

## **OPINION**

**by competition to hold an academic position**

**" Professor"**

**in professional direction 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics,**

**professional direction 4.6 Informatics and Computer Sciences**

**(e-government and e-business - in Bulgarian and English)**

**for the needs of the Department of "Statistics and Econometrics " at the Faculty of**

**Economics,**

**announced in SG no. 86 of 2023 and on the websites of Faculty of Economics and SU**

The opinion was prepared by: Prof. Dr. Sylvia Hristova Ilieva, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics and Institute GATE, in my capacity member of the scientific jury for professional direction 4.6 Informatics and Computer Sciences (e-government and e-business - in Bulgarian and English) the competition according to Order ПД 38-622/20.11.23 of the Rector of Sofia University.

**Only one candidate** has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

Associate Professor Dr. Kamen Boyanov Spasov from the Faculty of Economics of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

### **I. General description of the presented materials**

#### **1. Application details**

The documents submitted by the candidate in the competition correspond to the requirements of the ŽRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" (PURPNSZADSU). According to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in R.B. for professional direction 4.6 "Informatics and computer sciences", the minimum number of points for holding the position of "professor" is 600. According to all scientometrics' indicators, the number of points of the candidate exceeds the required minimum, and the total number of points is 1021.

To participate in the competition, the candidate Associate Professor Dr. Kamen Boyanov Spasov has presented a total of 16 publications in English, of which 7 are habilitation theses, all indexed in Scopus, Web of Science or in both, in Bulgarian and foreign scientific publications and scientific forums; 3 books in which he is a co-author; co-author of 2 textbooks. Scopus reference shows total number of indexed publications 29,

number of citations – 69, Hirsch index – 5. Web of Science reference shows total number of indexed publications 21, number of citations – 37, Hirsch index – 4

A total of 30 other documents (in the form of official notes and certificates from an employer, project manager, funding organization or project contractor, references and testimonials, awards and certificates for teaching at universities abroad) supporting the applicant's achievements are also presented.

The candidate has submitted 10 certificates for short-term specializations, courses and training related to increasing his professional qualifications.

Associate Professor Dr. Kamen Boyanov Spasov at FMI was the supervisor of a successfully defended PhD student, registered at NACID, who worked as a part-time lecturer before at FMI, and currently at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. The candidate is currently the supervisor of 3 PhD students in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. Associate Professor Dr. Spasov has been the academic supervisor of over 130 master's degree graduates.

The submitted documents meet all requirements and provide maximum information about the candidate's publications and contributions.

According to Art. 1a, para. 1 of the PPRASRB, the candidates for the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 4.6 "Informatics and Computer Science" must have accumulated: 50 points per group of indicators A; at least 100 points per group of indicators B; at least 200 points per group of indicators Γ; at least 50 points per group of indicators Δ; at least 150 points per group of indicators E. According to the submitted documents, the candidate for the competition covers: 50 points per group of indicators A; 216 points per group of indicators B; 327 points per group of indicators Γ; 192 points per group of indicators Δ; 236 points per group of indicators E. The total number of points in groups of indicators A, B, Γ, Δ and E is 1021, which significantly exceeded the minimum national requirements.

## **2. Applicant data**

The candidate begins his scientific and teaching career at the Technical University of Kyiv (VKHTI), where he defends his doctoral dissertation (from VAK). After that, he gained experience in national and foreign companies and organizations in Bulgaria and the USA. After 2002, his official duties and his scientific interests are related to the development of electronic government in Bulgaria. The applicant's business education (MBA – International Business) was obtained at the Wirtschaftsuniversität (WU) Wien, Austria and Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina, Columbia, USA. He specialized in Government CIO at the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity & Promotion – KADO, Seoul.

