

REVIEW

By: Prof. Aleksandar Ivanov Marinov, PhD,

Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski”, Department of Public Administration,
member of scientific jury, appointed by the Rector of SU „St. Kliment Ohridski”,

Order № 38-490 от 22.08.2022

Regarding: Competition for awarding the Academic Position “Associate Professor” in
Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management

In the competition takes part a sole candidate - Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova, PhD in Economics.

1. Assessment of fulfilling requirements for admittance to evaluation

According Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), to the evaluation stage of the procedure are admitted candidates, fulfilling the requirements, including fulfillment of the minimal national requirements. The verification of the file, namely the information regarding the mentioned fulfillment, proves that Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova is in line with the requirements and should be admitted to the evaluation stage of the procedure.

2. General characteristic of the candidate’s work submitted for evaluation

The candidate Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova, PhD, has submitted for participation in the procedure 25 papers, including 1 monographic study and 24 scientific articles (6 in English, 13 as co-author). All submitted publications are admitted to evaluation, since none of them duplicates papers submitted in procedures for her scientific degrees and positions.

3. Brief outline of the candidate’s scholar career

Maria Kotseva-Tikova graduated with Master's degree at the University of National and World Economy in 1999. In 2003 she was awarded the PhD degree in Economics at the Institute of Economic Studies – Bulgarian Academy of Science. Her academic career began in

2009 at this Institute and since 2012 she is Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Administration, Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski”.

The scholar profile of Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova fully corresponds to the announced competition and presents her as a qualified candidate in the field.

4. Overview of the teaching and pedagogical activity of the candidate

The teaching activity of Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova ranges over 10 years at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski”. At the present she teaches several courses in the bachelor and master programs of the University, which fall entirely in the field of competition: Public Finances, Tax System and Tax Policy, Green Economics, Micro-economics. She teaches courses in English at the master programs of the Department.

Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova is also a successful mentor and supervisor. She has supervised dozens of master theses.

5. Evaluation of the scholar and applied contributions of the candidate

In the competition for associate professor, Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova applies with 1 habilitation monographic work of considerable volume and quality, 24 articles and studies. The publications proposed by the candidate fully meet the requirements of the competition. In this review I devote special attention to the monographic study **„По пътя на устойчивото развитие. Зелената алтернатива“ (On the Road of Sustainable Development. The Green Alternative)**, Университетско издателство „Св. Климент Охридски“, p. 198, ISBN: 978-954-07-5403-1, София, 2022. This monographic work has not been used for participation in other competitions.

Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova is author – except of above mentioned monographic study - of multiple studies, articles and other publications, amongst which 24 articles are presented in this competition. Among this broad field, the following publications seem to me of particular significance, both theoretically and in applied context:

- Kotseva-Tikova, M., 2021. The Social Progress of the Districts of Bulgaria, Regional Formation and Development Studies, Journal of Social Science, No 2 (34), p. 81-91, ISSN 2029-9370 (Lituanistika, EBSCO Business Source Complete, Business Source 3 Alumni Edition, Business Source Corporate Plus, Business Source Elite, Business Source Premier,

Business Source Ultimate, Ulrich's Periodicals, Crossref, DOI, Open Journal System, ROAD, ERIHPLUS, Directory of Research Journals Indexing)

- Коцева-Тикова, М., 2021. Справедливост при използване на природните ресурси: биоикономиката и ползите за земеделските стопани в Сборник с доклади от четвърта международна конференция по Публична администрация: „Административната справедливост като елемент на доброто управление“, Университетско издателство „Св. Кл. Охридски“, стр. 363-376, ISBN 978-954-07- 5251-8

- Коцева-Тикова, М., 2019. Регионална оценка на просперитета и социалния прогрес в юбилеен сборник „Демократичност, децентрализация, самоуправление“, С., Университетско издателство „Св. Кл. Охридски“, стр. 330- 345, ISBN 978-954-07-4665-4

- Kotseva-Tikova, M., Inclusive Development and Regional Policy, Economic Studies, 2018, Volume 27 (6), Pages 65-74, (SCOPUS, SJR- 2)

- Kotseva-Tikova, M., 2018. Green Economy: The Evaluation of the European Transfer of Models in the Renewable Industry of Bulgaria, в сборник с доклади от конференция “Международният трансфер на административни модели и инструменти: възможности, ограничения и рискове”, Университетско издателство „Св. Кл. Охридски“, стр. 424-436, ISBN 978-954-07-4406-3

