perceptions all the more valuable;
- The methods used by the author are correct and the data cited are from reliable sources.
- Numerous literature sources and case law have been used, as well as the analysis of health insurance-related legal and regulatory framework, acts of the applicable European legislation.
- The results of the study are clearly presented and correspond to the set research tasks, respectively, in the entirety of the scientific objective.

- The thesis of the work is fully proved, namely that the rights of persons under compulsory health insurance are social rights specific in their nature, a complex legal institute, which should be specified and finds its clarification through the prism of all elements and mechanisms of the national legal framework, giving in its entirety the essence, nature and type of individual rights and possible procedures for their realization.

In conclusion, it can be summarized that the presented monographic work is a serious and valuable contribution to the theory of health insurance, at the same time it has a strong practical orientation and well-founded author's proposals for improving the legislation. Such a study is undoubtedly innovative for our legal doctrine, which confirms its relevance and significance for the theory of insurance law in general and health insurance law in particular.

The other scientific publications of the author concern diverse - labor and insurance law topics, and the scientific contributions of the author are particularly enhanced in the field of his distinct scientific interests - insurance law, health insurance and e-health. Their importance can be summarized in the following aspects:

1. An analysis and summary of some specificities and mechanisms of implementation of the health insurance system, examined both through the prism of the implementation of the health insurance mechanism and with regard to the protection of individual health insurance rights - (in: *On the Principles of Compulsory Health Insurance. Notices. Sp. University of Economics - Varna, Varna : Science and Economics, 64, 2021, 3, 263 - 278., ISSN(print) 1310-0343, ISSN(online) 2367-6949, On some topical aspects in health insurance and health insurance status of refugees, persons with temporary protection and humanitarian status. Law and business in modern society :Proceedings of the 5th national scientific conference, 12 October 2022 , Varna : Science and Economics, 2023, 131-139., ISSN(print) 2603-5073, ISSN(online) 2603-5073 / DOI 10, Yolova, G. On some peculiarities of administrative control under the Health Insurance Act. 15 years of administrative justice in Bulgaria - problems and perspectives : Proceedings of a national round table, 15 June 2022, Varna: Science and Economics, 2022, 78-87., ISBN(in print) ISBN(in print) 978-954-21-1122-1 / DOI <https://doi.org/10.36997/PPDD2022.78>, Yolova, G. Specifics in the payment of medical activities and services under compulsory health insurance. Law and Business in Modern Society: Proceedings of the 2nd National Scientific Conference, 8 November 2019, Varna: Science and Economics, 2019, 314 - 324. ISSN 2603, Yolova, G. Volume and access to medical care - trends and features of non-discriminatory application. Protection against Discrimination: Legal Framework, Issues and Trends: Proceedings of a National Scientific*

Conference of the University of Varna, 8 June 2018, Varna: STENO, 2018, 262 - 270. ISBN 978-619-241-005-6)

2. Of particular importance are the author's research in the field of e-healthcare, where publications analyzing the nature and impact of e-healthcare on the health insurance system and especially on health insurance and patient rights stand out (in: Digital transformation in healthcare in the context of the right to access medical care. Medical Law and Healthcare, Sofia. Medical Management and Health Policy, Sofia: Medical University - Sofia. Central Medical Library, 51, 2020, 1, 28 - 37., ISSN(print) 1312-0336, European health data space - regulatory mechanisms and legal challenges. Education, science and digital innovation - synergy for professional path : Proceedings : National round table ... , 19 Nov. 2021, Varna : VFU Chernorizets Hrabar, 2022, 72-78. ., ISBN(in print) 978-954-715-721-7 / DOI <https://doi.org/10.36997/ESDI2021.72>, 978-954-715-721-7 / DOI <https://doi.org/10.36997/ESDI2021.72>, On Electronic Health Records in the Context of Privacy. Personal data protection and digitalization - challenges and perspectives : Proceedings of a round table [from a round table held at UE - Varna, 1 October 2021], Varna : Science and Economics, 2021, 76-85., ISBN(in print) 978-954-21-1002-3 / DOI <https://doi.org/10.36997/PPDD2021.76>, Evolution of the legal framework for the development of eHealth. Law and business in modern society : Proceedings of the 3rd National Scientific Conference, 13 November 2020, Varna : Science and Economics, 2020, 324 - 329. ISSN 2603-5073; ISSN 27, Yolova, G. Principles of eHealth - legal frameworks and ethical aspects. Economic science, education and real economy: development and interactions in the digital age : Proceedings of the Jubilee International Scientific Conference in Honour of the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the University of Economics - Varna : Vol. 4, Varna : Science and Economics, 4, 2020, 190 - 197 ISBN 978, Trends in anti-discrimination policies in health insurance in the digital society. Protection against Discrimination : Legal Framework, Issues and Trends : Proceedings of a National Scientific Conference of IU - Varna, 8 June 2018, Varna : STENO, 2018, 255 - 261. ISBN 978-619-241-005-6, Electronic Register of the Medical Certificates Specifics and Functions Related to the Prevention of Abuse in the Health Insurance System. Globalization, the State and the Individual: International Scientific Journal, Varna: VFU Chernorizets Hrabar, 2018, 2(18), 55 - 61. ISSN(in press) 2367-4555, Computer Technology and Ehealth. Trends and Regulatory Framework. Economics and Law, Blagoevgrad : South-West Univ. Neofit Rilski Publ. House, 2, 2020, 1, 43 - 48. ISSN 2682-972X, Equity and health inequalities in digitalization of health care. Proceedings of the Union of Scientists - Varna. Ser. Humanities, Varna: Union of Scientists - Varna, 2019, 1, 5 - 10. ISSN 1310- 6376, The impact of artificial intelligence on the health status of workers and the need to change insurance legislation. Proceedings of the 6th National Scientific

Conference Law and Business in Modern Society, 19.10.2023, Varna: Science and Economics, 2024, 160 - 173., ISSN(print) 2603-5073 / Link )

3. The author's scientific interest in mediation and mediation procedures is reflected in the study of the possibility of applying the institute in certain aspects of health insurance legal relations and realization of health insurance rights. (In: Mediation practices in doctor-patient conflict resolution. Mediation in different societal spheres, Proceedings of a national conference 11 May 2023, Varna: Science and Economics, 2023, 173 - 182., ISSN(in print) ISSN 2738-8794, On the hospital ombudsman in the light of mediation practices for conflict management and dispute resolution. Mediation in the Different Public Spheres = The Mediation in the Different Public Spheres: Proceedings of the National Scientific Conference, 11 May 2022, Varna: Science and Economics, 2022, 20-32., ISSN(in print) 2738-8794 / DOI <https://doi.org/10.36997/MDPS2022>, On some possible aspects of mediation in health insurance legal relations. Mediation in different public spheres: Proceedings of the National Scientific Conference, 11.05.2021, Varna: Science and Economics, 2021, 231-242., ISSN(in print) 2738-87941 / DOI <https://doi.org/10.36997/MDPS2021.21>).

