

(English translation)

## REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. George Dimitrov Mengov

For the competition procedure for the position of Associate Professor in the field

3.7 Administration and Governance (Modelling and Forecasting in Governance)

Announced by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski in the State Gazette, issue 52/02.07.2019

**This Review follows** Order # RD38-461/26.07.2019 of the Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

### 1. General Points

Two candidates have submitted their documents for this competition procedure: (1) Dr. Angel Angelov Marchev, Associate Professor at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE), and (2) Dr. Pavel Todorov Stoyanov, Major Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA) of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

The candidate Dr. Angel Marchev's portfolio shows that he holds the title Doctor in Social Governance after defending a dissertation entitled "Selection of models for investment portfolio management (The case of the Bulgarian Stock Exchange)" in 2011 at UNWE. He has worked as Assistant Professor (2005–2008), Senior Assistant Professor (2008–2010), Major Assistant Professor (2010–2016), and Associate Professor (2016–), in the Management Department at UNWE. Dr. Marchev teaches a number of core academic courses at UNWE in Bulgarian and English, all of them relevant for the current competition procedure at Sofia University.

The candidate Dr. Pavel Stoyanov holds the title Doctor of Economics and Governance (Defense and Security) after defending a dissertation entitled "Improvement of the risk analysis from floods" in 2017 in UNWE. His CV shows that he has been part-time lecturer (1992–2000) in Mathematics at Sofia University and at Technical University – Sofia, and in 2000 has become Assistant Professor at FEBA, Sofia University, a position he holds to this day. He has submitted a Certificate #198/06.08.2019 issued by the HR Division at Sofia University showing that he is currently Major Assistant Professor in the Statistics and Econometrics Department. In addition, he holds another doctorate in the field of Geosciences (Geography of Tourism and Recreation) for his dissertation "Current state and development of the health tourism in Bulgaria", defended in 2015 at the Faculty of Geology and Geography of Sofia University.

## **2. Publications and Citations**

The candidate Dr. Angel Marchev has produced a list showing him to be the author and co-author of 50 scientific publications in total. For the present competition procedure he has submitted 16 of them, which can be described as follows: two research monographs in the Bulgarian language, one of which is based on his doctoral dissertation; one higher education textbook; five scientific articles in English visible in the world-know databases Web of Science and Scopus; three scientific papers in English, published in academic series of different East European universities; five scientific papers published in academic series of Bulgarian universities, mostly UNWE. The candidate has provided a list of citations showing that two of his works have been cited in 10 publications by other scientists.

The candidate Dr. Pavel Stoynov has produced a list showing him to be the author and co-author of 70 scientific publications, three manuals and two monographs. Most of them are written in Bulgarian or English, and one is a coauthored publication in Russian. For the present competition procedure he has submitted 15 publications. He has offered a separate list containing 48 publications and 3 manuals entitled “*Pavel Stoynov’s publications (without counting the publications linked with the doctoral degree)*”. In electronic form (a CD) he has submitted a document, “*Author’s Statement about the scientific contributions of Pavel Todorov Stoynov for participation in the competition procedure for the academic position Associate Professor in the scientific field 3.7 Administration and Governance (Modelling and Forecasting in Governance) at FEBA, announcement in the State Gazette issue 52/02.07.2019*”, in which he has enlisted only nine of his publications. In printed paper he has submitted another *Statement* with identical name but different content, in which there are 15 publications enlisted. The candidate has submitted a *Citations Statement* showing that two of his works have been cited twice in publications by other scientists. In his *Statement* about how he achieves the minimal national requirements he has put 5 citations without giving further detail.

