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Evaluation of Assoc. Prof. Ing. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá, PhD. for full professorship in the field of Political Science

Pursuant to the application for full professorship by Assoc. Prof. Emília Beblavá, dated February 15. I have been asked by the relevant committee chaired by Prof. Steven Saxonberg for an assessment of the qualifications of the candidate. To this end, I have been provided with a listing of the scientific publications, research projects, PhD supervisions, and other aspects of the candidate's record as well as information on the relevant criteria.

The primary objective of this report is to assess whether the applicant's qualification as a scholar would meet generally acceptable international standards for bestowing a full professorship.

Research and Scholarly Output

The principal task of a full professor is that of being a recognized leader in scholarship as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, especially in international journals and book publications. Overall, Assoc.Prof. Beblavá has amassed an impressive oeuvre of more than 300 publications stretching across 27 different categories including conference proceedings, study reports, and encyclopedia entries. Of these the following publications appear to be the most relevant from an international perspective when ranked by H-index factor (as it can also be applied to journals) and SJR:

Beblavý, Miroslav - Beblavá, Emília: The changing faces of Europeanisation: How did the European Union influence corruption in Slovakia before and after accession? In: *Europe-Asia Studies*. - Vol. 66, No. 4 (2014), s. 536-556. H Index 38 SJR 0.516

Beblavá, Emília - Beblavý, Miroslav: Using government manifestos to analyse the political salience and shape of anti-corruption policies in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In: *Policy Studies*. - Vol. 37, No. 4 (2016), s. 295-313 H Index 21 Rank: 80 (in Pol. Sc.) SJR 0.628

Beblavá, Emília - Beblavý, Miroslav: Factors influencing decision-making on the way of ensuring services in the big Slovak cities. In: *Politická ekonomie*. - year 55, č. 2 (2007), p. 245-261 H Index 12 SJR 0.344

Pavel, Jan - Beblavá, Emília: Do e-auctions really improve the efficiency of public procurement? The case of the Slovak municipalities. In: *Prague Economic Papers*. Vol. 22, No. 1 (2013), s. 111-124 H Index 7 SJR 0.27

Beblavá, Emília: Methods of services provision in Slovak towns. In: Central European Journal of Public Policy [elektronický zdroj]. - Vol. 3, No. 1 (2009), s. 4-16 [online] URL: <http://www.cejpp.eu/index.php/ojs/article/viewFile/30/21> H Index 4 SJR 0.249

Of the candidate's book publications, WorldCat lists (as highly relevant) the following item published in the period of her appointment to the current position.

Katarina Staroňová; Sičáková-Beblavá, Emília. *Corruption and anti-corruption measures in Central and Eastern Europ.*; Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) 2009.

The subsequent two English-language book publications were identified by the promotion committee as especially relevant.

Beblavá, Emília: Behavioral foundations of public policy. - 1. ed. - Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, 2015. - 151 p. ISBN 978-80-223-3928-5

Beblavý, Miroslav - Beblavá, Emília: Institutional dilemmas in ensuring public services. - 1. ed. - [Prešov] : Adin, 2006. - 147 p. ISBN 80-89244-10-6.

Assoc.Prof. Beblavá's work has received a significant number of citations. The fact that many of her publications have been co-authored should actually be taken as strength in terms of her ability to engage in collaboration. In Political Science multi-authored publications are becoming a necessary standard strategy for succeeding with publishing in high quality journals.

The works listed above show Assoc.Prof. Beblavá to have a well-defined and internationally recognized research agenda attested also by three book chapters (two since her current appointment) in non-domestic English-language venues and not counting the candidate's previous work for Transparency International. Her recognition as an expert in her field stems first of all from the candidate's work on corruption and clientelism, focused, especially recently, on the effect of EU membership on public corruption in Slovakia and evidenced by her article in *Europe-Asia Studies*. Besides her substantive expertise, Assoc.Prof. Beblavá's reputation is clearly also the result of her ability –probably owing to her previous involvement with Transparency International—to render her work in a manner that is broadly accessible to non-regional specialists. Specifically, she is keenly aware of needing to present her Slovak case studies in a clear comparative and well-understood framework. Another important factor in her recognition as a scholar is arguably her ability to combine analysis with clear policy recommendations concerning anti-corruption efforts that involve both punitive sanctions and preventive measures.

Another research avenue of hers has been that of public administration, specifically the politicization of public agencies and its implications. The breath of Assoc.Prof. Beblavá's work in this regard stems from her focus on good governance. This approach broadens her inquiry beyond narrow and technical administrative questions, making her work accessible and interesting to comparativists working on transition, democratization, integration, and institutional reform. Notwithstanding, the candidate has also shown her technical expertise in this area in a more narrow public policy sense with her 2009 article in the *Central European Journal of Public Policy*. Her work on reforming the financing of Slovak political parties brings her two research agendas together and has strong implications beyond the area of public administration and governance. As such, it is clearly of interest also to scholars of party systems, democratization, and institutional development as well as to political scientists in general.

While her work is centered on questions of governance and administration, its mode of investigation, theoretical approach, and focus on actors and their motivations, formal and informal institutional rules

as well as the resulting processes are clearly anchored in political science. The same can be said for the methodology employed by the candidate, which includes qualitative and quantitative methods.

While my assessment can evaluate Assoc.Prof. Beblavá's scholarship only in terms of her international and English-language contribution, it is also evident from her publication list and professional resume that she has been also an enormously influential national expert in the field. As such she has been regularly consulted by governments and international bodies. This is clearly further indication of the leadership one wishes to see in a full professor.

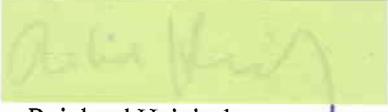
Additional relevant factors to consider

The candidate has already supervised two doctoral students all the way to their successful completion and is in the process of mentoring three others at different stages of their PhD. When I compare this with the requirement (one PhD every two years) at my previous US institution (University of Pittsburgh) and my current appointment (University of Salzburg), then this rate of supervision is clearly commensurate with what is expected of a full professor.

A further indicator of professional excellence is a candidate's involvement in funded research projects. Assoc.Prof. Beblavá's record lists 13 such projects since 2004 the year of her current appointment, in many of which she served as the principal investigator.

The candidate also has a large number of conference papers and on-going working papers, which may be taken as further evidence of her productiveness and integration into the community of scholars. As already mentioned, she has been a highly sought-after consultant and advisor including to two Slovak prime ministers, the Slovak Parliament, the World Bank, the US Justice Department, the European Commission, the Slovak Public Procurement Office and numerous other organizations. It is precisely this kind of diverse experience and responsibility which sets a full professor apart from other researchers and junior faculty in that the desirable profile of the former brings together internationally recognized scholarship, institutional academic leadership, the capacity for launching new funded projects, the supervision of advanced academic work, and a public leadership role that results in new recognition of the institution in which the professor is appointed. In my judgment, Assoc.Prof. Beblavá has excelled in all these dimensions.

Summing up, Comenius University is fortunate to have such an experienced candidate with a proven track record of solid scholarship and who is strongly connected with the national and international scientific community. Assoc.Prof. Beblavá is an internationally recognized expert in her field. In her theoretical and methodological approach, she has clearly expanded beyond a narrow focus on public administration by anchoring her work more broadly in political science, understood here as a social science. She promises to be a productive academic leader, capable of attracting project funding and drawing further distinction to her institution due to their role as an internationally recognized expert. Based on her international track record, one has to conclude that Assoc.Prof. Beblavá more than meets the requirement to be promoted to full professor.



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