4. Basic insurance law concepts, institutes and principles are analyzed and clarified in the aspect of their development, giving them an up-to-date doctrinal analysis given the need for their development in legal doctrine and national legislation. (In: Trends for the protection of the right to rest in the telework contract. Izvestia Sp. University of Economics - Varna, Varna : Science and Economics, 65, 2021, 1, 101-116., ISSN(print) 1310-0343, ISSN(online) 2367-6949 /, Contemporary trends in the philosophy of labor and insurance rights. Proceedings of the Union of Scientists - Varna. Ser. Humanities, Varna: Union of Scientists - Varna, 2020, 1, 9 -14. ISSN 1310-6376., The principles of freedom of work and freedom of contract in the context of the need to update flexible forms of employment. Society and Law, Sofia : Union of Lawyers in Bulgaria, 2019, 7, 4 - 18. ISSN 0204-8523, Harmonization of Bulgarian labour and social security legislation with European principles = Гармонизация българското darбового и страхового законодателства с Европейскими принципами. Sabiedrība un kultūra. Rakstu kolleni, Liepāja : Liepājas univerzitatē izglītības zinātņu i nstitūts sociologikos pētījumu centrs vadība un sociālne zinātņu fakultāte, XX, 2018, 334 - 341., Законодателни тенденции при установяване групите осигурени лица. Proceedings of the Union of Scientists - Varna. Ser. Humanities, 2018, 1, 22 - 26 ISSN 1310- 6376, The need for a new model for determining the minimum wage and minimum social security income. Proceedings of the Union of Scientists - Varna. Ser. Humanities, 2018, 1, 16 - 21. ISSN 1310- 6376, Leaves and benefits related to maternity risk - procedural and insurance law aspects. Proceedings of the Union of Scientists - Varna. Ser. Humanities, Varna: Union of



Scientists - Varna, 2017, 1, 20 - 24. ISSN 1310- 6376, Some comparative legal aspects in the regulation of compensation for temporary incapacity for work. Izvestia of the Union of Scientists - Varna, series "Humanities", 2016, 1, 38 - 43. ISSN 1310- 6376, Insurance seniority and related institutes in the recognition of some types of collateral. Izv. Sp. Icon. univ. - Varna , 2015, № 3, pp. 20 - 29. ISSN 1310-0343; ISSN 2367-6949, Pensionable service and similar legal institutes in the recognition of certain types of social security benefits. Izvestia Journal of University of Economics - Varna, 2015, 3, 20 - 29 ISSN(print) 2367-6361, ISSN(online) 2367-6957)

5. A large part of the author's publications, co-authored with other researchers, are devoted to the study of various aspects of the impact of digitalization on labor relations, in particular - the study of the transformation of the legal relationship employer-employee by bringing the consideration of a different plane of the traditional employment relationship and its transfer to the conditions of digitalization of social relations in the field of labor. (in: Transformation of the employer-employee legal relationship as a result of the impact of digitalization. De Jure, In. Veliko Tarnovo. V. Cyril and Methodius, 11, 2020, 1(20), 11 - 18., Labour law principles - evolution and transformation in the era of digitalization and the use of artificial intelligence. Izvestia. Sp. University of Economics - Varna, Varna: Science and Economics, 64, 2020, 1, 22 - 35. ISSN 1310-0343; ISSN 2367-6949, Digital Competences of the Parties in the Employment Relationship . Economics and Computer Science : [Electronic] scientific journal, Varna : Knowledge and Business, 8, 2022, 1, 6-13., ISSN(online) 2367-7791 /, Labor and social security aspects of work through a platform - challenges and possible legislative solutions. Човешки ресурси & Technologi = HR & Technologies, Varna : Association Creative Space, 2022, 2, 35-52., ISSN(print) ISSN 2738-8719 /), impact of employer control through digital and digital technologies and its impact on some specific labor rights (In: On Freedom and Discipline in Employment Law - Contemporary Aspects in the Digital Age. BUSINESS AND LAW = Business and Law - Sofia, 2020, 3, 55-75, ISSN 2603-3437 ; ISSN 2603-3445, Digitalization and the New Legal and Economic Challenges to Employers in Implementing Internal Control. Economic Studies [Economic Studies], Sofia : Economic Research Institute Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 30, 2021, 5, 158-175., ISSN(online) 0205-3292, Legal and Economic Aspects of State Control Over Compliance With Labor Legislation. Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA : IGI Global Publ., 2023, 300., ISBN(online) 9781668490686 / DOI 10.4018/978-1-6684-9067-9 / Link, Employer Control in the Context of Digitalization. Human Resource Management in the Era of Digital Challenges: Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference, organized by IU - Varna, 25 Sept. 2020, Varna: Science and Economics, 2020, 48 - 53 ISBN 978-954-21-1051-4 (online) (pdf)

