



## EVALUATION REPORT

by

**Prof. Maya Lyubomirova Vizeva, PhD**

Medical College "J. Filaretova", Medical University-Sofia

External member of an Academic Jury, by Order № 788/13.03.2023 r. of the Rector of Trakia University – Stara Zagora

**Regarding:** Procedure for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the area of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.4 Public Health, for the needs of the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician" at the Medical College to Trakia University-Stara Zagora, promulgated in State Gazette, issue 99/13.12.2022, with only one candidate **senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova, PhD;**

The documents submitted by the applicant for participation in the competition comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on its implementation at Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

My evaluation report on the information submitted by the candidate includes the following three aspects: **professional biography and career development, educational and teaching activities, and scientific research activity.**

### **I. Professional Biography and Career Development**

In 1993, senior lecturer Katya Kichukova graduated the Semi-Higher Medical Institute in Sliven in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician".

In 2007, she acquired the educational and qualification degree Bachelor in Health Care Management at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University-Stara Zagora, and in 2012 a Master's Degree in Health Care Management at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Plovdiv.

In 2022, she successfully defended her dissertation entitled Continuing Education as a Means for Increasing Professional Competence of Medical Laboratory Technicians, and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Health Care Management, professional field 7.4 Public Health.

In 2023, she published the monograph Lifelong Learning for Medical Laboratory Technicians - Present and Future.

Katya Kichukova's professional career began in 1989 at the Clinical laboratory to the Municipal hospital in the town of Kotel. In the period 2001 - 2009 she worked as a medical laboratory technician at the Central clinical laboratory to the University Hospital for Active Treatment "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich" AD - Stara Zagora.

In 2009, she started work as a lecturer at the Medical College to Trakia University-Stara Zagora to the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician", and from 2016 to date, she has been a senior lecturer at the college.

Regarding Katya Kichukova's professional qualification and further development in the field of health care, I would like to mention her participation in many postgraduate courses at Trakia University - Stara Zagora, at the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals and other institutions. She possesses the relevant certificates of completion.

The candidate has a command of spoken and written English and French.

## **II. Requirements towards the educational and teaching activities**

According to the information provided by the Medical College to Trakia University-Stara Zagora, in the past years senior lecturer Kichukova has realized a teaching load of more than 600 hours per academic year with Medical Laboratory Technician students in Clinical Practice and in educational and practical courses such as Clinical Laboratory, Parasitology and the elective Quality Control in Laboratory Practice.

## **III. Requirements towards the scientific research activity**

The applicant offers a sufficient volume of scientific production in a wide thematic range. In this competition for the position of "Associate Professor" Katya Kichukova participates with a total of 31 research works, different from those submitted for the defense of her dissertation. All publications have been properly described and the necessary evidence included. The presented research works are as follows:

- Monograph *Lifelong Learning for Medical Laboratory Technicians - Present and Future*, 2023;
- Book chapter - 1 item
- Publications in scientific journals – 29, of which
  - Publications in journals referenced in Web of Science - 1 item;
  - Publications in journals and collections included in the national reference list - 16 items;
  - Publications in journals indexed in secondary databases - 12 items (one of which in print).
- She is an independent or first author of 6 of the research works;
- Participation in scientific congresses and conferences – 32 items listed;

### Citation performance of the publications

The Central Library of Trakia University has provided a reference of citations in scientific publications referenced and indexed in internationally renowned databases with scientific information such as SCOPUS and Web of science - 7 citations.