## **3. Description of the two candidates’ research**

In his *Statement*, Dr. Angel Marchev has enlisted 13 claims for scientific contributions, which could be summarized as follows: (1) Development and investigation of the properties of investor and investor portfolio models alongside their implementation in algorithms for software applications; (2) A methodology for empirical comparative assessment of those models and portfolios, as well as algorithmic procedures for intelligent automated switching among them; (3) A new formulation of the portfolio management problem from the point of view of the theory of cybernetics; (4) Developing a new stock exchange index, an alternative to the existing ones. I find these scientific achievements to be interesting and, as a whole, sufficient for obtaining the academic position Associate Professor at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

The candidate Dr. Pavel Stoynov has formulated the following claims for scientific contributions: (1) “Developed applied models for assessment of financial instruments and derivatives, as well as for studying market and credit risk”; (2) “Applied research has been conducted on the

supply and demand in tourism”; (3) “Research has been conducted on the political and economic aspects of globalization and integration”; (4) “Research has been conducted on the political and economic aspects of security”. These claims are formulated way too succinctly but, taken together with the abstracts of the relevant publications, can be accepted as sufficient for obtaining the academic position Associate Professor at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

I conclude that both candidates have conducted interesting scientific research, which in neither case is pioneering, yet certain interesting results have been achieved.

#### **4. Teaching activities of the two candidates**

The candidate Dr. Angel Marchev has significant teaching experience that can be described as academic courses in the field of management and governance, taught by him in Bulgarian and English. It is noticeable that a substantial component in them comprise quantitative methods and computer modelling, which makes them look serious and state-of-the-art. The candidate is well known for his innovative teaching methods, which cover simulation business games and involve large groups of students. Dr. Marchev is supervising a number of doctoral students at UNWE. In the course of two consecutive scientific conferences I was able to observe first-hand how he worked with them and was pleased to witness how two of his doctoral students rapidly developed their research skills in the span of only a year. I was convinced that Dr. Marchev is indeed a serious and thorough lecturer and research supervisor.

The candidate Dr. Pavel Stoykov has many years of experience teaching Statistics at FEBA. I am aware that the students and professors at FEBA think ambivalently about his teaching activity. Yet, on one occasion during a meeting of our Faculty Council I supported the introduction of a new course proposed by him in the field of Artificial Intelligence – it was going to be an elective course for doctoral students. My support was founded on a publication of his in a related area that I had seen in a serious international mathematical journal. At the same time, over the last ten years in discussions with the former three consecutive deans, and also with colleagues, and students I have come to the conclusion that in the bachelor and master programmes at the Faculty the quality of Dr. Stoykov’s teaching is substandard.

#### **5. Achievement of the minimal national requirements for the academic position Associate Professor**

##### Information about the candidate Dr. Angel Marchev

Dr. Marchev has submitted a Statement and supporting material that show him to meet the minimal national requirements described in the Bylaws (*Pravilnik*) for implementation of the Law for Development of the Academics in the Republic of Bulgaria (updated and published in the State Gazette issue 15/19.02.2019, Table 1, Field 3: Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, 3.7. Administration and Governance). In particular, he has accumulated the necessary 150 points for

Index1, Index2, and Index 3 from the ABV group by possessing the title Doctor (50 points) and having presented a ‘habilitation’ monograph (100 points).

The Bylaws for implementation of the Law for Development of the Academics in the Republic of Bulgaria demand that each candidate should have gathered from publications at least 200 points for the rank of Associate Professor (Group G, Index4–Index10). Dr. Marchev has filled the relevant Form, which shows that he requested a total of 200 points for 12 of his publications, related to the competition procedure. I believe the request to be fair, i.e., each publication is adequately assessed and the sum is correctly computed.

Next, the Bylaws (State Gazette issue 15/19.02.2019), group D (Index11, Index12, and Index13), demand that each candidate should have at least 50 points collected from citations in other people’s scientific publications. The relevant Excel Table Form submitted by the candidate shows that he requested 50 points collected due to 10 citations of his publications. The computations are correct and therefore Dr. Marchev has achieved the needed metrics to meet the demands.