Translated with DeepL.com (free version) Available at: <http://conference.uv-varna.bg/hrm/archive-bg/>, Andreeva, A., Yolova, G., Dimitrova, D., Radev, E. Legal aspects of digitalization in higher education and labour relations. Varna: "Knowledge and Business", 25, 2024, 174., ISBN(online) 978-619-210-077-3), study of the concept of "ecosystem of trust" in the use of AI in labor relations.( Ecosystem of trust in the use of artificial intelligence in labor relations. Law and business in modern society : Proceedings of the 4th national scientific conference, October 22, 2021, Varna : Science and Economics, 2021, 364-375., ISSN(print) 2603-5073 / DOI <https://doi.org/10.36997/LBCS2021.364;>), legal aspects of the nature and responsibility in the use of AI in the employment relationship, digital competence of employees (in : Digital Competences of the Parties in the Employment Relationship . Economics and Computer Science : [Electronic] scientific journal, Varna : Knowledge and Business, 8, 2022, 1, 6-13., ISSN(online) 2367-7791), Analysis of the normative and ethical aspects of the boundary between personal and professional life in the case of work in a digital environment(in: Legal aspects of the balance between personal and professional life, Law and business in modern society - Varna: Science and Economics, 2020, 330 - 337, ISSN 2603-5073; ISSN 2738-7488, Trends for the protection of the right to rest in the contract for telework. Izvestia Sp. University of Economics - Varna, Varna: Science and Economics, 65, 2021, 1, 101-116., ISSN(print) 1310-0343, ISSN(online) 2367-6949)

6. The author has participated in the development of collective monographs, articles and studies, with a distinctly interdisciplinary character, uniting legal and economic aspects, as well as individual branches of law, which indicates significant participation in the development of general legal and economic theory.

The scientific production of the candidate is entirely in the field of the announced competition, and it is noteworthy that the scientific articles, studies and reports are in established, refereed and indexed journals, and all publications submitted to the competition are included in the list of NACID.

Nine of the candidate's publications, including two monographs where the author has independent chapters, have been published in journals indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, such as Scopus and/or Web of Science.

The candidate for the competition has been the head of two and a member of the team of four scientific - applied projects, successfully completed with the publication of significant monographic works - "Legal regime of holidays and vacations - theoretical and practical aspects", NPI 140 / / 30.04.2015, "Protection for individual subjective labor rights" NRI Contract № 18 / 27.04.2018, "Current legal aspects of employment contracts and related legal institutes" - NPI № 116 / 17.04.2014, "Legal and Economic Aspects of Control of Compliance with the Labour Law",

NIP 43/ RD - 14-1411 , 25.06.2020 , "Digitalization and Digital Competences - Trends and Innovative Practices in Higher Education and the Labour Market, 2021 - Project No. KP -06-N-45/1 at FNI , "Legal Relations and Status of Persons in the Judiciary in the Conditions of Digitalization" - NIP 57/2022 (not completed).

I consider that the publications submitted by the candidate are fully relevant and within the field of the scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Security". They are developments that build upon and enrich the legal doctrine with distinctly scientific and applied research results: One part of them are prepared as a result of independent research work, and those which are co-authored show the extremely good team work of Assoc. Yolova, as well as initiate an aspiration to the study of the problem in its entirety, combining interdisciplinary aspects from different legal branches or scientific fields.

**V. Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the teaching work (compliance with the requirements of Article 77, item 2 in conjunction with Article 86 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.**

The candidate has the full teaching load for the respective academic year according to the norm of the higher education institution, which fully corresponds to the requirements of the PRAS of IU-Varna for the academic position.

Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva IU-Varna teaches lecture classes in full-time and distance learning, in Bachelor and Master degree in the disciplines. He is the holder of the discipline of Labour and Social Security Law in distance learning.

He is a member of the team that has developed the curricula for the disciplines Labour Law, Labour and Social Security Law, Fundamentals of Public Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Civil Law and Procedure, Fundamentals of Law, Special Seminar, Family and Succession Law, Civil Status of Persons, Mediation and Out-of-Court Disputes, Insurance Transactions.

Apart from direct teaching, Assoc. Yolova actively works and supports students in extracurricular forms of expression, regularly taking part in the evaluation committee of the Student Scientific Session, section "Legal Sciences", in student scientific conferences organized by the Department, competitions on legal topics. He actively participates in the organization of public lectures with prominent specialists in theory and practice, as well as in the conduct of various practical events in the implementation of cooperation agreements and ongoing educational projects of the Department of Legal Studies. Over the years, she has provided scientific guidance in the preparation and defense of theses of 5 students from the Judicial Administration specialty.

She has also been a scientific supervisor of doctoral students in the doctoral programs of Labour Law and Social Insurance and Civil and Family Law at the University of Economics, Varna, Chernorizets Hrabar University, Angel Kanchev University of Rousse, and has successfully defended two doctoral students.

My work with Assoc. Yolova - Paskaleva gives me reason to confirm that she is an extremely rigorous, responsible and respected lecturer, distinguished both by a high level of teaching and by a marked practical applicability of her courses, and at the same time a collegial researcher who enjoys the respect of her students and colleagues. In summary, I believe that the candidate's teaching work fully complies, both qualitatively and quantitatively, with the requirements of Article 62(2) in conjunction with Article 71 and Article 77(2) in conjunction with Article 86 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna

#### **VI. Identification of the scientific contributions in the presented production.**

In the publications of Associate Professor Galina Yolova-Paskaleva presented in the competition, significant contributions of both a purely scientific and scientific and applied nature stand out. I fully accept the candidate's contributions as real, significant and enriching the existing legal theory and practice.

##### **The most important of them can be summarized in the following aspects:**

- ✓ The first of its kind comprehensive and complex monographic study of health insurance and patient rights, the current normative analysis of the applicable legislation is not only theoretical but also of great practical importance.
- ✓ Highlighted innovative analysis of the nature, characteristics and impact of eHealth on particular aspects of the implementation of the health insurance mechanism
- ✓ In line with the author's research interests, various aspects of health insurance are analyzed and explored, at the level of which reasoned conclusions and suggestions are drawn *de lege ferenda*
- ✓ Research, including interdisciplinary research, of individual aspects of insurance law concepts, institutes and principles in the context of digitalization of social relations.
- ✓ Through participation in independent chapters of collective monographs, the main labour and social security law institutes are analysed and systematically deduced through the interrelation labour - social security law, law - economics.