In 2003, he developed and started leading a course on Customer Relationship Management as a part-time lecturer at FMI. In 2009, he became an associate professor at FMI, where he is the head of the Master Program "Electronic Business and Electronic Management" and the Master Program "e-Business with English Language Teaching". Since 2019, he is an associate professor at the Faculty of Economics, where he is head of the Master Program "Management Information Systems with English Language Teaching", which in 2023 was accredited by AMBA as MBA-MIS.

### **3. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific works and achievements**

The candidate works and has presented publications in the following subject areas of the competition:

- Theory of electronic control
- Applied aspects of e-governance
- Electronic management on the Internet and social networks
- Information security
- Optimization of transport
- Training in e-governance and e-business

The scientific works submitted for the competition meet the minimum national requirements (according to Article 2b, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the RSARB) and, accordingly, the additional requirements of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for occupying the academic position of "professor" in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition. Fifteen of the sixteen publications submitted for participation in the competition are indexed in Scopus and/or the Web of Science.

The scientific works presented by the candidate do not repeat those from previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title and academic position.

No plagiarism was found in the scientific works submitted for the competition.

### **4. Characteristics and assessment of the candidate's teaching activity**

Associate Professor Dr. Kamen Spasov has teaching experience at all three levels of study at the university - bachelor's, master's, doctor's.

The candidate actively participates in the scientific life and organizational activities of FMI and Faculty of Economics.

The candidate has numerous participations with reports in international conferences and other scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad. He was a member of scientific committees of conferences and a reviewer.

The candidate has participated in 4 Bulgarian and 2 international scientific projects. He led 2 international scientific projects.

Students have a positive attitude towards his teaching activities. His work with students in the master's programs is partially reflected in joint scientific publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science.

### **5. Analysis of the applicant's scientific and scientific-applied achievements contained in the materials for participation in the competition**

The candidate's scientific works are on the subject of the competition, in well-known scientific conferences or scientific journals. The main nature of scientific works is related to enrichment of existing knowledge and application of scientific achievements in practice.

Scientific contributions are the candidate's work and can be counted as creating new architectures, models, methods, technologies and obtaining confirmatory facts and applied results.

The candidate is an internationally known and recognized scientist (Scopus h-index=5, WoS h-index=4), whose scientific achievements are known, significant and cited (Scopus – 69 citations, WoS – 37 citations,

Google Scholar – 298 citations). Some of the developments regarding e-government are relevant to other countries.

I accept the presented scientific and scientific-applied contributions of Associate Professor Dr. Kamen Boyanov Spasov. Based on the analysis of the provided materials, it can be summarized that the scientific contribution of the candidate in the identified areas is relevant and significant, leading to new knowledge and expanding existing knowledge in the field. The above gives me a reason to recognize Associate Professor Dr. Kamen Boyanov Spasov as a successful and competent researcher.

## **6. Critical notes and recommendations**

I have no significant critical remarks on the materials of the competition and the scientific publications of the candidate. I would recommend Associate Professor Dr. Kamen Spasov to transfer his experience and knowledge to more PhD and young researchers.

## **7. Personal impressions of the candidate**

I have known the candidate for over 20 years. I have excellent personal impressions from professionalism, deepness and initiative in his work. He possesses all the necessary personal and professional qualities to hold the position of professor.

## **8. Application conclusion**

After having familiarized myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and based on the analysis of their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, **I confirm** that the scientific achievements meet the requirements of ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application and the relevant Regulations of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the candidate to occupy the academic position of "professor" in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition.

The candidate exceeds the minimum national requirements in the professional direction and no plagiarism has been found in the scientific works submitted for the competition.

I give my **positive** assessment of the application.

## **II . GENERAL CONCLUSION**

Based on the above, **I recommend** the scientific jury to propose to the competent authority for the selection of the Faculty of Economics at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" to elect Assoc. prof. Dr. Kamen Boyanov Spasov to occupy the academic position of "professor" in professional direction 4.6 Informatics and computer sciences (electronic management and electronic business - in Bulgarian and English).

03.01.2024

Prepared the opinion : .....

(Prof. Dr. Sylvia Hristova Ilieva)