### Participation in scientific projects

- In the period 2011-2023 senior lecturer Katya Kichukova, PhD has participated in 13 research projects at the Medical College to Trakia University.
- The research works submitted by Katya Kichukova for the purposes of this competition for the position of "Associate Professor" have both theoretical and practical significance and can be divided into the following main directions:
  - Increasing the professional competence of medical laboratory technicians and using the possibilities of continuing education. **(contributions of theoretical, methodological, and empirical nature)**
  - Research on the introduction of new indicators and medicines (nutritional supplements) to improve the diagnosis or influence the treatment of some socially significant diseases. **(contributions of theoretical, methodological, and empirical nature)**
  - Studies on some of the socially significant and dangerous infectious diseases and the role of the human factor in their spread. **(contributions of theoretical nature)**
  - Innovative approaches and technologies in medical education. **(contributions of theoretical and empirical nature)**
  - Medical laboratory sciences **(contributions of theoretical and empirical nature)** – Oriented towards different aspects of the comprehensive training of medical laboratory technicians.

Senior lecturer Katya Kichukova has provided objective and true information about her scientific contributions which I fully accept. I would like to focus on some of the strengths of her research activity:

The analysis of the presented scientific works shows that senior lecturer Katya Kichukova is a specialist with academic interests mainly in the area of professional competence of medical laboratory technicians and the possibilities for continuing education of these specialists. This thematic direction is the most thoroughly explored research area of the candidate.

The monograph of senior lecturer Katya Kichukova occupies a central place in her publication activity. It can be accepted as a habilitation work which corresponds to the requirements of the announced competition. In this work the author analyses in a scientific aspect the motivation of students behind choosing the specialty "Medical Laboratory

Technician". In-depth research was conducted among students and laboratory technicians about their interest in various forms of postgraduate training, as well as their internal and external motivations for participating in continuing professional education. Measurements for their improvement and development have been determined.

Another direction in Katya Kichukova's work is related to the participation in pilot studies on enzymes that influence the levels of indicators of fat metabolism, with the aim of developing a methodology for their introduction into routine practice, as well as in a study on biochemical parameters in humans and laboratory animals, and determining their interrelationship in some socially significant diseases.

In the direction "Studies on some of the socially significant and dangerous infectious diseases and the role of the human factor in their spread", risk factors for the occurrence and spread of some infectious diseases of high social importance, mainly in Stara Zagora region, have been thoroughly investigated and defined.

In the direction "Innovative approaches and technologies in medical education", the candidate offers arguments and describes methods for introducing new knowledge and skills in the process of medical laboratory technicians' training through the use of interactive teaching methods. Arguments are offered in favour of the application of interactive teaching methods and instruments to achieve high quality of education in the basic disciplines for this specialty.

Her publications which present research data related to the wide-ranging areas of professional development of medical laboratory technicians are of scientific and practical value.

In compliance with the national requirements and those of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University, senior lecturer Katya Kichukova, PhD meets the scientometric indicators and set criteria for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

For greater clarity, I present in tabular form the correspondence of the scientometric indicators of senior lecturer Katya Kichukova, PhD with the national requirements for professional field 7.4 "Public Health" and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University.

Group of indicators	Content	Requirements (Associate Professor)	Candidate Senior lecturer Katya Kichukova, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50 p.	50 p.
B	Indicator 2	---	---
V	Indicator 3 or 4	100 p.	Monograph 100 p.

G	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200 p.	209 p.
D	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	50 p.	110 p.
E	Sum of indicators 13 to end		75 p.

### Conclusion

I highly appreciate the overall teaching and research activity of **senior lecturer Katya Kichukova, PhD** which characterizes her as a lecturer and researcher who has achieved a high degree of professional development. Her scientometric indicators meet the national requirements towards the academic rank of "Associate Professor" and satisfy the criteria of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions in Trakia University-Stara Zagora.

The analysis of the significance of all materials and scientific works presented in this competition allows me to confirm my **positive opinion** and to confidently recommend to the respected members of the Academic Jury to vote in favour of conferring to **senior lecturer Katya Kichukova, PhD** the academic rank of "**Associate Professor**" in professional field: 7.4 "Public Health", for the needs of the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician" at the Medical College to Trakia University-Stara Zagora.

03.05.2023

Sofia



Prof. Maya Vizeva, PhD