

REVIEW

by: Prof. Dr. Darina Ruscheva Todorova, scientific specialty "Economics and Management of Industries (Agriculture)" and scientific specialty "National Economy (incl. regional economy and history of national economy)", Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

About: competition for "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Financial Analysis of Public Policies).

Contest information

The competition is announced for the needs of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", (on own staff), according to the Decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, protocol № 15 of 19th July 2022, in State Gazette No. 61 of 2nd August 2022.

Only one candidate was admitted to the competition – Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova.

The review was prepared on the basis of the Order No. RD-38-490/22.08.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for appointing a Scientific Jury for conducting a competition for associate professor in professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Financial Analysis of Public Policies).

Information for applicants

Only one applicant has submitted documents for the competition - Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova, Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova completed her high school education in 1994 at the Language High School "B. Brecht" - town of Pazardzhik. In 1999 she received the Master's degree in Finance at the UNWE - Sofia, and in 2005 - the PhD degree (Diploma № 29746), in the scientific specialty 05.02.03. "National Economy (incl. Regional Economy and History of National Economy)", on the basis of a defended dissertation on "Efficiency of Investments in Renewable Energy Sources", at Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Since 2009 she has been a Chief Assistant in Department "Regional and Sector Economics" at Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She conducts research in renewable energy, regional assessments, green economy and sustainable development. Since 2012 and until now she is a Chief Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“. In the

Department of Public Administration he teaches the following courses: public finance, tax system and tax policy, green economy and microeconomics.

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova is fluent in English, has very good computer skills and during the period 2000-2010 enriched and upgraded her knowledge and skills by participating in various courses and forums, abroad and in Bulgaria, successfully passed, passed exams and issued certificates. She is a member of the Union of Economists in Bulgaria.

As a long-standing Head of the Department "Regional and Sector Economics" at Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, I would like to note that Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova very successfully implemented his research plan at the institute and managed to combine it with successful teaching activity in the department, which is a difficult task to realize and definitely deserves high praise and congratulations.

Fulfilling the requirements for the academic position „Associate Professor“

The detailed review of the Report on the fulfilment of the minimum requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, shows that Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova completely covers the quantitative and qualitative requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific field 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.7. Administration and Management.

Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activity

From the attached Report on the academic employment of Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova it can be seen that during the academic years 2016/2017 - 2020-2021 her total academic employment is between 552 and 1159 hours, of which between 450 and 546 hours - classroom employment. Her teaching load at the Bachelor's degree level is as follows: Public Finance - 60 hours of lectures, Tax System and Tax Policy - 30 hours of lectures, Green Economy - 45 hours of lectures and Microeconomics - 30 hours of exercises. She is teaching regular and distance learning in Master's programs in Bulgarian and English languages in the master's program Public Administration, (regular training), „Public Administration“ (distance training), „Public Administration“ (regular training), in English, Master's program „Public Management and Policies“. In 2020 and 2021 she is moderator of a session of the "PhD Readings" of the Faculty of Philosophy and of PhD seminars in the Department of "Public Administration".

She is a thesis supervisor for students. In 2020-2021 she is a reviewer of articles of PhD students for the collection "Doctoral Readings". Participates as an

academic mentor in the Student Practicum Program. In 2017, she gave a lecture at the University of Klaipeda, Lithuania, under the Erasmus+ programme.

The above arguments give me grounds to summarize that Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova is a well-established lecturer, who successfully carries out the various activities related to the preparation of undergraduate and postgraduate students, exhibiting enviable skills in the organization and conduct of student training, with the necessary renown in the country and abroad. Her profile as a lecturer fully corresponds to the subject matter and requirements of the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

General characteristics of submitted scientific publications and citations

For the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova submits a habilitation thesis - a monograph "On the Road to Sustainable Development. The Green Alternative", (2022), University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", pp. 198, ISBN 978-954-07-5403-1.

Publications: a) articles and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in global databases of scientific information - 1 pc; b) articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes - 18 pc and c) studies published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes - 5 pc. Out of these 24 publications, 15 are solo publications and 9 are co-authored publications. The publications are in important journals and proceedings of scientific forums in different universities in Bulgaria: Journal "Economic Studies" (Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Journal "Economics and Management of Agriculture" (Institute of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Academy), University Publisher "St. Kliment Ohridski", Publishing Complex - UNWE, publications of the University of Economics - Varna, etc.

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova is the author of the monograph "On the Road to Sustainable Development. The Green Alternative". It has the following structure: The Introduction justifies the relevance of the chosen topic and formulates the goal - " ... to assess the development of the concept of sustainable development through the concepts formed in the twentieth century, which seek the green, low-carbon, biological, zero-waste, inclusive as variations for the realization of development useful for societies and nature." The first chapter of the monograph is devoted to the concern about climate change and theories of economic development. Chapter 2, "Green Concepts for Growth and Development", deals in turn with issues related to the green economy, growth and low-carbon development; the circular economy; the nature and principles of the bioeconomy and the issue of farmers in Bulgaria and their engagement with the

development of the bioeconomy. The third chapter is on inclusive development and the fourth chapter on the European Union's Green Deal. The monographic study is developed on the basis of rich factual and empirical material, systematized and processed precisely, on the reference to a variety of literature sources, with an exposition that is distinguished by a scientific style, clear and precise language. The results obtained enrich and extend knowledge in this new and interesting field of scientific knowledge. They could be useful in the development of sustainable development policies and perspectives on green, circular and bioeconomy by different institutions and organizations, for researchers and students who, in general, work and study environmental policy issues and sustainable development.

Reviewing the list of citations, it can be summarized that they are in reputable journals, conference proceedings, publications of universities in Bulgaria and abroad and that the candidate is well known in the scientific community.

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova is the author of a textbook on the discipline "Tax System and Tax Policy", designed for training students of the specialty "Public Administration" at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.(Kotseva-Tikova, M. (2017), "Tax System and Tax Policy", in Contributions to the Theory and Practice of Public Administration, ISBN: 978-954-07-4308-0). She has been involved in various projects: the National Scientific Programme "Healthy Food for a Strong Bioeconomy and Quality" under the Ministry of Education in Bulgaria; "Fresh Knowledge for a Green Economy" , "Student Practices.

Evaluation of scientific and applied contributions

The main scientific and applied contributions can be reduced to the next:

1. A definition of Sustainable Development as the interaction between the three spheres: economic, environmental and social is justified.
2. The policy for the development of renewable energy sources (RES) in Bulgaria is evaluated.
3. A complex approach has been developed and applied to the assessment of the Green Economy in Bulgaria (index assessment, performance assessment, assessment in terms of interaction with other management approaches - good governance).
4. The obtained results, reflected in the candidate's publications, enrich the knowledge in the field of circular economy and bio-economy.
5. In terms of the concept of „Inclusive Development“, a justified characterization is given and a constructive approach to its evaluation is developed.

Critical comments and recommendations

I have no critical remarks. I would recommend Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova to continue her research in her chosen niche of knowledge in a thorough, comprehensive and highly professional manner. The results of the research to apply in the process of training students and PhD students.

Conclusion

The materials submitted by Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova for participation in the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” give me grounds to summarize that she is an established teacher, researcher and expert who has the necessary accumulations in terms of knowledge and experience, and meets the conditions of the competition.

In conclusion, on the basis of the facts and evidence presented relating to teaching and research activities and achievements, give me grounds with full conviction to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" by Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. MARIYA GEORGIEVA KOTSEVA-TIKOVA in the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Financial Analysis of Public Policies).

14.11.2022 г.
Sofia

Signature:
/ Prof. Dr. Darina Ruscheva /