

OPINION

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Regarding: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.8. Economics (Custom regulations in international trade) for the needs of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Grounds for the opinion: Member of the Scientific Jury by virtue of Order RD 38-487/09.08.2022, 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 Associate Professor in the professional field 3.8 Economics (Custom regulations in international trade). The competition is announced in the State Gazette, issue 48/28.06.2022, 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 Chief Assistant Prof. Tzvetan Stefanov Madanski, PhD, have been received for the 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.

Mr. Tzvetan Madanski, PhD, graduated in Accounting and Control from the Karl Marx Institute of Economics, now the UNWE, where he also obtained a professional qualification in International Economic Relations in 2005. From 1991 to 2018 he has held various job positions, including at top level, in the customs system in Bulgaria and he has participated in international projects directly related to the work of the customs administration. In 2018, Mr. Madanski successfully defended his PhD thesis again in the field of customs that confirms his focused efforts and in-depth expertise in this specific area. Dr. Madanski has accumulated his extensive teaching experience as a lecturer at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar as

well as in the field of professional trainings. Dr. Tzvetan Madanski's extensive public activities include participation in various non-governmental organizations such as the Rotary Club. He is also a member of the Public Council of the National Library of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, the Development of Commercial Law Foundation, and the Chamber of Mineral Waters in the Republic of Bulgaria.

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 Associate Professor Chief Assistant Prof. Tzvetan Madanski, PhD, exceeds the quantitative criteria – with a minimum of 400 he has 550 points, including:

- Indicators of group A – PhD thesis – 50 points;
- Group B – habilitation thesis, monograph – 100 points;
- Group D – monograph, not presented as the main habilitation thesis, and publications (studies, papers, reports, etc.) in scientific journals of different rank and type – 275 points;
- Group E, citations and reviews in scientific publications – 100 points;

Dr. Madanski's focused research activity in the field of customs, which is supported by his extensive practical experience, is remarkable. For the participation in the competition, besides the three monographs presented (one of which is the defended PhD thesis), Dr. Madanski also presents 13 publications, among which 3 in Russian. 11 of his publications listed for the competition are prepared independently, which demonstrates Dr. Madanski's capacity and competence to investigate up-to-date issues of customs regulations in a comparative manner based on the practice of the European Union.

General characteristics of the presented scientific papers

A list of all 20 publications of Chief Assistant Prof. Tzvetan Madanski, PhD, is provided. One can get an overall view of both the scientific interests and the teaching and methodological work of the candidate for Associate Professor. I focus on the list of publications related to the announced competition as follows:

- 3 independent monographs, one of which is presented as a habilitation thesis, and one is the defended PhD thesis. The total volume of the three

monographs exceeds 600 pages. A chapter of monographic research in Russian is also presented.

In his habilitation thesis, Dr. Madanski pays special attention to the specificities of the import of goods in the EU that is the subject of his study. He examines the functional aspects of customs regulations as regards the import of goods into the EU and presents the practical application of the relevant customs procedures. The parameters of customs documentation are clarified in the monograph and the steps of bringing goods into the EU customs territory are also presented in detail. Dr. Madanski discusses the various methods of determining the customs value of goods and illustrates it with practical examples. The important issue of the prevention of customs fraud and the role of the customs authorities in this respect are also addressed. In a comparative perspective, the types of duties imposed by the World Trade Organisation and within the EU are presented, again supported by contemporary customs practice, which directly corresponds to the subject of the current competition. Dr. Madanski also examines the EU's foreign trade relations with China and the US. He comments on the specific factors affecting the EU's foreign trade when compared with leading partners in the world and as regards the trade agreements and arrangements of the European Union. The period of study is between 2015 and 2019, with a focus on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which undoubtedly gives a topical aspect to his research.

- 6 papers published by the Labour and Law Publishing House and 1 in a journal. All the publications are related to various aspects of the customs administration activity and the application of customs regulations in international trade.
- 2 scientific reports presented at international conferences in Russian, related to modern aspects of customs and the process of digitalization.

Beyond the scope of the competition, but included in the total list of publications, are the contributions of Dr. Madanski as an author of textbooks and teaching materials in the field of customs control, which are useful for students and serve in the process of their education, including in the Bachelor and Master courses at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Sofia University.

The scientific publications of Dr. Tzvetan Madanski fully coincide with the topic of the announced competition. The depth of the studies, their specificity and topicality correspond to the academic position of Associate Professor. The citation of Dr. Madanski's scientific papers, including 3 citations in the Scopus/Web of Science and

internationally indexed databases, also demonstrates the resonance of his research among the scientific community.

Evaluation of the scientific contributions of the candidate

Contributions of Chief Assistant Prof. Tzvetan Madanski, PhD, for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor are defined in three directions – theoretical, practical, and based on his expertise and experience in the customs administration in Bulgaria and in cooperation with partners abroad. From a theoretical point of view, Dr. Madanski studies the different aspects of the elaboration and implementation of customs regulations, with a special focus on the import of goods, EU trade policy, and the digitalization of customs activities. The methodological features of customs regimes and procedures and the aspects of their implementation, which are supported by concrete examples from the practice of customs administrations, are of practical application. The extensive administrative and practical experience of the candidate for Associate Professor is also reflected in his teaching activity, which is realized in developing the Master's program Customs and Tax Control at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Sofia University. Dr. Madanski teaches specific courses in EU tax and customs policy, customs regimes and procedures, customs control, and digitalization of customs activities.

The abovementioned contributions to the research and applied work of Dr. Madanski are reflected in the recommendations made for conducting foreign trade and customs policy in his research. The conclusions and assessments on the Bulgarian practice are linked to European and global trends, which allows the research of Dr. Madanski not to sound isolated and out of context.

Critical remarks and recommendations

I would like to make a recommendation to Dr. Madanski to expand his publication activity in refereed journals in indexed world databases, which will allow the extensive research in the field of customs of the candidate for Associate Professor to be popularized.

Regarding the documents submitted for the competition, I would like to note the lack of separation protocols for the two co-authored publications, as well as the lack of abstracts in Bulgarian and English for all the publications submitted for participation in the competition.

Conclusion

Chief Assistant Prof. Tzvetan Stefanov Madanski, PhD, exceeds the minimum national requirements for the academic position Associate Professor, and in terms of content, the subject matter and quality of the presented publications fully covers the field of the announced competition. Considering the extensive administrative experience of Dr. Madanski and his indisputable competence regarding the activities of the customs administration, which is reflected in the submitted publications and the developed teaching materials, I express my positive opinion Chief Assistant Prof. TZVETAN STEFANOV MADANSKI, PhD, to held the academic position of Associate Professor in the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

10 October 2022

Sofia

Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Zlatinov, PhD