

## **OPINION**

by Prof. Dr.Sc.(Econ.) Nikola Kolev Valchev, 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, Sofia.

About: competition for "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Financial Analysis of Public Policies), announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia

### **I Contest information**

The competition is announced for the needs of the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", 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

### **II Reasons for the Opinion**

The opinion 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).

### **III Fulfilling the requirements for the academic position**

The detailed review of the Report on the fulfilment of the minimum requirements under Art. 26 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.

#### **IV Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activity**

From the attached references it can be seen that Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Mariya Georgieva Kotseva-Tikova has a sufficient teaching load in Bachelor's and Master's programs, in Bulgarian and English languages in the master's program Public Administration, regular and distance learning, compulsory and optional disciplines. She teaches in the master's program Public Management and Policies, lectures in foreign universities under the Erasmus + program in 2017.

Along with this, Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova conducts PhD seminars, reviews their articles, is a member of organizing and scientific committees of a number of national and international conferences at home and abroad.

From the references presented, it can be seen that Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova is an established teacher with lectures at home and abroad, a scientist and researcher, and a disseminator of scientific knowledge. The scientific interests and research and teaching activities of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova fully coincide with the direction of the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova's professional characteristic defines her as an accomplished teacher, organizer, public figure and researcher who, from a formal and scientific point of view, has every reason to apply for the academic post of Associate Professor in the announced competition.

#### **V Brief description of the publications submitted to the competition**

Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova has submitted 25 publications - monographic research, studies, articles and reports from scientific forums - national and international. In the list of publications submitted for reviewing stands out the

monograph "On the Path of Sustainable Development. The Green Alternative", which evaluates the concept of sustainable development and analyses a new concept for the Republic of Bulgaria policy - the bio-economy. The other publications submitted for review are also devoted to this issue, to the idea of inclusive development, to the management of natural resources as modern tools for achieving smart and green growth. Some of the publications are individual, others co-authored, published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in global databases of scientific information. As a rule, the publications offer recommendations for improving public and business practice.

## **VI Synthesized assessment of the main scientific and applied contributions of the candidate**

Detailed and careful acquaintance with the scientific production submitted for review by Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova allows to highlight the following most important contributions of theoretical-methodological, methodological and practical-applied nature:

1. The assessment of the bio-economy as a new policy for the Republic of Bulgaria, made on the basis of own survey among farmers.
2. The developed and applied index assessment of social aspects of sustainability.
3. The additional aspect of sustainable development policy, and more precisely inclusive regional development, built upon through an original methodology for assessing the social aspects of this development.
4. The critical assessment of the "National Recovery and Sustainability Plan" and the policy for the development of RES in Bulgaria.
5. The highlighted role of forests in the transition from a linear to a circular economy, through the identification of problems and solutions for the value creation of forest products.
6. Defined approaches and indicators for measuring and evaluating inclusive development of districts in Bulgaria.

Here should also be mentioned a study guide for the discipline "Tax System and Tax Policy", which synthesizes basic concepts and terms, and selects the main laws characterizing the national legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariya Kotseva-Tikova stands out as an established researcher, with contributions to national and international development, with renown in national and international scientific circles, which is evident from the Citation Reference submitted for the participation in the competition.

## **VII Conclusion**

The listed circumstances, facts and findings, the convincing achievements in the teaching and research activities of the candidate, 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) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

20.10.2022

Sofia

Signature:

(Prof. Dr.Sc.(Econ.) Nikola Valchev)