- ✓ Highlighted contributions in analyzing labor law institutes in the aspect of digitalization of social relations, including working hours, rest breaks, trust ecosystem in the use of AI in labor relations, humanization of labor relations in the context of digitalization, social protection in the digital society, etc.;
- ✓ Assisting the administration of justice in the application of the norms, as evidenced by the applicant's citation of a publication in a court decision of the Administrative Court - Decision No. 7213/11.07.2024 of the Administrative Court - Varna X Chamber
- ✓ Active participation in serious scientific research projects, culminating in the publication of monographic works;
- ✓ Development of textbooks and teaching aids on various legal disciplines, with particular emphasis on the candidate's participation in the development of textbooks on Labour and Social Security Law, as well as textbooks of a highly practical - applied nature - Andreeva, A., Yolova, G., Danev, V. Disciplinary Liability - Substantive and Procedural Aspects. Varna: FIL Ltd, 2023, 76., ISBN(in print) 978-954-9741-55-1, as well as those implementing the link between secondary and higher education - Andreeva, A., Yolova, G., Dimitrova, D., Dimitrova, D., Cvetkovska, M., Vladova-Ivanova, V., Mateeva, J., Specialty "Judicial Administration" - a profession with many opportunities In: Short Guide for Application to the Specialty "Judicial Administration" at the University of Economics - Varna: [Electronic resource]. Varna : FIL Ltd, 2023
- ✓ Successful adaptation of the author's research searches and the results of the carried out research in the field of e-healthcare, in the curricula of the discipline of Labor and Insurance Law, giving the much-needed correlation training - research (appendix - curriculum in Labor and Insurance Law).

According to the presented references and research profiles of the candidate, the publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva have an impressive number of citations, including in publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science, which points to a serious recognition of scientific production. Thus, from the required group of indicators "E" 100 points collected from the declared citations are 720, significantly exceeding the established minimum, as well as from the submitted reference Article 77, paragraph 5 of the PRA in IU-Varna from the required 15 points for citations in Scopus and/or Web of Science are declared and proven 105 points.

According to the submitted information for registration in Google scholar, the scientific production of the candidate has 1026 references (citations), with h-Index 16, I d index 35, and

from the submitted information for registration in Web of Science - h-Index 2 and in Scopus - 25 references, h-Index 4 .

The publications of Assoc. Yolova - Paskaleva are distinguished by a high level of academic development, distinguished by the depth of the scientific analysis, as on the basis of established doctrinal formulations the author derives well-founded theoretical opinions, reasoned and adequate proposals *de lege ferenda*, thereby building on legal theory in the specific field of his scientific interests. The ability to formulate and argue scientific theses, as well as to derive significant scientific and scientifically applied results, stands out.

In summary, it can be concluded that the candidate is an extremely productive researcher with a high level of knowledge in the relevant scientific field, he is a rigorous and correct researcher, his scientific and research work is at an undeniably high academic level, and in quantitative and qualitative aspects he fully meets the requirements of the PRASIU for holding the academic position of Professor.

#### **VII. Critical comments and recommendations.**

Considering the rich scientific production, part of which is the result of work on scientific projects, my recommendation is that the candidate continue to work in research teams, as well as publications in publications in Web of Science and in the Sorus

#### **VIII. Assessment of compliance with requirement**

In conclusion, the candidate's achievements can be summarized in accordance with the mandatory requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, incl. Minimum National Requirements, as well as the Regulations for Academic Staff Development at UE-Varna.

In this sense and in relation to the requirements of the RRBA and its Implementing Rules, it is evident that the applicant holds the degree of Doctor of Education and Science, has presented an independent monographic work, numerous other publications (including monographs, studies, articles, reports, textbooks and teaching aids) in specialized scientific publications, fully meets and exceeds the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" in the professional field 3.6 "Law" in terms of all categories and total. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> According to the submitted reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, pursuant to Article 2b(2) and (3) of the Law on Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, the scores for the individual indicators are as follows:

For indicator group "B" - Published independent monograph (habilitation thesis) - 100 pts.

For indicator group "D" - 831,65 points (100 for PN 3.6)

In the group of indicators "E" - 720 points (100 for PD 3.6)

No plagiarism was found in the publications submitted to the competition.

With regard to the requirements in the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at UE-Varna: the main monographic work has been published in the monographic library "Prof. Tsani Kalyanjiyev", after prior discussion in the specialized primary unit (Department of Legal Sciences at UE-Varna - Protocol № 13 /18.05.2023) and has been reviewed by two habilitated persons, the candidate also meets all the other established minimum quantitative requirements, as well as the requirements for additional indicators according to Article 86, Paragraph 5 of the PRASSIUV.<sup>2</sup>

It can be concluded that Assoc. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva is an established and authoritative lecturer, as well as a qualitative and productive scientific researcher and in this sense, in quantitative and qualitative aspects, fully meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Application of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, incl. The Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at UE-Varna for the Academic Position of Professor.

#### **Conclusion**


**In view of the above, I consider that the candidate fully meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at UE-Varna. On this basis, I confidently give my positive assessment of the candidature and recommend to the esteemed jury to award the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 "Law", scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Security" to Galina Ognyanova Yolova - Paskaleva.**

05.09.2024

Varna

Sign in:

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

  
/Prof. Dr. Andriyana Andreeva/

Indicator group F - 342,35 points (100 for PD 3.6)

<sup>2</sup> According to the submitted reference, in accordance with Article 77, paragraph 5 of the PRA in UE-Varna the scores for the individual indicators are as follows:

Scientific reports - 263 pts. with minimum 60 pts.

Scientific articles and studies - 198,32 pts with minimum 115 pts.

Publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science - 230 pts. with minimum 30 pts.

Citations in Scopus and/or Web of Science - 105 pts. with a minimum of 15 pts.

PhD students - 60 pts. with a minimum of 40 pts.

Research projects (participation and/or supervision) 185 pts. with minimum 15 pts.

TO

THE SCIENTIFIC JURY,

Approved by Order No. RD 06-98/9.07.2024.

of the Rector of UE-Varna

for awarding of the academic position

"Professor"

professional field:

3.6. Law

### REVIEW

by **Dr. TANIA NIKOLOVA IOSSIFOVA**

Professor in Civil and Family Law

at the Department of Private Law at the Faculty of Law of the UNWE

in a competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 "Law", scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance", announced in State Gazette no. 44 /21.05.2024, corrected by State Gazette No. 49/11.06.2024 for the needs of the University of Economics-Varna, Department of Legal Studies

with a single candidate - Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva

#### **I. Information about the competition**

The competition for the academic position of Professor is in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.6 "Law", scientific specialty "Labour law and social insurance", announced in State Gazette, 44 /21.05.2024, corrected in SG 49/11.06.2024 for the needs of the University of Economics-Varna, Department of Legal Sciences.



