

Academician Dimitar Velkov Dimitrov AT 75

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Academician Dimitar Velkov Dimitrov – a distinguished Bulgarian sociologist, who has devoted significant amount of his energy and knowledge to the promotion of academicism and the prosperity of science and higher education, turns 75.

Dimitar V. Dimitrov is born on 18 October 1947 in the village of Dolistovo, Kyustendil region. In 1972 he graduates Karl Marx Institute (now University of National and World Economy – UNWE), majoring in Political Economy, with specialty in Sociology. In 1973-74 he specializes in the European University Center in Nancy, France.

His journey in sociology continues at the Institute of Sociology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where he is a research associate (1975-76) and a doctoral student individual form of studies. In 1976 he receives doctoral degree in sociology. The following year, he completes a three-month specialization at the Institute for Sociological Research in Moscow. In 1984, he is elected a senior research associate II degree at the National Institute of Scientific Research, between 1990 and 2000 he is an associate professor at UNWE. In 2000 he becomes a doctor of sociological sciences, and then a professor at the Sofia University. In 2012, he is elected by the Assembly of Academicians of BAS as a corresponding member. In 2015 he is awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor by the Southwest University “Neofit Rilski”. In 2018 he is elected as Academician.

The professional career of Acad. Dimitrov includes the following positions: Head of Sector Methodology and Analysis of Information from Sociological Research at the Center for Sociological Youth Research (1974-76), Director of the Center for Sociological Research at the Trade Union Institute (NIIPP “G. Dimitrov”) 1984-96, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economics of UNWE (1992-1999), Head of the Department of Public Administration at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, (2007-2008), Director of the Institute of Sociology of BAS (2008-2010), Acting Director of the

Institute for Societies and Knowledge Studies of BAS (2010), Rector of the Higher School of Security and Economics – Plovdiv (2010-2016).

D. Dimitrov's scientific interests and works are in the field of theory and methodology of the empirical sociological research, sociology of work, economic sociology, sociology of conflict, human resources management, conducting successful negotiations, sociology of power and politics. As early as the 1970s he takes up a permanent line of research of problems that are directly related to the social practice.

The results of Acad. Dimitrov's research work are presented in thirteen independent monographs, one of which is published abroad. He has over a hundred studies and articles in specialized scientific publications, and many of them are in different languages, published in prestigious foreign editions. He has also delivered a large number of reports at various scientific forums, many of them international. Acad. Dimitrov is leader and participant in numerous empirical sociological studies, including such commissioned by international institutions and programs such as UNDP and PHARE, as well as joint projects with international research organizations from France, Germany, and Russia.

Acad. Dimitrov's main scientific contributions are in several areas of sociology. In the field of sociology of conflict he has developed a very well-grounded methodology for the study of conflicts and proposes a project for their empirical sociological research. Based on an in-depth study of the nature and the structure of conflicts, he outlines and substantiates the importance of the pre-conflict situation in the development of a specific system of measures aimed at regulating the conflict. With a focus also on the social practice, he formulates recommendations for strengthening and developing the role of the negotiations and the tactics of the third party (mediator) in resolving conflicts, which are particularly useful for business entities; he also offers a specific methodology for conducting negotiations in conflict situations, with specifics regarding the signing of collective agreements. Based on an in-depth sociological analysis of the business practice and his own practical experience in the management of workplace conflicts, Acad. Dimitrov has made a number of concrete proposals for the harmonization of the labor legislation. In the field of economic sociology and sociology of work, his contributions are particularly valuable with respect of the characteristics of the new type of entrepreneur and the factors influencing his behavior, as well as on problems of financial crises and the need of reconsideration of the requirement for a balance between the interests of national, global and regional associations and unions. In another area – sociology of politics and power, Acad. Dimitrov complements the theory of the development of the democratic process in Bulgaria and in other countries with analyses of a wide range of phenomena and processes from a very recent time. His contributions to the theory and methodology of the empirical sociological research cannot be underestimated, especially on the topic of the reliability of information from the sociological research. He elaborates a number of issues related to the factors that influence it, and the necessary methodological conditions to guarantee the reliability of the methods and the effectiveness of the empirical sociological research. In addition to being visible, the works of Acad. Dimitrov are also valued and mentioned and recognized in the scientific literature. His works have been cited more than 180 times, as many of these citations are in foreign publications.

