

**SOFIA UNIVERSITY „ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI“**  
**FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**R E V I E W**

by: *prof. Stanimir Ivanov Kabaivanov, PhD;*  
*Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski” – Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences; Scientific area 3.8 „Economics“*  
of: scientific papers and materials submitted for the open position of Professor in 3.8 Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International economics in Bulgarian and French);

***Grounds for the review:*** Order № ПД-38-272/06.06.2022

The open position for professor in economics have been published in State gazette 30 / 15.04.2022 as well as on the internet site of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. The sole applicant for the opening is Assoc. Prof. Vania Petrova Ivanova, University of National and World Economy – Sofia (UNWE), Department of Economics.

**1. General information on applications**

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific committee, reviewing applications for the position of Professor in Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International economics in Bulgarian and French) with order of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” № ПД-38-272 from 06.06.2022.

The sole applicant for the position – Assoc. Prof. Vania Petrova Ivanova, PhD has submitted scientific papers, documents and supplementary materials that fully comply with the national and internal regulations and requirements.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has submitted the following documents, all of which I have received in full:

1. CV;
2. BSc and MSc diploma as well as details on her studies;
3. PhD diploma and certificate for successfully defended thesis;
4. Documents certifying her current academic degree and position;

5. Certificate of work experience;
6. Documents proving the fulfillment of the requirements under Art. 115, para. 1, item 2 (official notes and certificates from an employer, project manager, funding organization or project assignor, references and testimonials, awards and other appropriate evidence at the applicant's discretion);
7. Medical certificate certifying mental and physical health – original;
8. Certificate of criminal record certifying the absence of an imposed penalty "deprivation of the right to exercise a certain profession or activity" – original;
9. List of publications, inventions and other scientific and applied results;
  - a/ list of all publications
  - b/ list of publications submitted for participation in the competition
10. 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));
11. Citation reference with full bibliographic description of cited and citing publications;
12. Reference to the original scientific contributions to which the relevant evidence is attached;
13. Reference for the indicators under Art. 122, para. 2 with appropriate evidence (with inventory and appendices);
14. Scientific papers submitted for the application, structured and numbered as specified by item 10b;
15. Summaries of peer-reviewed publications in Bulgarian and in one of the languages traditionally used in the relevant scientific field (in one document);
16. Copy of the opening announcement in the State Gazette.

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova, PhD has provided a list of 81 publications, of which 40 scientific papers are eligible for review: 6 studies (1 in Bulgarian and 5 in a foreign language); 2 monographs in Bulgarian; 5 book chapters; 9 articles (8 of which in a foreign language); 10 reports on scientific conferences; 8 textbooks and teaching guide books. All of the aforementioned publications are outside the scope of the PhD thesis of the applicant and have not been used for applications for other academic positions. This review will also cover the

attached 8 textbooks and teaching support materials, as well as available information on 6 research projects Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has taken part into.

All necessary references, declarations and documents certifying the applicant's contributions, her participation in various scientific forums, initiatives and practical developments are duly presented.

The full texts of the research papers, monographs and text books are available as electronic copies.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova's professional experience and scientific achievements significantly exceed the minimal reference values for the academic position of professor in 3.8 Economics, as set in the national legislation (Reference values are presented in Table 1).

Indicator group	Minimal value	Assoc. Prof. Ivanova
Group A	50	50
Group Б	-	-
Group B	100	100
Group Г	200	470
Group Д	100	610
Group E	100	200.6

**Table 1. Compliance with national requirements for the academic position of “Professor” in 3.8 Economics**

## **2. Brief introduction of the applicant**

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova defended her doctoral dissertation at UNWE (Thesis topic "Essence and peculiarities of the construction of the European monetary union") in 1997, and from the following year until now she has been a lecturer at the same university. Since 2006, she has also taken the position of an associate professor at the Department of Economics at the same university.

The academic experience of the applicant includes teaching a number of courses at Burgas Free University (1997-2003), Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (2015 - until now), Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (2009-2011 and since 2020), as well as at the International Banking Institute - Sofia (since 2004). Special mentioning deserves the fact that assoc. prof. Ivanova has six specializations at leading universities in Russia, Switzerland, Poland, Greece and France.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has extensive experience in administration of academic processes – she has been a vice-dean in teaching activities at her faculty, supervisor of BSc programme in “Economics” at UNWE – branch Haskovo, as well as leader and team member of several research projects.