## **II. Candidates in the competition**

The only candidate in the competition is Associate Professor Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva. The candidate has been a lecturer at UE-Varna, Department of Legal Studies since 1996 until the present moment. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva was born on 10.10.1973 in Varna. In 1996 she obtained a Master's degree in Law.

In 1996, after a successful competition, she was appointed assistant professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Varna. She successively held the academic position of "Senior Assistant" and "Senior Assistant". In 2005 she successfully defended her dissertation on "Criminal Law Regime of Intentional Bankruptcy" and received a PhD.

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 Security". She teaches seminars and lectures in full-time and distance learning, at Bachelor's and Master's level, in the following disciplines: "Labour and Social Security 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.

She has held various administrative positions at UE-Varna, as follows: deputy head of the Department of Legal Studies (2015). 2023), Head of the Department of Legal Studies (2023 - 2027), Member of the General Assembly of the University of Economics - Varna, Member of the FSF, Member of the Specialized Committee for Educational Activities at the FSF, Member of the Attestation Committee at the FSF, Member of the Committee for Recognition of Educational Credits and Periods of Study at the FSF, Member of the Publishing Board at the University of Economics - Varna, Member of the Editorial Board of the monographic publishing house "Prof. Member of the Board of Directors of Tsani Kalyanjyev Publishing House.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva has been a scientific supervisor of two PhD students who have successfully defended their dissertations.

Prof. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Labour Law and Social Insurance and of the Section of Social and Legal Sciences at the Union of Scientists - Varna, and for the period 2013-2017 and 2017-2021 she was the Chair of the Section.

Leader and team member of 6 research projects and 17 conferences. He also participated in the implementation of 4 educational projects with institutions of the judiciary under cooperation agreements with UE-Varna.

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.

### **III. Evaluation of teaching and learning activities for the candidate**

In the competition for professor, the candidate Assoc. Prof. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva participated with 92 publications, including a monograph (habilitation thesis) - "Rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance"; 7 monographs (independent chapters in collective monographs) and 4 collective studies; 33 articles, 9 of them independent; 40 reports, 17 of them independent.

In addition to the scientific publications, the candidate submits 6 textbooks and teaching aids.

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

#### **Characteristics of the monographic work**

The main monographic work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva "Rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance" has a total volume of 263 pages divided into three chapters, introduction, conclusion, literature and case law. The work is dominated by the normative analysis of the current legislation.

The relevance of the topic is more than undeniable. By analyzing the provisions of general and special legal acts, some comparative legal aspects in the regulation of individual patient rights, as well as the applicable acts of supranational legislation, a number of controversial issues, concepts and terms are analyzed, the clarification of which in the context of the philosophy of general social rights aims to establish and identify both the need for improvement of legislation and purely practical problems of implementation and procedures for the realization of these rights.

The monographic work analyses the general theory and systematics of the concepts of "health insurance status" and "concept and types of health insured persons", outlining the place of health insurance rights in the context of the principles of compulsory 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.

**The most important contributions of the monographic work are the following:**

1. This is a complex monographic study of health insurance and patients' rights, as the current normative analysis of the applicable legislation has not only theoretical but also significant practical significance.

2. Individual aspects of basic insurance law concepts, institutes and principles are studied, including interdisciplinarily, and the specifics of their development in legal doctrine and national legislation, as well as in the context of the digitalization of social relations are analyzed.

3. Contribution to the development of legal theory is the clarification of the content of the basic labour and social security law institutes, through the systematics and interrelation of labour - social security law, respectively - breaks and holidays, control of compliance with labour legislation, subjective labour rights, subjective social security rights, etc.

4. A definition of health insurance status is introduced with the understanding that it is a legal status linked to the quality of insurance, which as a complex legal institution constitutes a system of rights and obligations of insured persons.

5. An analysis is made of health insurance and patient rights, taking into account the chronologies of different health strategies and trends for the implementation of eHealth, so as to outline all possible aspects of their legal establishment, as well as opportunities for implementation in the context of modern digital mechanisms, including NHSI, electronic health records, electronic patient records, etc.

6. De lege ferenda proposals are made on individual statutory and regulatory texts, with direct practical relevance in their application in the practice of contractors, and also with a view to legislative improvement of individual provisions.

In conclusion, it can be summarized that the presented monographic work is a valuable contribution to general and special health insurance regulation.

#### **Other publications submitted to the competition**

The submitted publications can be summarised as follows.

First of all, publications in which a normative analysis of important labour law institutes has been carried out, studied in retrospect and in their contemporary regulation;

Secondly, publications that explore the specificities and mechanisms of the functioning of the health insurance system in particular aspects of the health insurance mechanism and through the prism of the protection of health insurance rights;

Thirdly, publications analyzing the nature and impact of digitalization on the health insurance system by examining, from different aspects, eHealth and its impact on the functioning mechanisms of the health insurance mechanism, health insurance and patient rights);

Fourth, publications that explore particular aspects of health insurance relationships and the realization of health insurance rights through the lens of certain mediation practices and procedures;

Fifth, publications that clarify particular aspects of basic insurance law concepts, institutes and principles and analyze the specifics of their development in legal doctrine and national legislation;

Sixthly, publications that explore various aspects of the impact of digitalization on employment relations, more specifically

Seventhly, a study of the current trends and dynamics of legal changes in the educational process in Bulgaria through the prism of their successful adaptation in practice and educational;

Eighth, a study of academic education and research issues in the context of digitalization.

The candidate's scientific research is in the field of the announced competition, and it is noteworthy that the scientific articles, studies and reports are in established, refereed and indexed journals, as 9 of the candidate's publications - individual chapters of monographs, studies, articles

and reports are in journals indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information Scopus and/or Web of Science.

