

REVIEW

By: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boryana Bogdanova

with regard to the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. DSc. Anton Gerunov, part of an application for the academic position "Professor" in 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics (Risk management, e-government and digital economy in Bulgarian and English), published in SG, issue 24/17.03.2023.

The contest for the academic position “Professor” at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Department of Industrial Economics and Management, is published in the State Gazette issue 24/17.03.2023, as well as at the university web page. There is only one applicant in the contest – Assoc. Prof. DSc. Anton Gerunov, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Department of Industrial Economics and Management.

1. Brief overview of the application

In line with order № ПД-38-238 from 11.05.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (SU) I am appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the contest for the academic position of "Professor" in SU in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics (Risk management, e-government and digital economy in Bulgarian and English), announced in line with the requirements of the Department of Industrial Economics and Management at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration.

The only application in the academic contest is Assoc. Prof. DSc. Anton Gerunov.

The set of submitted documentation is in full compliance with the Regulations for Development of the Academic Staff of SU. The candidate, DSc. Gerunov, has submitted a total of 20 academic works, of which 1 monograph; 1 textbook and 1 handbook; 2 studies in indexed journals; 1 chapter of a collective monograph, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing; 2 chapters of a collective monograph, published by Sofia University; 5 papers, published in indexed journals, for 3 of them the applicant is the only author; 7 papers, published in peer reviewed journals, for all of them the applicant is the only author. The document set is well organized and complete and I have all the necessary details for delivery of a grounded conclusion.

2. Overview of candidate academic work and research contributions

Assessment of the teaching activities of the candidate

DSc. Gerunov is full time faculty member at Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, SU (FEBA) since 2013 and before 2013 he is part-time Assistant Professor. According to the attached documentation the candidate lectures as follows:

- Three BA courses at FEBA and at the Faculty of Philosophy.
- Five MSc courses at a number of FEBA MSc Programs.

According to the reports for in-class and out-of-class hours the applicant's activity exceeds significantly the academic requirements. The textbook and the handbook developed by DSc. Gerunov, indicates high quality in teaching and demonstrate his ability to translate involved theories and concepts to understandable level for the respective students.

Along with the academic experience, the candidate also has solid practical experience that allows him to illustrate theoretical concepts through the lens of the business thus enriching the lectures. Last but not least, DSc. Gerunov works actively as a supervisor for master and PhD theses development. One of his PhD students has been has already successfully defended their thesis.

Assessment of the research activities and contributions of the candidate

The application documents include 18 scientific works:

- habilitation monograph, published by Springer;
- 2 studies in indexed journals;
- 1 chapter of a collective monograph, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing;
- 2 chapters of a collective monograph, published by Sofia University;
- 5 papers, published in indexed journals, for 3 of them the applicant is the only author;
- 7 papers, published in peer reviewed journals, for all of them the applicant is the only author.

The habilitation monographic work "Risk Analysis for the Digital Age" has a volume of 252 pages, 242 of which are the main text, structured in an introduction, 6 chapters and concluding remarks. The monograph contains a number of original interdisciplinary contributions; it is organized within a well-structured framework; each chapter contains a detailed theoretical exhibition illustrated by empirical analysis of currently hot topics. The latter is interesting and provides useful insights to the end users.

Regarding the book chapters, studies, and papers, there are well-defined contributions in the following four research areas: risk management, digitalization, financial and crypto markets, consumer choice and decision-making. DSc. Gerunov demonstrates an excellent level of integration of data mining and knowledge extraction tools so as to provide deeper and better understanding of the issues under study.

Overall, I believe that the works of DSc. Gerunov provided to his application contain sufficient contributions in the respective research fields. The latter contain research questions of significant importance. Additional weight of the application is added by the recent citations of his papers. In addition, the applicant is project owner of three projects for internal grants of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

3. Personal impressions

I work together with DSc. Gerunov for many years and this gives me chance to evidence continuously the high quality of his academic work.

4. Remarks and recommendations

I have some remarks, yet they do not diminish in any way the applicant's contributions and achievements. In some of the papers, e.g. [17] and [18] it is not clear whether the presented figures are developed by the author. This issue is clarified in subsequent papers of the author. In some pairs of publications there is a voluminous text outlining similar concepts and results. I would recommend a more concise exhibition at the expense of increased (self-) citations.

5. Conclusion

The results of this review give me full reason to assign a positive assessment. Consequently, I recommend the Scientific Jury to submit a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of SU for the election of DSc. Anton Gerunov at the academic position of 'Professor' at SU in professional field 3.8. Economics (Risk management, e-government and digital economy in Bulgarian and English).

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