

## SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

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Professional Field 3.8. Economics  
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Subject: scientific contest for occupying the academic position "Professor" in Professional Field 3.8. Economics (Microeconomics, macroeconomics, and International economics in Bulgarian and in French language) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

### **1. Information about the scientific contest**

The contest was announced for the needs of the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Sofia University and it is published in the official State Gazette, no. 30 of 15/04/2022. I participate in the composition of the scientific jury for the contest according to Order RD 38-272/06/06/2022 of The Rector of Sofia University "St. Clement Ohridski" (further SU).

### **2. Information about the candidates in the scientific contest**

There is only one person participating in the contest – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Petrova Ivanova. She has submitted for the contest a set of materials, including the following documents:

- CV
- Higher education diploma
- Diploma for educational and scientific degree "doctor"
- Document for holding an academic position
- Certificate of work experience in the relevant field
- Documents proving the fulfillment of the requirements under Art. 115, para. 1, item 2 of The Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

- Medical certificate certifying mental and physical health
- Certificate of criminal record, certifying the absence of an imposed penalty "deprivation of the right to exercise a certain profession or activity"
- List of publications, inventions and other scientific and applied results:
  - a/ a list of all publications
  - b/ list of publications submitted for participation in the scientific contest
- Sample reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the relevant scientific field and the additional requirements of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", to which the necessary evidence and declaration according to the model are attached (in the cases of Article 115, paragraph 1, item 5 a) and b))
- Citation reference with full bibliographic description of cited and citing publications
- A reference to the original scientific contributions
- Reference for the indicators under Art. 122, para. 2 of The Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"
- Copies of the publications submitted for participation in the scientific contest
- Summaries of peer-reviewed publications in Bulgarian and in one of the languages traditionally used in the relevant scientific field
- Copy of the advertisement in the State Gazette

Vanya Ivanova is currently an associate professor at the Department of Economics of the University for National and World Economy (UNWE), where she teaches courses in Basics of Economics Theory, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Economics, Applied International Economics, Economy of the European Union in bachelor's and master's programs, and also in distance learning format. In addition, she has teaching experience at the International Banking Institute, at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, at the Burgas Free University. She is also a part-time teacher at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has a doctoral degree with a dissertation on topic "Essence and features of building the European monetary union", defended in the UNWE. She has a master's degree in European sciences from the Master 's program

“European economic integration” at the European university center at University Nancy II, France. Her bachelor's degree is earned from the UNWE.

In addition to the rich teaching experience, Associate Professor Ivanova has specializations in authoritative universities in Switzerland, Italy, France, Russia and other countries, as well as a number of participations in research and educational projects.

### **3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position**

Prof. Ivanova participates in the scientific contest with an impressive academic output. The list submitted for the scientific contest includes the following publications of hers as author or co-author – 2 monographs, 6 studies, 9 articles, 5 book chapters, 10 reports, 4 textbooks and 4 study manuals. The publications are in three languages - Bulgarian, English and French and are issued by authoritative academic publishing houses and periodicals. Copies of these are presented in the contest documentation.

In addition, in the documentation for the contest, evidences are presented for the indicators of Art. 122, para. 2 of The Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". These include certificates for participation in international, national and university scientific projects - 6 pieces, certificates for scientific supervision of PhD students, certificates for teaching workload – lectures in bachelor's and master's degree programs in Bulgarian language, and lectures in bachelor's and master's degree programs in French language – 3 pcs .

Based on the above publications, as well as on the other documents submitted for the contest, and according to the applicable scientometric indicators, Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has 1430.6 points. Thus, she meets the minimum national requirements by Art . 2b of The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the additional requirements, according to Art. 115 of the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". This is also reflected in Protocol 1/22.06.2022 from the first meeting of the scientific jury.

### **4. Assessment of teaching and learning activities**

From the information in Section 2, it can be seen that Associate Professor Ivanova has extensive teaching experience in various higher education institutions,

including as a part-time teacher at SU. The scientific research field and the disciplines taught by her correspond fully to the field of the competition. Also, the master's degree from the University of Nancy II and the command of the French language correspond to the linguistic specificity of the present contest. This gives me reason to consider that she has the necessary academic competence and experience to occupy the academic position of "professor".

### **5. General characteristics of the presented scientific works/publications**

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova's scientific activity definitely makes a very good impression. Her publications are dedicated to some of the most important contemporary problems of the Bulgarian economy. The methodology used is adequate and meets accepted scientific standards, the bibliography is modern and rich.

In general, the scientific publications with which Assoc. Prof. Ivanova participates in the scientific contest can be divided into three groups. The first two of them consist of publications focused on the areas "Sustainable Development" and "Problems of the Banking Sector". On the other hand, the published textbooks and teaching manuals are in the field of "International Economics".