- Kotseva-Tikova, M., 2018. Regional Policy for Inclusive Development of the Districts of Bulgaria. Reports from 26th NISPAcee Annual Conference proceedings "Public Administration for Well-being and Growth, ISBN 978-80-89013-97-5

- Коцева-Тикова, М., 2017. Данъчна система и данъчна политика, в „Приноси към теорията и практиката на публичната администрация“, Университетско издателство „Св. Кл. Охридски“, София, стр. 380-395, ISBN: 978-954-07-4308-0

- Kotseva-Tikova, M., 2016. Bulgarian Renewable Energy in the Context of the Contemporary Trends. Regional Formation and Development Studies, 20, 3, KLAIPĖDA UNIVERSITY, 2016, ISSN:2351-6542, 60-74 (Lituanistika, EBSCO Business Source Complete, Business Source Alumni Edition, Business Source Corporate Plus, Business Source Elite, Business Source Premier, Business Source Ultimate, Ulrich's Periodicals, Crossref, DOI, Open Journal System, ROAD, ERIHPLUS, Directory of Research Journals Indexing).

It should be mentioned that Maria Kotseva-Tikova's ideas have been cited by a lot of researchers in the field – the registered citations amount to 13, including 10 in works published in foreign language.

There are at least three interrelated conceptual areas proving the ability of the candidate to ask and answer complex theoretical questions, following a very sound logic of scholar evolution and scientific contributions. These are the fields of her most significant academic contributions.

First. A theoretical approach based on integrating the conceptual frameworks of research on sustainable development policies and evaluation is developed and applied. Using this approach, several important results are met - the development and change of modern ideas of sustainable development, European practices and visions of progress towards sustainable development, key characteristics of Bulgarian cases etc. Special attention is devoted to the sustainable development as a interconnection of three dimensions – economics, ecology and social welfare.

Economic development is given priority over growth, having in mind the accumulated negative effects on nature and social policies and the attention is directed to modern concepts as green economy and growth, bio-economics etc. The main hypothesis in the monograph has been proved: the existence of a connection between the concepts of green economy and growth, circular economy, bioeconomy and inclusive development from the point of view of the goals pursued - sustainable development through interconnection and balance of the three systems (economic, ecological and social). In a regional aspect, the existence of strong and weak indicators in the 2 development of the regions in Bulgaria is confirmed

Second. Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova offers an original interpretation of the possibilities of Bulgarian green economy evaluation, using approaches and tools. The interdependence of these approaches and well known ones (as good governance) is considered too. The performance of Bulgarian economy is evaluated in the perspective of sustainable green development and bio-economics. The development of the bioeconomy is understood as an important tool for achieving smart and green growth. This includes sectors that produce and use organic products. Their importance is strongly appreciated in the presence of a health threat such as the Covid-19 infection, which requires serious measures to distance and reduce direct contacts, travel and gathering of people in one place.

Third, author elaborates on the conceptual framework of the inclusive development. Its descriptive definition emphasizes upon the problems of inequality, poorness, growth, employment, development, and social protection. The aim is to address the problem of measurement of inclusive development of the districts in Bulgaria through the evaluation of an index of social progress. The results show that the districts develop socially heterogeneous

and not inclusively as not all of them demonstrate successful satisfaction of basic social needs of citizens, which hamper their ability to reach full potential.

6. Evaluation of the personal contribution and authorship

The scholar texts and corresponding contributions are with no doubt personal work of the candidate Maria Kotseva-Tikova. I accept entirely the self-assessment of the contributions.

7. Personal impressions

I know Dr. Maria Kotseva-Tikova for 10 years and have a respect for her high personal standards for research, teaching and scholar moral.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant critique on the publications submitted and the applicant's past activities.

CONCLUSION

The scholar production and contributions of Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova are entirely in line with the requirements of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and other corresponding regulations. The qualification of the candidate is solid and well proven.

These results give me compelling reasons to propose to the honorable scientific jury to vote unanimously for the awarding of the academic position “Associate Professor” in the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management to Assistant Professor Maria Kotseva-Tikova, PhD.

13.11. 2022

Prepared and signed by:
(prof. Aleksandar Marinov, PhD)