Throughout his long career in sociology, Acad. Dimitrov attached great importance to the relationship between science and practice, to the orientation of sociology towards solving the real problems of the society. This is evident both from the subject of his research and from his organizational activity. He was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the pharmaceutical plant Farmacia AD, Dupnitsa (1995-1996), which is undoubtedly of mutual benefit. He also provides expert and consulting assistance in the development of the privatization programs and the privatization of industrial enterprises in the Region of Vratsa, through the Center for Privatization Research at the Faculty of Economics of UNWE, established there with his decisive contribution.

As a recognition of his authority as a scientist, Acad. Dimitrov is a member of such leading international scientific organizations as the International Sociological Association (since 1984) and

the International Association of French-Speaking Sociologists (AISLF, since 1987), where in 1988 he is elected Vice Chairman of the Research Committee on Sociology of Self-Government. He is co-founder and member of the International Organization EURODIR, Rennes, France (1994), uniting scientists and social workers from Europe. In Bulgaria he was Vice Chairman of the Bulgarian Sociological Association (1980, 1990-1994), for more than two decades he has been a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria since 2000.

His work within the National Academic Network, of which he is founder (2012) and chief coordinator, is quite directly aimed at the benefit of the society. Subsequently (from 2016 until now), as a public service, he is the chairman of the Advisory Council to NAM – a network uniting seventeen regional centers, which have become connecting links between the Bulgarian Academy of Science and the regions, translating academic science to potential users.

D. Dimitrov is a respected and established educator and has made a very significant contribution to the **training** of specialists and the preparation of scientific personnel. In the course of his many years of teaching, he was a lecturer at Sofia University (2000-2012), the University of National and World Economy (2002-2005), Higher School of Security and Economics (2010-2016), New Bulgarian University (2004-2005), Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” (2009-2010). In the period 1995-2000, he was a visiting professor of sociology of work at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France. More than thirty undergraduate students and six doctoral students received degrees under his supervision. He has great merits for the establishment and development of interinstitutional cooperation – in addition to his work with NAM, he also does a lot for the cooperation between the higher schools. He has significant contribution to the establishment of cooperation between the Higher School of Security and Economics with New Bulgarian University, Burgas Free University, Veliko Tarnovo University, UNWE, and the Academy of Economics in Svishtov. Thanks to his international recognition and authority, this Bulgarian higher school has close relations with the higher schools in Slovenia and with the Higher Business School in Angers, France.

Acad. D. Dimitrov participates in a number of prestigious scientific, advisory and expert bodies: member of the Specialized Scientific Council for Sociology, Political Science and Science Studies (2000-2005), Member of the Faculty Scientific Council of the Faculty of General Economics of UNWE (2000- 2004), Permanent member of the Commission on Social and Legal Sciences and National Security at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (2006-2009), Chairman of the Scientific Committee on Social Sciences – 12 at Higher Attestation Commission (2006-2009), Member of the General Assembly of BAS (2008-2010), Member of the Council of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions in Bulgaria (2010-2016), Chairman of the Social Cooperation Council at BAS (2013-2016), advisor to the Chairman of BAS. He has been the head of expert groups at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency many times (2006-2008). Because of his comprehensive knowledge and proven high level of expertise, he is sought after as a consultant by state bodies at the highest level – in the Council of Ministers (CoM), the Ministry of Education, the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues at CoM, the National Tourism Council at the Ministry of Tourism, the National Council on Social Inclusion at CoM, etc.

As an established scientist, Academician Dimitrov is a member of the editorial boards of specialized scientific journals: member of the editorial board of the *Journal of BAS* (since 2022), the *Information Bulletin of BAS* (2013-2016), Deputy Editor-in-chief of *Politics and Security* (2017-present), Editor-in-chief of *Sociology and Economics* (2011-2016), Editor-in-chief of *Sociology* (2009-2010).

Acad. D. Dimitrov has received many awards for his long-term and dedicated scientific and organizational work. Among them should be noted the Jubilee Diploma of BAS for his contribution to science 2017, Congratulatory Address from the Assembly of Academicians and Corresponding Members of BAS on the occasion of his 70th anniversary, Congratulatory Address from the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria on the occasion of his 70th anniversary, Certificate of Merit from Medical University – Pleven, Honorary Diploma for awarded academic degree Emeritus Professor Higher

School of Security and Economics 2017. His direct contribution to the business life was appreciated with the awarding of the national prize Human Resources Manager for 2011.

Appreciating the merits of what Academician Dimitrov has done, let us wish him, on the occasion of his jubilee, good health and creative energy for many more years to come, to be always persevering and devoted to science, to achieve new heights in the field of scientific research, to pass on his knowledge, experience and tireless spirit to the young generation and to contribute to the good of society through science.