

OPINION

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Concerning the scientific papers submitted by the candidates for the Contest for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the professional field: 3.8 Economics (Macroeconomic Analysis and Policies, International Macroeconomics / in Bulgarian and English), announced in SG, issue. 52 of 02/07/2019

1 Contest information

This opinion was prepared in accordance with Order No. ПД-38-460 / 26.07.2019 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics, Minutes No. 06 of 25.06.2019. Two candidates (in alphabetical order) have submitted documents under the announced competition: Dimitar Georgiev Zlatinov and Pavel Todorov Stoynov.

2 Applicants Details

Dimitar Zlatinov holds bachelor’s degrees in Economics (Macroeconomics) and Management (Business Administration) from PA Paisii Hilendarski, obtained in 2009. He holds a master's degree in Economics, majoring in International Economic Relations (International Economics) from VTU "St. Cyril and Methodius" in 2010 and a master’s degree in Economics, majoring in Statistics and Financial Econometrics, from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2011. The candidate Dimitar Zlatinov acquired his doctoral degree in 2015 from the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. He had several specializations abroad, as well as internship programs at the BNB, the Ministry of Public Administration and Reforms and the municipality of Plovdiv. He has worked at the BNB and the Economic and Social Council. He is currently a Chief Assistant Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”- Faculty of Economics, Department of Economics.

Pavel Stoynov holds a master's degree in Mathematics from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" from 1996 and a master's degree in Computer Engineering from the Technical University (TU) - Sofia as of 1996. The candidate Pavel Stoynov has two doctoral degrees - in Economics, obtained from UNWE in 2017, and in Earth Sciences, obtained from the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2015. Pavel Stoynov is currently a Chief Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics and Econometrics at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where he has been working since 2000. He was a part-time assistant professor of mathematics at the TU-Sofia. As scientific interests, the candidate lists 25 areas of knowledge ranging from very wide limits (micro and macroeconomics; international relations; international politics; national and regional security; geography; tourism; mathematics; econometrics; computer engineering, etc.).

3 General Characteristics of the Research Activities of the candidates

In connection with the announced contest, both applicants submitted their scientific publications for review. Information about the publications is shown in the table below.

| Type of publication | Dimitar Zlatinov (# of publications) | | Pavel Stoynov (# of publications) | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Related to the contest | Not related to the contest | Related to the contest | Not related to the contest |
| Textbook | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Individual | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Co-authored | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monographs | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Individual | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Co-authored | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Periodicals | 12 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Studios | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Individual | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Co-authored | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Articles | 9 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Individual | 7 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Co-authored | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Conference papers | 3 | 0 | 2 | 14 |

Dimitar Zlatinov has presented a total of 20 scientific publications, of which 4 monographs, one textbook, 12 publications in periodicals and scientific series and 3 papers published in conference proceedings. All submissions are entirely on the subject of the competition and should be taken into account when preparing the opinion. The minimum quantitative requirements of the Faculty of Economics of the Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor are met.

The information provided by the candidate Pavel Stoynov does not allow to accurately assess which of the mentioned publications are related to the announced competition and accordingly to be taken into account when preparing the opinion. There are discrepancies in information across different files. The Applicant enclosed a documentation for meeting the minimum requirements in the file: Minimum Requirement 3 8.xls (with Annex 1 included) and separately submitted Annex 1 in the file Prilo 1 min iziskvaniq.doc with a list of publications included, but the two annexes differ significantly. The candidate's publications are also described in the file Publications DOC Stoynov.doc, as well as in the file Spravka Avtorite 07 2019.doc. There is another file that lists the submitted publications FEBA-KriteriiZalrastvane-Pavel Stoynov Docentura.doc, which also contains information about publications that differs from the previous ones. The information in the last cited file was used when compiling the table above, with no guarantee that this is the most relevant source, as there is also a Publications Stoynov 3 8 file.doc, which lists 15 publications but does not exactly match the ones in the previous file. There is another problem - in clause 3.2.3 of the quantitative requirements the same number of articles (15), bearing 150 points, is indicated, but this is not true. In fact, eight of these publications are from conferences and some of them have already been mentioned in another column of the reference. The vast majority of other publications are not directly related to the subject of the contest and should not be taken into account when preparing the opinion. There is reason to conclude that the quantitative requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" at the Faculty of Economics of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" were not fulfilled by the candidate Pavel Stoynov, at least with regard to item 3 "Scientific publications".

4 Assessment of candidates' pedagogical activity

Both candidates have a basic employment contract at the Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" and are engaged in teaching activities. The seminars and lectures of the candidate Dimitar Zlatinov completely cover the thematic direction of the contest. The candidate Pavel Stoynov is engaged in seminars and lectures mostly in the field of economic statistics and econometrics.

5 Basic scientific results and contributions

The following conclusions can be drawn from the attached candidate publications¹:

The scientific interests of the candidate Dimitar Zlatinov are in the field of macroeconomic analyzes and policies and international macroeconomics, which completely covers the subject of the contest. Contributing moments can be found both in theoretical and applied aspects, as well as in the educational process. Of interest is the modeling of the transmission mechanism of fiscal and monetary policy in the short and long term, taking into account the peculiarities of the currency board arrangement (CBA) and Bulgaria's EU membership. A noteworthy contribution is the further development of the approach of the fiscal and monetary policy indices in view of its applicability under the conditions of the CBA in Bulgaria, on which the methodology of the European Commission for calculating the structural budget balance has been supplemented. The possibilities for expanding the analytical applicability of the Mundell-Fleming model for studying the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policy under different currency regimes have been revealed, and the applicability of the model to the theoretical plan for analyzing the transmission mechanism of macroeconomic policies and their inherent effects has been demonstrated. Also contributing is the developed approach to forecasting net electricity exports from Bulgaria based on an empirical analysis of the factors affecting trade in this specific commodity.

Contributing points can be found in Pavel Stoynov's publications regarding the construction of applied models for valuation of financial instruments and derivatives, as well as for issues related to the processes of globalization and integration. Some scientific and applied results have been achieved in the study of the factors that determine the dynamics in the tourism sector. Candidate Pavel Stoynov may also claim some contributing points in the political and economic aspects of security, but they are too far from the professional direction of the contest.

6 Conclusion

The following conclusions can be drawn from a thorough examination of the documents submitted by the applicants:

1. The education, publications, quality and volume of the pedagogical activity of the candidate Dimitar Zlatinov clearly confirm that all the requirements of the law, as well as -the Rules for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and employment are fulfilled.

¹ It should be noted that only the candidate Dimitar Zlatinov has applied the text of all his publications, while the publications of the candidate Pavel Stoynov can only be judged by the attached summaries only.

2. The candidate Pavel Stoynov has the necessary qualification, but his scientific interests, publications, as well as his pedagogical activity do not correspond to the scientific profile of the contest. Not all quantitative criteria are met.

Based on the above conclusions, I suggest that the Scientific Jury select chief assistant professor **Dimitar Georgiev Zlatinov**, PhD, for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field: 3.8 Economics (Macroeconomic Analysis and Policies, International Macroeconomics / in Bulgarian and English /)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Yotzov', is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

October 20, 2019

Assoc. Prof Victor Yotzov, PhD