

# OPINION

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**Regarding:** Competition for the academic position of Professor in the professional field 3.8. Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and International Economics – in Bulgarian and French) for the needs of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Grounds for the opinion: Member of the Scientific Jury by Order RD 38- 272/06.06.2022, issued by the Rector of the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

## **Information about the competition and the candidate**

The competition is for the academic position of Professor in the professional field 3.8 Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and International Economics – in Bulgarian and French). The competition is announced in the State Gazette, issue 30/15.04.2022, for the needs of the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

Only the documents of Assoc. Prof. Vania Petrova Ivanova, PhD, have been received for participation in the competition.

The submitted documents have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova has a degree in Political Economy at the Karl Marx Institute of Higher Education, now the UNWE. She holds a Master's Degree in European Studies from the University of Nancy, France, and in 1997 defended her thesis on "The Concept and Features of the Construction of the European Monetary Union". Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova has been teaching various courses on microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, international finance, economic policies for sustainable development, economic and financial system of the EU, etc. in Bulgarian and French at the UNWE, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski, Burgas Free University, etc. She is also a well-known and respected lecturer in the French program of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Sofia University St. Kliment Kliment with experience since 2011 and currently. Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova has had numerous specializations abroad, directly related to upgrading competences for teaching and research.

Meeting the minimum national requirements under Article 26 of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria According to the report on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements under Article 26 of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in the professional field 3.8. Economics for the academic position Professor Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova, PhD exceeds the quantitative criteria.

Of specific interest is the list of publications related to the announced competition. The publications total 40 and are described as follows:

- 1 independent monograph (250 pp.) and 1 monograph co-authored with the text of Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova (135 pp.), which are directly related to current issues of the sustainability of the economic development today;
- 6 studies, referenced and indexed in well-known world databases with scientific information, that focus on the convergence process of the Bulgarian financial sector to the euro area;
- 8 articles aimed at broadening the topic of the circular economy and the opportunities and challenges for macroeconomic policy;
- 5 chapters from collective monographs focusing on the sectoral development of the Bulgarian economy, the prospects for the European Banking Union and specifically the potential of eco-fiscal policy;
- 11 papers from national scientific conferences and abroad, published in refereed journals, incl. Web of Science. Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova has examined various aspects related to the financial sector and the labour market, as well as economic policies for building an economic development model adequate to the current challenges.
- In addition, Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova presents 8 textbooks and teaching materials, of which she has contributed to 3 textbooks on international economics and 1 on macroeconomics, as well as 4 textbooks for self-study of the students on general economic theory.

There are numerous citations of the works of Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova, including 13 citations submitted to Scopus/Web of Science.

### **Evaluation of the scientific contributions of the candidate**

The contributions of Assoc. Prof. Vania Ivanova, PhD, to the competition for the academic position of Professor are defined in three directions – scientific-theoretical, scientific-applied and educational-methodological.

Among the more significant of them are:

#### *Contributions of scientific-theoretical nature*

- A new development model in Bulgaria, based on ecological transformation, resource efficiency and sustainability. The characteristics of the new socio-ecological model of development are derived with the leading component of ecological capital and opportunities for green growth (publications 2, 9, 11, 17).
- A conceptual framework for the analysis of the circular economy along the entire value chain: resource consumption, production, consumption, re-consumption, recycling, incl. in comparison to the rest of the EU countries; benefits of a transition from a linear to a circular model at the microeconomic and macroeconomic level (publications 1, 3, 7).
- Justification of the transition to circular economy as a company strategy for generating high added value, competitive advantages and positive external effects (publ. 1, 5, 15).

#### *Contributions of scientific-applied nature*

- Based on the identified barriers and obstacles in applying the circular economy model, a set of macroeconomic measures aimed at improving the policy for promoting the development of

a green economy in Bulgaria has been systematized, including: eco-fiscal reform, promotion of eco-innovations, reform of the educational system for the needs of "green jobs", integration of the green economy into the general macro-policy, development of national markets, support of SMEs operating in "green sectors", green entrepreneurship, etc. (publications 1, 2, 19, 21, 26).

- A system of possible indicators for measuring the macroeconomic effects of the green economy is outlined (publication 2).

- By means of an evaluation matrix, an overview of the conformity of the state of transition to a circular economy reached in Bulgaria at the moment was made, which allows to outline the "bottlenecks" and to propose specific measures to accelerate the transition to a new model (publ. 1).

- Through the indicators for measuring the state of the circular economy, an analysis is made of the Bulgarian economy in the transition to a circular one and in comparison with the EU. This enables conclusions and recommendations to the public authorities for policies to support the ecological transition (publications 1, 24, 32).

#### *Contributions of educational-methodological nature*

- One of the first textbooks in Bulgarian on the discipline "World Economy", which has undergone numerous editions and transformations (publications 33, 34, 35) – continuously adapted during many years of teaching. With the development of a teaching aid (publication 38), a complete set of teaching aids is offered that develop students' skills in analyzing and interpreting theory with real-world examples.

#### **Notes and recommendations**

The candidate's monographic works can be used as a means of establishing a modern way of teaching important economic disciplines. They could be expanded with case studies with application in the relevant topics of individual courses, which would significantly contribute to the understanding of the most current theoretical approaches by students in economic specialties in the country.

#### **Conclusion**

The scientific contributions of the candidate in the publications submitted for review in the competition, as well as the quality and volume of her pedagogical activity, give grounds for the conclusion that all the requirements of the law and the procedures for acquiring scientific degrees have been met. Vanya Petrova Ivanova exceeds the quantitative requirements for holding the academic position "professor" in the Faculty of Economics at Sofia University. I propose to the Scientific Jury to select Dr. Vanya Petrova Ivanova for the academic position of "Professor" in the competition in professional field 3.8 Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and International Economics - in Bulgarian and French), announced in the Official Gazette, no. 30/15/04/2022

Vania Petrova Ivanova, PhD, exceeds the

12 August 2022,  
Sofia

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