The candidate also presents extensive experience in scientific projects, both as a supervisor and as a member of a scientific team. These include:

-Head of the project "Legal Regime of Rest and Holidays - Theoretical and Practical Aspects", NPI 140/ /30.04.2015 - published monograph, member of the project team "Protection for Individual Subjective Labour Rights" R&D Contract №18/ 27.04.2018. - published monograph, member of the project team "Current legal aspects of employment contracts and related legal institutes"- NPI №116/17.04.2014 - published monograph, project leader "Legal and economic aspects of control for compliance with labour legislation".

Assoc. Prof. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva has extensive experience in organizing scientific forums.

I believe that the publications submitted by the candidate for the competition are fully relevant and are in the field of the scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance".

The contributions presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva are of scientific and applied nature. I accept the candidate's contributions as real, significant and enriching the existing legal theory and practice.

#### **IV. Fulfilment of the requirements for the academic position.**

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Yolova - Paskaleva teaches at UE-Varna in the Bachelor and Master's degree programmes, supervising lecture classes in full-time and distance learning, in Bachelor and Master 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".

The teaching load fully corresponds to the requirements of the PRAS of UE-Varna for the academic position.

Assoc. Prof. Galina Yolova-Paskaleva is a member of the team that has developed the curricula for the disciplines Labour Law, Labour and Social Security Law, Fundamentals of

Public Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Civil Law and Procedure, Fundamentals of Law, Special Seminar, Family and Succession Law, Civil Status of Persons, Mediation and Out-of-Court Disputes, Insurance Transactions.

According to the submitted documents, she provides scientific guidance and reviews diploma theses of students in the Bachelor's degree, special. Judicial Administration.

She has been a scientific supervisor of doctoral students in the doctoral programs Labour Law and Social Insurance and Civil and Family Law at IU-Varna, VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar", Ruse University "Angel Kanchev", and has two successfully defended doctoral students.

As Head of the Department of Legal Studies, he maintains links with representatives of legal practice aimed at providing students with a theory-practice link.

In summary, the candidate's teaching work is fully in accordance - qualitatively and quantitatively - with the requirements of Article 62, paragraph 2 in conjunction with Article 71 and Article 77, paragraph 2 in conjunction with Article 86 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.

#### **V. Critical comments and recommendations**

First of all, it should be borne in mind that in the field of compulsory health insurance the first actual scientific study is the monograph by Atliana Mileva - Insurance Legal Relations under Compulsory Health Insurance, S., Ciela, 2020.

Secondly, I consider it appropriate for the candidate in his future scientific activity to direct his research for publication, in addition to economic and established legal publications, which will be useful for the better knowledge of the author by the Bulgarian legal community.

#### **VI. Fulfillment of the requirements for the academic position**

According to the transcript submitted, it is evident that the candidate meets the minimum criteria in the competition for "professor", fulfilling the national minimum requirements under the RASDP Act (Article 2b) and its Implementing Regulations (Article 1a, paragraph 1).

#### **VII. Conclusion**

In conclusion, I express my opinion that the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva, submitted in the competition for professor, are developed at a high theoretical level and meet the requirements of Article 24, Art. 1, items 1, 2, letters "a" and "b", item 3 and par. 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

For this reason I will support with a positive vote the candidature of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva for the academic position of Professor in the professional field 3.6. Law (Labour Law and Social Security) in the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Economics-Varna.

19.09.2024 г.

Sofia

Signature:

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

Prof. Dr. Tania Iossifova

ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ВАРНА

Вх. № РА20-1218/13.09.2024г.

To

The Scientific Jury for conducting a competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 Law, scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Security", UE – Varna

## RECENSIONS

*by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrey Alexandrov, member of the scientific jury for holding a competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 Law, scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance" - UE - Varna, approved by the Order of the Rector of UE - Varna № RD 06-98/09.07.2024.*

**Dear colleagues,**

On the basis of Article 4 in conjunction with Article 29a, para. 81 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at UE - Varna and Order of the Rector of UE - Varna No. RD 06-98/09.07.2024, 44/21.05.2024 (as amended in State Gazette No. 49/11.06.2024) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6. "Law", scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Insurance". On 23.08.2024 the first meeting of the scientific jury of the announced competition took place, at which I was entrusted with the preparation of this review.

### **I. General remarks**

1. One candidate participated in the announced competition for the academic position of "Professor" (State Gazette No. 44/21.05.2024 (amended in State Gazette No. 49/11.06.2024): Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva, Head of the Department of Legal Studies at the Varna University of Economics.

2. For participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted numerous scientific works, including a monograph under Article 77, paragraph 3 of the PRAS at IU - Varna,



monographs and studies under Article 86, paragraph 5, paragraph 2 of the PRAS at IU - Varna, learned articles, reports and other publications. As a habilitation thesis is presented the monograph *"Rights of the Insured Persons under the Compulsory Health Insurance"*, Science and Economics Publishing House, IU - Varna (Prof. Tsani Kalayandzhiev Library), 2023, ISBN 978-954-21-1170-2. This review will focus on the habilitation thesis, and other scientific works of Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva, but without claim to comprehensiveness due to the limited length of the review.

3. According to Art. 29, par. *"Candidates for the academic position of professor shall meet the following conditions:*

*1. have obtained the degree of Doctor of Education and Science ...;*

*2. to have held the academic post of 'Associate Professor' in the same or in another higher education institution or scientific organisation for not less than two academic years ...;*

*3. to have submitted a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialised scientific journals ... which do not repeat those submitted for the degree of Doctor of Education and Science, the degree of Doctor of Science and the academic post of Associate Professor;*

*4. to have submitted other original research works, publications, inventions and other scientific and applied developments or artistic achievements, which are evaluated in aggregate;*

*5. meet the minimum national requirements referred to in Article 2b(2) and (3) and Article 2b(5) respectively;*

*6. have no evidence of plagiarism or unreliability of the scientific data presented in the scientific work."*

As will be argued below, the applicant fulfils all of these conditions.

## **II. Personal characteristics of the applicant**

Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva has completed her secondary education at the secondary school "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia. She graduated from the University of St. Kliment

Kliment. In 1996 she obtained a Master's degree in Law at the University of Economics - Varna. Since 2004 she has been a Doctor of Law at the same university.

