

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

on a competition for the occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor" in professional direction 3.7 Administration and management (Financial analysis of public policies), for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy, announced in State Gazette No. 61/02/08/2022

The opinion is prepared by Prof. Dr. Plamena Georgieva Yovchevska, Agricultural Academy, as a member of the scientific jury in the professional field 3.7 Administration and management, scientific field (Financial analysis of public policies), according to Order No. RD-38-490 /22.08.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University.

For participation in the announced competition, documents were submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Maria Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova, PhD, the only candidate from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy, Department of "Public Administration".

I. General description of the presented materials

1. Application data

The documents submitted by the candidate in the competition correspond to the requirements of the LDACRB, the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDACRB and the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

For participation in the competition Chief Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva – Tikova presents a list of 25 titles. The candidate also presents a broader publication list of 32 titles covering a longer research period. Required administrative documents, evidence of Dr. Kotseva's expertise and in support of her scientific, scientific-applied and teaching achievements are also presented.

In the list for participation in the competition for the academic position "associate professor", the candidate presents the monographic research "On the path of sustainable development, the Green Alternative". Half of the publications on the list are without co-authors, seven are published in English. Some of the articles are in indexed scientific journals (WoS and Scopus). Co-authored publications with established researchers are presented, as well as co-authorships resulting from the author's collegial collaborations in shared research areas. It is a testament to the candidate's

ability to work in a team and is an expression of shared confidence in conducting joint research. Qualities characteristic/necessary for successful teaching and scientific activity.

2. Applicant data

Chief Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva, holds a master's degree in economics with a specialization in finance from the University of National and World Economy. In 2003, he obtained the scientific degree "Doctor" at the Institute of Economics of the BAS (now the Institute for Economic Research at the BAS), Sofia. In her academic development, the candidate combines teaching and research activities. Since 2012, she has been the Chief Assistant at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy, Department of "Public Administration". In 2009, he joined the Institute for Economic Research at the BAS, "Regional and Sectoral Economy" section, Sofia as a Chief Assistant. The process of taught by Ch. Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva, Ph.D., of disciplines "Public Finances", "Tax System and Tax Policy", "Green Economy", "Microeconomics" in the Department of "Public Administration", Faculty of Philosophy, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" is complemented by the candidate's research expertise, the result of her scientific activity in the field of studying renewable energy sources, regional assessments, green economy, sustainable development, etc. thematic areas studied in the course of Dr. Kotseva's work at the Institute for Economic Research at the BAS. The additional qualification also enhances her cognitive skills.

3. General characteristics of the scientific works and achievements of the candidate

The scientific works meet the minimum national requirements (under Article 2b, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the LDACRB) and, accordingly, the additional requirements of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition.

The scientific works presented by the candidate do not repeat those from previous procedures for acquiring a scientific degrees and academic position, as evidenced by the two lists of scientific publications submitted by the candidate.

Ch. Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva, PhD, has extensive research and teaching experience, which is a prerequisite for synergism of the presented scientific results in the scientific fields in which she works. The author's information about current scientific contributions correctly reflects the development and upgrading of the research fields in which the candidate, based on the expertise she possesses, expands and deepens her scientific analyzes and searches for the right aperture for

studying the current problems of socium. Here I include the studies in the field of renewable energy sources, the extension of the author's research to the concept and philosophy of "Green Architecture", the skillful analysis of economic and social processes generated by current, both predictable and unpredictable phenomena on a global and regional scale (including changes in the living environment, the covid pandemic, etc.).

4. Characteristics and assessment of the candidate's teaching activity

Since joining in 2012 the Department of "Public Administration", Faculty of Philosophy, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", educational and pedagogical activities of Ch. Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva, Ph.D., is an established teacher in the following disciplines: "Public Finances", "Tax System and Tax Policy", "Green Economy", "Microeconomics".

5. Meaningful analysis of the applicant's scientific and applied scientific achievements contained in the materials for participation in the competition

The scientific and applied scientific contributions of the candidate enrich the presentation of new theories, hypotheses, methods with which the author builds on her research achievements in the field of sustainable development. The reading of the green idea in the context of economy/business, social vector and ecology/living environment poses a question with the rank of dilemma - economic development or growth. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Kotseva expands the existing scientific knowledge in the field of inclusive development. A significant applied scientific contribution is the upgraded author's methodology and calculations based on it, an up-to-date index for social progress and its application for evaluating the inclusive development of the regions in Bulgaria. The candidate's conceptual reading of the circular economy and bioeconomy makes a significant contribution to the clarification and application of scientific achievements from this relatively new field of knowledge in practice.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have a recommendation for Dr. Kotseva, if possible, to continue/repeat the field work, since the analysis of empirical data on the activity of subjects in the sub-sectors of agriculture, collected from a suitable region, provide reliable information about the result of the implemented policies in crop production and in animal husbandry in our country. The results obtained by the author are similar to those registered in research by other authors, which is a symptomatic sign of problems in the implementation of the community agricultural policy in our country.

7. Personal impressions of the candidate

I know Ch. Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva, Ph.D., from the time of her joining the IER at the BAS. For three years we have been working together in one of the work packages of the National Scientific Program "Healthy Foods", administered by the Ministry of Education. A fair, reliable and desirable partner for joint work by a number of scientific and research groups.

8. Conclusion on the application

After having familiarized myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and based on the analysis of their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, *I confirm* that the scientific achievements meet the requirements of LDACRB, the Regulations for its application and the relevant Regulations of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the candidate to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition. In particular, the candidate satisfies the minimum national requirements in the professional field by the scientific works submitted to the competition.

I give my *positive* assessment to the application.

II. GENERAL CONCLUSION

Based on the above, I recommend the scientific jury to propose to the competent authority to choose Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Maria Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional direction 3.7 Administration and management (Financial analysis of public policies), for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Public Administration.

Sofia, 16th November 2022

Prepared the opinion:

Prof. Dr. Plamena Yovchevska