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**Author**

SLANTCHEVA, Snejana

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**Abstract**

In this essay I analyze the current status of the academic profession in Bulgaria at a time of difficult socio-economic transition. After providing a brief overview of the historical development of Bulgarian academia, I discuss faculty working conditions, the career path within the profession and the legal framework for the professoriate. Numerous problems with respect to finances, institutional infrastructure and legal environment challenge the status quo of the Bulgarian faculty. The essay closes by highlighting the future key issues for the academic profession that focus around its financial viability, difficulties in recruiting a new generation of scholars, the quality of teaching and learning, and faculty entrepreneurship. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Slantcheva, Snejana, E-Mail: slantcheva@policy.hu