

Opinion

By Associate Professor, Dr. Krassen Stanchev

With regard to the competition for the academic position "associate professor" in professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Financial Analysis of Public Policies), Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences and National Security.

The competition was announced by SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", SG No. 61/02.08.2022, for the needs of the Department of "Public Administration", Faculty of Philosophy of the University.

Basis for drawing up the opinion: order No. RD-38-490/22.08.2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

General remarks.....	1
1. Fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor"	2
Habilitation work and publications.....	3
Research activity and scientific contributions	4
Conclusion.....	4

General remarks

Only one candidate takes part in the competition - Senior Assistant Dr. Maria Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova. from SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

I would like to point out that the candidate and I share an office, that I know her work as a teacher and researcher extremely well, although we differ in some interpretations of the theory and practice of economic and legal policies, and on some topics we have an opposing opinion.

Mrs. Maria Kotseva has a Master's degree in Economics (Finance) from UNSS - Sofia, and since December 2005 she has a PhD in Economics. The doctoral degree was obtained at the Institute for Economic Studies at the BAS. The topic of the dissertation work is "Effectiveness of Investments in Renewable Energy Sources". The subsequent articles and the habilitation work of Dr. Kotseva-Tikova are a continuation and further development of her dissertation work. They have an undoubted relevance, they are characterized by a marked depth of reflection on the current challenges of the theory.

Since 2009, Dr. Kotseva has been the senior assistant at the Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and since 2012, joining the work of the SU almost at the same time as me, he has been the chief assistant at the Department of Public Administration, Philosophical faculty.

1. The presented employment report of Dr. Kotseva shows that as of 2022, she has general and classroom teaching employment exceeding the requirements of SU in academic courses that are on the subject of the competition: Public Finances, Tax System and Tax Policy, Green Economy and Microeconomics. After she has taken over the latter course, the economic proficiency of the students had improved significantly, and this is of great help to my course in Macroeconomic Analysis.
2. My personal impressions of her teaching activity are direct – I take the student after her introductory course, while she takes the bachelors after my courses macroeconomics and public choice, and, to ensure continuity, we regularly discuss the content of our courses, together with the preparation, interests and qualities of the listeners.
3. Dr. Kotseva-Tikova has serious research skills, and her participation in numerous research projects shows a permanent commitment to the field of the green and circular economy, as well as to the policies of the EU and Bulgaria in these areas, in tax legislation and practice , micro and macroeconomics and corporate finance.
4. The research methods that she applies fit completely into the theme of the competition.
5. Colleague Kotseva-Tikova, thanks to her experience from BAS and management (rather - co-management) of a real business activity gives her lecture courses and her scientific work originality and are a prerequisite for the justified interest in them by students and parcels from SU and other universities.

1. Fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor"

The certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements presented by Dr. Maria Kotseva-Tikova shows full compliance with the necessary criteria Area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, 3.7. "Administration and Management" according to the PP of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff.

In addition to what was said above, I should emphasize that both the dissertation and the habilitation work fulfill the required 150 points for indicators from groups A and B.

- According to the indicators in group D, a list of articles and studies in Bulgarian and English languages is presented, which form 210.92 points and cover the norm of 200 points.
- Separation protocols are presented for co-authored publications.
- In group D, a reference is presented for the citations that form 55 points and fulfill the requirements of 50 points.

The stated facts and circumstances give me reason to conclude that the formal requirements a) have been met and b) in my opinion, should be assessed on merit.

Habilitation work and publications.

For participation in the competition ch. Associate Professor Maria Kotseva, PhD, presents her habilitation thesis - monograph "On the path to sustainable development. The Green Alternative, University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", S., p. 198, ISBN: 978-954-07-5403-1, Sofia, 2022 and 24 more publications - articles and studies in Bulgarian and English languages, published in scientific collections and magazines. My check confirms the applicant's reference.

The subject area of the habilitation work-monograph is within the general theme of the competition, published and from informal discussions I have the impression that it was well received by colleagues who work in the field of interests of Dr. Maria Kotseva.

Never for the last ten years in her publications have I noticed any hints of incorrect borrowing of topics, reasoning and data, or of plagiarism. The erudition, academic correctness and innovativeness of her scientific pursuits are beyond doubt.

Research activity and scientific contributions

I think that colleague Kotseva-Tikova is establishing in our and the Faculty of Economics a new area of scientific and teaching interests, something like "Economic way of thinking about climate change".

In it, the definitions of the main axioms of economics can be given, which are included in the understanding of climate, sustainable development and its modifications in economics as knowledge. It seems to me that the self-assessment of scientific contributions is modest. In giving this assessment, it is important to add the following:

- The colleague proves the ability to analyze the studied issues.
- The field is dynamic and she is always well informed about the latest trends in the real economy and politics.
- The methods for analyzing and studying attitudes are original, innovative and in full compliance with good modern practices.
- In my view, there is a lack of sufficient benchmarking of policy analysis and loose adherence to standards and/or policy and technology development in implementing policies to address climate change. But this situation, especially in the field of social policy and the so-called UN's "sustainable development goals".

Conclusion

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to address climate change. But this situation, especially in the field of social policy and the so-called UN's "sustainable development goals".

- What I have been told gives grounds for a high assessment of both the teaching and scientific activities of the Senior Assistant Dr. Maria Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova. Her collegial relations and tolerance towards the academic staff and the listeners of her courses are combined with an open and honest assertion of her own views and assessments. I believe that Dr. Kotseva-Tikova is an indisputable and valuable donor of such qualities for the department and the University.

Without any hesitation, I strongly support her election as associate professor in professional direction 3.7. Administration and Management (Financial Analysis of Public Policies) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

17 November 2022

Sofia

Jury Member:

(Krassen Stanchev)