Her professional career is almost entirely connected with the Varna University of Economics, where she successively held the positions of Assistant Professor (1996), Senior Assistant Professor (from 2002 to 2004), Senior Assistant Professor (until 2011), Associate Professor (since 2011). From 2015 to 2023 he was Deputy Head of the Department of Legal Studies at the University of Economics-Varna, and since 2023 he has been Head of the Department. Her teaching activities include an impressive number of subjects: labour law, insurance law, foundations of law, foundations of public law, family and inheritance law, civil law and procedure, civil status of persons, criminal law and procedure. He is a scientific supervisor of PhD students in doctoral programs at IU-Varna, VSU "Chernorizets Hrabar" , Ruse University "Angel Kanchev". He is a leader or participant in numerous scientific projects: 'Legal regime of holidays and vacations - theoretical and practical aspects' (NPI 140/ /30.04.2015); 'Protection for individual subjective labour rights' (NRI Contract No. ); "Legal and Economic Aspects of Labour Law Compliance Control" (NPI 43/RD - 14-1411 /25.06.2020); "Digitalization and Digital Competences - Trends and Innovative Practices in Higher Education and the Labour Market, 2021" (Project No. KP -06-N-45/1 at FNI); "Legal Relations and Status of Persons in the Judiciary in the Conditions of Digitalization" - (NPI 57/2022 /the last project has not yet been completed/). I have had the honour and pleasure to participate in some of these projects and I cannot but share my excellent impressions of working with Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva. She is extremely organized and highly professional, which contributes to the timely completion of tasks and the achievement of the targeted scientific results.

In two consecutive terms Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva has been the chairperson of the Social and Legal Sciences Section at the Union of Scientists - Varna. She is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Labour Law and Social Insurance. She is also a member of several editorial boards of various scientific publications. Her participation in scientific projects and organizing committees of scientific forums are so numerous that it is impossible to list them exhaustively, and it is hardly necessary. And what has been mentioned so far is sufficient to justify the conclusion that Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva is an established scholar of undoubted authority and renown in academic circles. The reference-declaration for occupation of the academic

position of "professor" correctly filled in by the candidate shows "overfulfilment" of the quantitative requirements in all indicators.

### **III. Fulfillment of the legal prerequisites for holding the academic position "Professor"**

The candidate holds a doctoral degree and has held the position of "Associate Professor" at the Varna University of Economics for more than two academic years. She fulfils the minimum national requirements for the academic post of "professor" and the requirements for the academic post of "professor" at UE-Varna (on the basis of Article 2b(5) of the Law on Academic and Professional Development); a decision to this effect was taken at the first meeting of the scientific jury and I fully support it. No plagiarism or implausibility of the scientific data presented in the scientific papers has been proven under the statutory procedure; I have found no such indications in my review of the scientific papers submitted to the present competition.

In addition, Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva has been a scientific supervisor of two successfully defended PhD students; has been a supervisor or participant in a number of research projects; has participated in numerous national and international scientific forums; has a reference with an impressive number of citations. Specifically with regard to citations, I would like to reiterate something that I am extremely particular about and have included as a comment in almost all of the reviews and opinions that I have prepared as a member of scientific juries. Citations should not only be seen as a scientific metric, but also as a kind of unspoken evaluation of each scientist by his or her professional community. The numerous references to the scientific works of Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva by a large number of authors in our labour and social security law literature speaks for their scientific value and their practical usefulness - if the works were not distinguished by these characteristics, they would not be cited so often. Holding the academic position of "professor" presupposes wide recognition of the candidate in professional circles, which Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva undoubtedly possesses.

### **IV. Content of the presented monographic work "Rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance"**

The monograph has a total length of 263 pages. It represents a topical and necessary scientific study of the Bulgarian insurance law doctrine and practice. Structurally it is divided into three chapters.

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

**Chapter two** is devoted to the analysis and systematics of the health insurance rights under the Health Insurance Act in the aspects of their normative establishment, systematics, essence and characteristics, as well as mechanisms for their realization, established in the further developing sub-legislative acts.

**Chapter three** examines the special category of patient rights under the Health Act, which are included in the status of the insured as patients, in a comparative and systematic perspective, taking into account the specificities of their establishment in national and some foreign legal systems.

On the basis of the analysis in the individual parts, generalizations, conclusions, trends and de lege ferenda proposals for improvement of the legislation are formed.

Incidentally, I have already had occasion to give my opinion on the merits of the work under review. Even before its publication, I was invited by the Department of Legal Studies of UE-Varna to participate in the discussions in the primary unit, expressing a recommendation whether the work should be published. My categorical recommendation was that the monograph be published. Since then the opinion has not changed, so I will take the liberty to reproduce verbatim part of my opinion from May 2023:

*"I have read with interest the research of my colleague Assoc. Yolova on the topic "Rights of insured persons under the compulsory health insurance". The proposed analysis is devoted to interesting and topical legal issues on which there is no comprehensive monographic study. The benefits and scientific contributions of the work are undoubted.*

***The following features of the monograph deserve special mention:***

***- The structure of the study is correct and balanced. The problems are dealt with in a logical sequence, in a detailed and accessible way.***

*- Some useful classifications have been made, which help the theoretical understanding and study of the institute (e.g. the groups of rights of the health insured, etc.).*

*- Clearly defined contributions are e.g. the clarification of the notion of "primary medical care"; the legal characteristic of the contracts between the NHIF/RHIF and medical care providers, etc.*

*- The de lege ferenda proposals are generally sound and reasonable and it is desirable that they be taken into account by the legislator in future legislative changes.*

*- The study is based on a variety of research and interpretive methods and is written in precise legal language.*

.....