#### Information about the candidate Dr. Pavel Stoynov

Dr. Stoynov has submitted a statement about his achievements with regard to the minimal national requirements described in the *Bylaws (Pravilnik) for implementation of the Law for Development of the Academics in the Republic of Bulgaria (updated and published in the State Gazette issue 15/19.02.2019, Table 1, Field 3: Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, 3.7. Administration and Governance)*. He meets the demands for Group A (Index1) because he holds the doctoral degree (50 points). Group V (Index3) demands a ‘habilitation’ monograph (100 points). Here I have the following considerations. In electronic form the candidate has not supplied any of his works as full text with the necessary logos, showing unequivocally the veracity of the publications.

Dr. Stoynov has submitted in printed paper four monographs, of which he has put three in Group V (Index3) and Group G (Index4 and Index5). But according to the *Law for Development of the Academics in the Republic of Bulgaria (Additional Regulations, §1 (10), State Gazette issue 30/2018, in force since 05.05.2018)*:

*“A monograph is a scholarly work which neither repeats nor summarizes existing scientific knowledge; has scientific editor and/or scientific reviewers; has ISBN; and consists of no less than 100 standard pages with 1800 symbols per page. Its content is detailed, it has exhaustive bibliography, and its text contains citations of other publications.”*

Not a single book submitted by Dr. Pavel Stoynov in the competition procedure contains names of scientific editors or reviewers. Formally therefore, these texts express their author’s personal opinions, which have not been subjected to scientific assessment by the academic community and cannot be considered as monographs. At the same time two of them comprise the full text of his two doctoral dissertations. Based on the fact that the latter two have been subjected to review by two

scientific juries, each producing in writing two reviews and five reviewer opinions, I accept one of them to be “*A published monograph based on a successfully defended doctoral dissertation*”. This is a partial fulfillment of demand of Group G, Index5 because it brings 75 points according to the Bylaws. I accept the other dissertation in book-covers as fulfilling the requirement by Group V (Index3) for ‘habilitation’ monograph (100 points).

Therefore, Dr. Stoynov meets the demands by Groups A, B, and V by accumulating the necessary 150 points. For Group G 200 points are needed, of which he can thus far be granted 75 (see above). I accept his claim on 150 points from the 15 publications, submitted for the competition procedure. Finally, the candidate can be granted a total of 225 points and therefore he fulfills the necessary minimal requirements.

The candidate has put 5 as a claim for the number of his citations in the Excel table for Group D (Index11, Index12, Index13). However, he has submitted a written statement signed by hand, showing only two citations (a total of 30 points while 50 are necessary). With the understanding that the candidate is entitled to an objective assessment of his real achievements, I conducted a search in Google Scholar and found a total of four citations (without self-citations) of the candidate’s works in world-known scholarly databases. The latest of them was in a publication from April 2019. They all carry 60 points in total and therefore the candidate meets the minimal requirements of 50 points.

## **6. Criticisms and Recommendations**

### On the candidature of Dr. Angel Marchev

I can recommend that Dr. Angel Marchev should make his widespread scientific activity more focused by publishing more often in respected international venues of high caliber in terms of science metrics. He possesses all the needed qualities to do so. I can accept for information some statements in his submitted documents, such as described below: (1) His diplomas for bachelor and master degree state that he is a citizen of the Republic of Bulgaria, while in his CV he claims to be of “Nationality: Planet Earth”. (2) His claims on foreign language command are composed of English, Russian, and German to varying degrees, as well as basic level (A1) of “Slavic languages”. The latter appears to be overrated because those languages are not less than 10 in number.

### On the candidature of Dr. Pavel Stoynov

The documents and supporting materials submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition procedure are prepared and presented carelessly and unprofessionally. The following more substantial criticisms may be formulated about them:

1. The documents and materials submitted in electronic form do not contain the full texts of his scientific publications.
2. Some of his statements about fulfillment of the minimal national requirements are composed of claims, significantly diverging from the supporting materials presented.

