

STATEMENT

**by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Albena Georgieva Taneva,
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",
Philosophy Faculty, Department of Public Administration**

**Member of a scientific jury, confirmed by order No. RD-38-490/22.08.2022.
of the Rector of Sofia University**

Subject: Competition for "associate professor" in professional field 3.7. "Administration and Governance" (Financial Analysis of Public Policies), Department of "Public Administration", Philosophy faculty, Sofia University, published in the State Gazette no. 61 of 2.08.22, one candidate participated - principal assistant Dr. Maria Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova, full-time lecturer at Sofia University.

1. Information about the candidate and educational and pedagogical activity

Principal Assistant Dr. Maria Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova has been a lecturer in the Department of Public Administration at Sofia University for 10 years. Since joining the Department of "Public Administration" in 2012, she has taught several courses in the bachelor's program: "Public Finances", "Tax System and Tax Policy", "Green Economy" and is the leader of the seminars on "Microeconomics". A review of her biographical record, as well as the visibility of her teaching activities, highlight a clear and compelling consistency in both her research interests and her teaching commitments. Her participation as a leading lecturer in this thematic area has ensured the implementation of the curriculum in its mandatory part and has contributed to its development with proposed elective disciplines in the field of green economy and modern technologies, enjoying constant interest from students.

As a lecturer in the master's programs of the "Public Administration" department, Maria Kotseva is also the holder of the academic disciplines in the field of public finance. She was

the supervisor of 13 graduating master's students on applied topics in the field of public finance, budgeting and green economy. To help public administration students, Dr. Maria Kotseva has also developed a textbook "Tax system and tax policy".

The submitted documents for this competition objectively reflect the factual picture of the development and interests of Dr. Maria Kotseva in view of the scope of this thematic area. It should be noted that in addition to her formal duties as a teacher, she is also involved in other educational activities of the department. For several years, she has been the department's coordinator of the annual faculty doctoral readings. She also participated in the department's doctoral student seminar, which is part of the implementation of the department's doctoral program. Dr. Kotseva has proven her teaching qualities not only with the formal implementation of the horariums in the respective courses, but also with the high quality of each one of these activities, which is an important advantage for occupying the position of associate professor as a candidate in the announced competition for the needs of Department of PA.

2. Scientific research and applied scientific activity

Principal assistant Dr. Maria Kotseva-Tikova participated in the current competition with a total of 32 scientific publications, of which one monograph, one co-authored book, 18 independent articles and studies and 12 co-authored articles and studies. Ten of these publications are in English. It can be seen that the specialized nature of the publications is entirely within the subject field of the competition. The attached reference for citing of these works contains information on 13 citations in authoritative publications, of which 9 are in English. All of listed works were published after the acquisition of the scientific degree "doctor" and are subject to review for the purposes of this competition.

The candidate's self-assessment of contributions indicates multiple contributing qualities of the publications. Four of the outlined contributions of the the monograph "On the path of sustainable development. The Green Alternative' , published in 2022 are the most comprehensive."They have a distinct scientific applied character.

- Two of them are conceptual in view of the economic potential of landfilling

unprocessed waste and reducing the use of resources through specific business solutions with a significant social effect.

- Contemporary concepts dealing with environmentally friendly initiatives are evaluated. Among them are the green economy model and the circular economy. It is essential that the questions of the bioeconomy are posed in a specific empirical study with 80 agricultural producers from a specific region in Bulgaria.

- An important contribution in view of its own weight, but also in view of the profile of the current competition, is the importance of the highlighted social aspects of sustainability, assessed through an index assessment for the quantitative dimension of social inclusion achieved.

- The critical analysis and evaluation of the National Plan for Recovery and Sustainability from 2021, with a view to the possibilities of the green economy for achieving sustainable development, has its own applied nature for public administration.

- Thus, derived conceptual contributions of the monographic work are a creative development of multiple aspects of each of these elements of Dr. Maria Kotseva's scientific interests, specifically traced in her publications throughout the evaluation period for the needs of the current competition.

Along with new publishing activity Dr. Kotseva actively participates in international and national scientific forums. For the period from 2014 to 2022, she took part with academic paper in specialized sections in 26 conferences, of which 7 were international, incl. and participation in NISPA forums. In terms of volume and quality, the scientific production presented is sufficient grounds for a positive assessment of Dr. Maria Kotseva's candidacy and even exceeds the recommended criteria for awarding the academic position of "associate professor". This is evident from the publications presented, their specialization and her participation in scientific research forums.

3. Conclusion

Presented by the candidate Dr. Maria Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova teaching activity, publications and scientific research experience based on participation in projects and in scientific forums give grounds for finding that they meet the requirements for occupying the position of "associate professor" in professional field 3.7. Administration and Management

(Financial Analysis of Public Policies). As a member of the jury, I express my positive opinion and will vote for the election of Dr. Maria Kotseva-Tikova, according to the competition for associate professor announced by the "Public Administration" department at Sofia University.

November 16, 2022

Sofia

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Albena Taneva