*The chosen topic for the monographic work - "Rights of the insured persons under the compulsory health insurance" is both topical and socially and respectively scientifically significant. The work is written in clear and accessible language, without negatively affecting its academic level. For the above reasons, I strongly recommend the publication of the monograph."*

In addition to this general assessment, I had made some specific suggestions - some editorial in nature and others substantive - that I considered appropriate to improve the study. On this second reading of the already published monograph, it has made a positive impression on me that the candidate has invested the time and effort to comply with some of the recommendations made. For example, more attention has been paid to the electronic system of medical expertise. Another issue we have discussed with Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva (and on which the original version of the monograph lacked an explicitly formulated opinion) is whether the management of the NHIF through participation in the Supervisory Board should include only insured persons or other persons from among the patients in general, some of whom may not have the proper health insurance status. On p. 152-153 of the study, the applicant has expressed a strong opinion on the subject, which I fully share: *"It seems to us that this question should be answered in the negative to the extent that the range of issues in which individuals participate includes issues concerning the mechanisms of the health insurance system. To take the opposite view would be to allow the creation and, consequently, the exercise of rights which do not correspond to a person's adequate status, in particular, the state of being insured. This would be a serious retreat from the*

*principle of contractibility, especially where it concerns crucial principles of the functioning of the health insurance model, which are fundamentally intended to benefit the insured."*

Some of the proposed recommendations were not adopted by the author, which is, of course, logical and explainable - it is possible that she perceived them as less relevant or significant in the context of the overall study. However, I would like to suggest once again that the issues relating to the right of access to medical care (such as the so-called 'planned admission') should also be developed through the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state of emergency declared and the subsequent epidemic emergency. This topic is almost absent from the analysis, perhaps because the author has judged that it is of transitory importance and has lost its relevance by now. However, the pandemic has shown in a particularly stark way how vulnerable the right to affordable medical care can be, and this hard-learned lesson should not be forgotten.

In summary of this part of the review, I would like to point out that in itself the focus on a topic unexplored in the Bulgarian legal doctrine speaks of a research work of a contributory nature. The *de lege ferenda* proposals, which I consider to be fully justified (e.g. to introduce in the legislation a correct, unambiguous and non-contradictory concept of quality of medical care, clear evaluation criteria in summary documents, unified standards applicable to all clinical activities, clearer specificity of obligations in the implementation of good medical practices, as well as the practical further development of mechanisms for rating medical institutions based on clear indicators related to patient satisfaction), are also a contribution.

#### **V. Other scientific research of Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva, presented in the competition procedure**

As stated above, the candidate has presented a rich scientific production for her participation in the competition.

First of all, I find that also works that deal with issues outside the scope of labour and social security law (e.g. *On Some Issues of Academic Globalization and Synergy in Scientific Research* (co-authored with A. Andreeva) should be accepted as publications showing the broad spectrum of the author's scientific interests. However, in my opinion, they have no independent relevance for the assessment of her professional achievements for the purposes of the competition for the professorship in labour and social security law.

Next, the general overview of the scientific production of Assoc. Yolova-Paskaleva in the field of labour and social security law in recent years shows the following trends:

- **Highlighted interest in the problems of insurance law and especially the matter of health insurance.** Both the habilitation thesis and a large part of the articles, papers delivered at scientific forums by the candidate, etc. are devoted to important insurance law problems such as insurance period, range of insured persons, insured social risks, insurance benefits, etc.

- **The richness of the issues studied:** many labour and social security law institutes in their various manifestations are analysed. As it was stated, the author's attention seems to have been drawn more often to the problems of social security law and related issues, but there is no lack of some studies in the field of labour law (*Legal Regime of Breaks and Holidays. Theoretical and Practical Aspects* (2018, co-authored with A. Andreeva Andreeva); *Specifics of the Employment of Foreigners in the Sphere of Tourism in Bulgaria* (2019, co-authored with A. Andreeva and D. Dimitrova), *Principles of Freedom of Labour and Freedom of Contracting in the Context of the Need to Update Flexible Forms of Employment* (2019, co-authored with A. Andreeva), etc.;

- **Increased interest in the latest issues of insurance relations.** Yolova-Paskaleva often focuses her interest on topics that are hardly touched upon in Bulgarian legal doctrine, but are becoming more and more topical at the European and global level. Among them are the problems with the use of artificial intelligence, the insurance law aspects of working through a platform, the digital transformation in healthcare and many others. Special attention should be paid here to *Liability in Labor Legislation: New Challenges Related to the Use of Artificial Intelligence Responsible AI and Ethical Issues for Businesses and Governments...* (2021, Scopus publication, co-authored with A. Andreeva); *Digitalization and the new Legal and Economic Challenges to Employers in Implementing Internal Control*, Scopus publication, co-authored with P. Nedyalkova and A. Andreeva); *Labour and Social Security Aspects of Working on a Platform - Challenges and Possible Legislative Solutions* (2022, co-authored with A. Andreeva); *Digital Transformation in Healthcare in the Context of the Right of Access to Medical Care. Medical Law and Healthcare* (2021, co-authored with A. Andreeva); *Building the National Health Information System - Trends and Legal Framework* (2020, co-authored with A. Andreeva), etc. These topics are yet to become the subject of analysis in our legal literature, and it would not be an

exaggeration to say that they already clearly distinguish a "Varna school", represented by scholars and lecturers at the University of Economics - Varna, among whom Assoc.Prof. Yolova-Paskaleva.

## VI. Overall evaluation and conclusion

The scientific publications of Assoc. Professor Yolova-Paskaleva, presented for the purposes of this procedure, convincingly demonstrate her ability to thoroughly investigate the problems she has focused her attention on. The publications submitted for the competition meet all the legal requirements not only in terms of volume but also in terms of quality.

On the basis of the above, I express my opinion that the candidate meets the requirements for holding the academic position "Professor", introduced by the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at UE - Varna.

Considering the overall scientific research activity embodied in a number of publications, including monographic works, devoted to topical and practically significant topics and containing scientific contributions - personal work of the author, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury under Article 25 of the Law on Research and Development I give a **POSITIVE EVALUATION** to the candidacy of Assoc. Professor Dr. Galina Ognyanova Yolova-Paskaleva for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.6 Law, scientific specialty "Labour Law and Social Security" for the needs of UE - Varna, and propose the scientific jury to take a unanimous decision to propose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yolova-Paskaleva for the position of Professor.

10 September 2024

Member of the scientific jury:

Andrey (Digitally signed by  
S: Заличена информация съгласно  
A: 33ЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

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