O P I N I O N
by Professor Sabin Ivanov Sabev, PhD
University of Agribusiness and Rural Development
on the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management" and scientific specialty "Cultural Anthropology and Strategic Management"

In the competition for the academic position of "Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 89 of 24.10.2025, for the needs of the Department of "Regional Development, Agribusiness and Tourism" in the Department of Economics and Management, **Associate Professor Krasimir Romanov Asenov, PhD** participates as a candidate.

1. Brief Biographical Data

Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Romanov Asenov, PhD was born on March 5, 1966 in the town of Asenovgrad, Republic of Bulgaria. In 2017, he obtained the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Faculty of Philosophy and History, in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.1. Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Sciences, doctoral program "Ethnology". The topic of the successfully defended dissertation is "Origin, Spatial and Cultural Development of 'Arman Mahala' – Plovdiv".

In 2021, Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Asenov was elected Associate Professor in "Cultural Anthropology and Social Management" at the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development – Plovdiv (Rector's Order No. R-AS-52/22.10.2021, Certificate No. 51/29.10.2021).

Currently, Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Asenov works in the Department of Economics and Management at UARD – Plovdiv.

2. General Description of the Submitted Materials

The candidate Associate Professor Krasimir Asenov, PhD participates in the competition with:

- **Monographs** – 1;
- **Studies** – 4;
- **Articles** – 4;
- **Scientific reports** – 2.

3. Impact of the Candidate's Scientific Publications in the Literature (Known Citations)

The scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Asenov have been cited in numerous Bulgarian and international publications. Particularly significant is the inclusion of the study "Beyond the Ecumene: Roma Genesis, Community and Survival in the COVID-19 World" in a collective monograph by the international publishing house Springer, which attests to the international recognition of the candidate's scientific research. The publications in the peer-reviewed journal "Problems of Geography" of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences also ensure broad scientific visibility and accessibility of the research results.

4. General Characteristics of the Candidate's Activities

4.1. Teaching and Pedagogical Activities (Work with Students and Doctoral Students)

Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Asenov has extensive experience in teaching activities at UARD – Plovdiv. He conducts lectures and seminars in the fields of cultural anthropology, social management, and strategic management. His pedagogical work is characterized by an interdisciplinary approach that combines anthropological, sociological, and managerial perspectives.

4.2. Scientific and Applied Scientific Activities

The candidate's scientific activities are distinguished by a consistent and integrated research trajectory that unifies the cultural-anthropological analysis of governance and power, spatial regimes of exclusion in the city, and macro-transformations of the contemporary world order. His research has been published in prestigious national and international publications, including Springer publishing house and the journal "Problems of Geography" of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

4.3. Implementation Activities

The candidate's scientific results have applied significance, particularly in the field of analysis of urban structures, social homeostasis of ethnic communities, and governance transformations under conditions of global crises.

4.4. Contributions (Scientific, Applied Scientific, Applied)

The main scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Asenov can be systematized in the following thematic areas:

Anthropology of Governance, Power and Legitimacy:

- An original concept of "anthropology of governance" has been developed, in which governance is distinguished as an independent cultural-anthropological field of analysis;

- An analytical shift of focus from formal institutions to cultural mechanisms of power – symbols, rituals, language, ideologies and informal practices – has been accomplished;
- The structural role of informal power and informal governance networks has been revealed.

City, Ghetto and Ghettoized Urban Structures:

- An original spatial-anthropological model for the study of ghettoized urban structures has been developed;
- The concept of "functional spaces" has been introduced as an analytical tool for studying social isolation.

Social Homeostasis and Ethnocultural Resilience:

- The concept of "social homeostasis" has been introduced and conceptualized as an original theoretical model;
- It has been empirically demonstrated how mechanisms of social homeostasis are activated in crisis situations.

Architecture of Exclusion and Deprivation Syndrome:

- Original analytical concepts of "architecture of exclusion" and "deprivation syndrome" have been introduced for the interpretation of ghettoized urban structures.

Civilizational Ruptures, Global Transformations and Governance:

- An original civilizational framework of "epochs and ruptures" has been formulated;
- The process of deglobalization as a structural transition to a post-neoliberal and multipolar world order has been theoretically and empirically argued.

5. Assessment of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

The submitted scientific publications demonstrate a high degree of originality and independent contribution by the candidate. The monograph "Anthropology of Governance" represents a comprehensive and systematic conceptualization of the anthropology of governance as an autonomous interdisciplinary field, which is an innovative approach in Bulgarian and international scientific literature.

The candidate successfully integrates theoretical concepts from various scientific disciplines – anthropology, sociology, philosophy, political science and management sciences – into a unified analytical framework. The concepts introduced by him, such as "social homeostasis", "architecture of exclusion" and "deprivation syndrome", represent original theoretical instruments with applied value.

The publication of a study by the international publishing house Springer attests to the international recognition of the candidate's scientific achievements.

6. Critical Remarks

The submitted materials are of a high scientific level and meet the requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor". It could be recommended that the candidate engage more actively in international scientific projects and expand the empirical base of research through comparative studies in other countries and regions.

7. Conclusion

Taking into account the above, I propose that **Associate Professor Krasimir Romanov Asenov, PhD be elected "Professor"** in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management" and scientific specialty "Cultural Anthropology and Strategic Management" for the needs of the Department of "Regional Development, Agribusiness and Tourism" in the Department of Economics and Management.

31.01.2026

Member of the Jury:

Prof. Sabin Sabev, PhD