Most of the scientific publications are in the field of sustainable development. The relevance of this area is without any doubt - it is of existential importance for the economic development both in international and national aspects. Author's two monographs (No. 1, 2)<sup>1</sup> are in this area. They synthesize a large part of the problems investigated by the author in this field. In the first monograph - "The circular economy - between the necessary and the possible", Assoc. Prof. Ivanova is a sole author. It is the first one in Bulgaria monograph which examines in a so comprehensive and detailed way the problems of the circular economy.

Merit of the author is the interpretation and exposition in a proper logical framework extensive material on the problems of efficient use of scarce resources. Based on the adopted indicators for circularity, the monograph analyzes the state and development trends of the Bulgarian economy, identifies the problems of the desired transformation and proposes measures and recommendations for stimulating the transition to a model of circular economy creating new jobs and sources of income in order these to turn into an engine of environmentally friendly economic growth.

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<sup>1</sup> The numbering is from the presented list of publications for participation in the contest.

In the second presented monograph - "Opportunities of the "green economy" in Bulgaria and formation of a model of socio-ecological development" Assoc. Prof. Ivanova is a co-author. In this piece of research the analysis is focused on the necessity and potential for development of a green economy in Bulgaria. In its first part, the need for a new type of economic growth is justified from a macroeconomic point of view in the long run as well as the required characteristics are presented of a new socio-ecological model of economic development which must be consistent with the new realities of the XXI century. The second part of the monograph explores the potential of different industries in Bulgaria which have already developed or have the potential to develop green economy.

As highlighted above, most of Prof. Ivanova's publications are in the field of sustainable development. In various of her studies (Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7), articles (Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16), monograph chapters (17, 19, 20, 21) and reports from scientific conferences (23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32) practically all aspects of sustainable development have been studied. A very wide range of issues has been analyzed, including the entire spectrum of participants in the economic system - from the government, through companies, to higher education. The problems of environmental fiscal policy, corporate social responsibility, the need for a "green" transformation and the creation of "green" jobs, as well as the necessary reforms in higher education in the EU in order to realize the "green" transformation, were examined.

Fewer publications are presented in the second area - the problems of the banking sector. But that doesn't make them any less valuable. One study (No. 8), one collective monograph chapter (No. 18), and one scientific conference report published in an edited volume (No. 22) are presented in this area. They analyze the convergent effects in the Bulgarian banking sector, as well as argue for the need for Bulgaria to be a member of the Banking Union.

## **6. Assessment of scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

In the publications of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova there are a number of scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions. Most of them are naturally in the field of sustainable development, given the general direction of her research activity precisely in this area. From the scientific-theoretical contributions, I would highlight the following:

- The theoretical argumentation for the necessity of a new model of economic growth in Bulgaria, based on the ecological transformation, resource use efficiency and sustainable development;
- The rationale for the transition to circular economy at the micro level, as a company strategy for generation of high added value, competitive advantages and positives external effects;
- The multifaceted and comprehensive analysis of the concept of circular economy in comparative aspect to other EU member states, analyzing the whole value chain - extraction or import of a resources, intermediate consumption, final consumption, recycling.

Among the scientific-applied contributions, I would distinguish the following:

- The proposed package with macroeconomic measures targeted at the improvement of policies for stimulating the development of green economy in Bulgaria, as well as the argumentation and clarification of the role of the state in such a process;
- The apparatus for compliance analysis of the level of transition to circular economy, providing possibilities for identification of "narrow" places requiring concrete measures;
- The proposed system with indicators for measurement of macroeconomic effects of the green economy;
- The analysis of the impact of deepening the integration in the EU with specific focus on the Banking Union, investigating the potential conflicts related to Bulgaria's participation in the Banking Union, as well as the analysis of the benefits and costs of such accession for the Bulgarian banking system.

The methodological contributions in the educational publications of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova should also be taken into account. Given the nature of the present contest, these should also be noted, and here I would highlight the full range course materials in the field of International Economics.

## **7. Critical notes and recommendations**

I don't have any essential critical notes to the presented materials or more generally to the application of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova. I allow myself only the freedom to recommend her to continue forward with studying the problems of sustainable

development with same depth, even more so that the current situation of difficult supply of energy and food resources obviously poses new challenges to the structuring of the economic system.

## **8. Conclusion**

Based on the arguments presented above, as a summary, I believe that the teaching experience of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova, as well as the scientific contributions contained in her publications, meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and of the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB. The submitted materials for the scientific contest fully comply with the specific requirements of the Rules for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at SU "St. Clement Ohridski ". All this gives me reason to express my *positive assessment* of her candidacy and I recommend the members of the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Petrova Ivanova for the academic position of "Professor".

09.08.2022, Sofia

Signature:

(Prof. Dr. S. Petranov )