3. His Author's Statement with claims about scientific contributions – as submitted in electronic form – is much different from the Statement with identical name submitted on paper. Both are based on a different number of publications (9 and 15 respectively) and the formulations of contribution claims are slightly different. The shorter version is essentially inadequate in presenting the candidate's actual claims for contributions.
4. The data on the citations of his publications are inadequate.
5. His Statement with regard to article 112 point 2 from the *Bylaws of Sofia University about the competition procedures for academic positions* is composed of claims, for most of which no evidence is given. For example, one claim is that the candidate has “reviewed several hundreds of scientific papers in Mathreview and Zentralblatt”. In Bulgarian he has coined a new verb instead of the normal one for “to review” which indicates his lack of knowledge of a basic professional term in his native language. On the other hand, I must say that it is quite possible that Dr. Stoynov has indeed done that enormous amount of work as a reviewer. All the same, he should be aware that all serious journals publish lists with the names of their anonymous reviewers annually, and those who do not, can issue separate certificates. In his documents, not a single one has been submitted.
6. In the same Statement he does not offer evidence (the usual certificate from the Faculty's Students Department) that he has indeed supervised the masters' students as he claims.
7. He has not submitted the Syllabi of the courses he claims to have developed.
8. He does not offer any evidence for participation in the projects he claims to have worked on.
9. No evidence is present for the claims about two Erasmus+ lectures in foreign universities.
10. Article 107 point 1 from the *Bylaws of Sofia University about the competition procedures for academic positions* demands that “*All abstracts of scientific publications for the competition procedure must be submitted in one document both in Bulgarian and in another language common in the academic community*”. The candidate has submitted his abstracts in one language only, Bulgarian or English.

## **7. Conclusion**

The candidate for Associate Professor in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Dr. Angel Marchev, Associate Professor at UNWE, fulfills all the requirements for this position. He has enough materials meeting the minimal national requirements. He has specialized for various periods of time in universities and research centres in the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the well-known Institute for Small and Medium-sized companies of the Ministry for the Economy of The Netherlands. He has been visiting lecturer twice for extended periods in the Department of Project Management of the Technological Education

Institute of Larissa, Greece. He is a member of a number of scientific and professional organizations such as IEEE, the Data Science Society, ABLE, etc. He is the recipient of two achievement awards for student creativity and has been nominated several times for awards at the national level. His experience in university, national, and international scientific projects is extensive.

The candidate for Associate Professor in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA) of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Dr. Pavel Stoynov, Major Assistant Professor, also fulfills all the minimal national requirements for this position. He has versatile scientific interests, strong mathematical background, and various activities adding to his academic work. He has taken part in several scientific and applied projects of FEBA. He holds membership in two professional organizations.

Realistically speaking, the two candidates' scientific results are quite similar in value. Their candidatures, however, in my opinion differ significantly in two other aspects. Dr. Angel Marchev has stated his case quite convincingly and has made it obvious that if elected as Associate Professor, he would contribute substantially to the achievements of Sofia University's Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. Dr. Pavel Stoynov, on the other hand, has submitted a portfolio full of omissions and discrepancies leaving the impression of an approach not professional enough. Secondly, Dr. Marchev appears to be a lecturer with significant professional skills. I cannot say the same about Dr. Pavel Stoynov.

All of the above gives me enough ground to prefer and support the candidature of Dr. Angel Marchev for Associate Professor at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. I suggest that we as Scientific Jury fulfill the requirement of Article 113 (1) from the *Bylaws of Sofia University about the competition procedures for academic positions at Sofia University* and rank the candidates in the following way:

1. Dr. Angel Angelov Marchev
2. Dr. Pavel Todorov Stoynov.

I suggest that we recommend to the Faculty Council to elect Dr. Angel Marchev as Associate Professor at Sofia University.

Sofia, 21 October 2019.

Member of the Scientific Jury:



Prof. Dr. George Mengov