STATEMENT

By: Associate Professor Angel Marchev, PhD, Department of Statistics and Econometrics, SF, SU

Regarding: concourse for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in professional direction 3.8 Economics (Risk management, e-governance and digital economy in Bulgarian and English), announced in SG, no. 24/17.03.2023 with a single candidate Assoc. Prof. D. Sc. Anton Gerunov.

1. **Brief information about the candidate in the competition**

I know the candidate from his many public appearances and successful business ventures. I also had the pleasure of being a member of the scientific jury for his habilitation and D.Sc. thesis. We have been colleagues at the Faculty of Economics of the SU for several years. I have also been a reviewer of his previous publications. Associate Professor Gerunov enjoys authority and respect among teachers and students at the Faculty, among non-governmental organizations and among specialists in empirical research in Bulgaria. His significant public presence in various state government bodies, work on important bills, successful innovative business and especially the publication of data sets of great public significance are highly appreciated. With his overall teaching, scientific and management activity, Anton Gerunov has established himself as a leading author, teacher and specialist.

2. **Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position**

For participation in the competition Assoc. Ph.D. Anton Gerunov presents one monograph (Gerunov, A. (2023). Risk Analysis for the Digital Age. Springer. ISBN: 978-3-031-18099-6), three chapters of collective monographs, five articles in Scopus, six articles in non - refereed peer-reviewed journals and two university textbooks. A large number of publications are devoted to diverse aspects of risk analysis, including current quantitative methods, diverse applications of business and investment risk analysis, human factors, and risk networks. The applicant's certificate of fulfillment of the minimum requirements shows that it exceeds by more than twice the total mandatory volume of points required by the Law to participate in a competition for the academic position of "professor", while exceeding all the specific requirements by section.

3. **Evaluation of the educational and teaching activity for the candidate**

Assoc. Ph.D. Anton Gerunov teaches disciplines in the field of data analysis, digital business strategies, management in a digital environment and economics, developed for "Bachelor", "Master" and "Doctor. Courses of study create new professional roles and competencies for students. All this shows excellent professional training, competence and scientific development, which are important professional arguments for his participation in this competition.

4.   **A brief description of the presented scientific works and publications**

The main contributions of the candidate, Prof. Gerunov, relate to the areas of risk analysis, behavioral economics, e-governance and the application of machine learning to economic problems.

In the field of risk analysis, the author contributes significantly to the understanding of digital and financial risks. For example, Gerunov proposes the use of a Markov model to determine the optimal number of alternative regimes in the study of digital phenomena and calculates risk premiums for alternative regimes in European financial markets (1). It also develops volume-adjusted risk metrics for cryptoassets, which is an innovative approach in the field (4).

In the field of behavioral economics, Gerunov, along with other researchers, conducted a remarkable experiment revealing the significant influence of online environments on economic decision-making and risk perception (3).

In the field of e-governance, Gerunov assesses the key success factors in the Bulgarian context, pointing to the importance of human resource development and the appropriate organizational context (6). He also proposes a methodology for implementing Privacy by Design principles in e-government systems (14), which is a significant contribution to the field.

In applications of machine self-learning, Gerunov tested the predictive accuracy of 109 different regression algorithms and identified two groups of methods that showed consistently high predictive accuracy (15). It also proposes a consensus approach to identify anomalous observations in e-commerce (9).

In addition, Gerunov's work includes contributions in the pedagogical field, as evidenced by his textbooks on finance, banking, and business analysis using R (19, 20).

Overall, Gerunov's work covers a wide range of fields, contributing significantly to the understanding and application of economic and computational models in various fields.

5.   **A synthesized assessment of the candidate's main scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

The comprehensive review of the presented scientific works of Assoc. Ph.D. Anton Gerunov shows a few basic things:

1.   The submitted scientific works of the candidate show his scientific development and excellent professional competence;

2.   Basic concepts from the theory of risk analysis have been further developed and substantially supplemented, such as: network models in the analysis, risk metrics, human factor, risk modeling algorithms.

3.   Approbations of current concepts in the field of risk management and psychological aspects of risk taking were carried out; aspects of digital transformation in business, etc.

6. **Main critical notes and recommendations to the candidate**

The scientific research and teaching activity of Assoc. Ph.D. Anton Gerunov have indisputable scientific and methodical merits. My main recommendation is mainly aimed at her future research - they could be focused on developing specific applications and tools to support and advise business organizations and thus strengthen the importance of the academy-business relationship.

This recommendation does not diminish my positive attitude and high assessment of the overall scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. D. Sc. Anton Gerunov and his active teaching activity.

7. **Conclusion**

Taking into account the professional qualities and scientific research of Assoc. Prof. D.Sc. Anton Gerunov, his participation in the implementation of a number of research projects, his interesting applied developments in the Theory of Risk, diverse teaching activities and administrative merits, I strongly recommend the Honorable members of the Scientific Jury to award the academic position of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Anton Gerunov.

28.07.2023, Sofia   Signature: ……………………………..

Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Angel Marchev, Jr.