### 3. General research review

General research and teaching activities review can be split into the following categories:

#### *Review of teaching activities*

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has a long and successful teaching career that includes developing academic courses for Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programmes in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and International Economics. It should be noted that her previous experience also involves teaches these courses in French and Bulgarian languages. I believe that the content of her academic courses complies in full with the requirements of the open position at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration.

From the attached documents and certificates, it can be seen that the applicant has supervised two PhD students, one of whom successfully defended his dissertation in 2012.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has provided evidence for taking part in two teaching mobility activities in France, during the past three years.

References for current academic employment point out that Assoc. Prof. Ivanova's workload has exceeded the minimum required number of teaching hours. Evidence has been presented of the applicant's participation as a member of five scientific committees at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration.

#### *Review of publications and scientific activities*

Table 2 provides a summary of research papers submitted for review. All of them have been correctly and fully described. One paper (#7) and one conference proceedings report (#32) are in print with certificates that confirm they have been accepted.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova's research interests can be summarized in the following categories:

- Green and circular economy (research papers # 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 27, 31 and 32).
- Macroeconomic policies for sustainable growth and development (research papers # 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 28, 29, 30).
- Industry and company transformations triggered by contemporary economic challenges (research papers # 16, 17, 22).

Type	Number	SCOPUS/WoS	Published in	
			Bulgaria	Abroad
Monographs	2	-	2	-

Studies	6	1	1	5
Articles	9	-	1	8
Monograph chapters	5	-	4	1
Conference proceedings papers	10	3	5	5
Textbooks	4	N/A	4	-
Study guides and support materials	4	N/A	4	-

**Table 2. Overview of submitted research papers**

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova's research is focused on contemporary problems with significant impact on the economy. Consistency, attention to details, use of adequate scientific models and tools, and desire to derive precise solutions and recommendations characterize her efforts.

*Review of contributions (scientific and applied) and citations*

Scientific efforts of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova have been noticed and attract attention of other researches. This is confirmed by the number of citations found (68 of them listed with the application). A significant number of citations are in Scopus and/or Web Of Science listed journals and proceedings (13). Out of 68 confirmed citations 13 are from foreign authors.

Submitted research papers contain original and important contributions. Special attention deserves the following:

- The model for sustainable economic development of Bulgaria, based on green transformation and efficient use of resources, developed in publications # 1, 2, 11 and 17.
- The suggested system of measures and indicators used to foster effective implementation of the circular economy model and to track its impact (publ. # 1, 2, 21, 24).
- The research on company transformations toward green and circular economy (publications # 1, 5, 15, 16, 22 и 25).

Yet another specific contribution that should be noted is related to Assoc. Prof. Ivanova efforts in developing a textbook in “International economics” (# 34) as well as the supplementary study books and teaching materials.

**4. Review of personal contribution of the applicant**

For all co-authored publications assoc. prof. Ivanova has provided completely filled and signed protocols indicating her contribution.

I have no reason to doubt the candidate's personal contribution in the submitted research papers and materials. No plagiarism has been detected.

## **5. Remarks and recommendations**

Academic experience and presented research papers testify to the deep and consistent scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova in micro- and macroeconomic problems in light of contemporary technological transformations and challenges. In this context, I would like to make the following recommendations:

- Contemporary issues related to the circular economy could be illustrated with the help of interactive methods and simulations. In my opinion, this will allow wider audience to benefit from Assoc. Prof. Ivanova efforts.

- Considering the fact that scientific results of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova are integrated in her course, it would be of great help for students to publish more online resources.

- I believe that the excellent language preparation of the applicant and the significance of the scientific results are a prerequisite for more publications to be submitted to high-impact journals, indexed in SCOPUS and/or Web Of Science.

## **6. Personal impressions**

I know Prof. Vanya Ivanova in person, due to our work at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Plovdiv University. Over the past years, she maintained an extremely high level of teaching, demonstrated a very correct, balanced and adequate attitude towards her students and colleagues. This is also confirmed by the high marks her work receives in regularly conducted surveys with students and lecturers.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Dr. Vanya Ivanova **meet in full** the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the relevant internal Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The applicant has submitted a significant number of scientific papers published after her PhD thesis defense and after her application for the position of "associate professor". The scientific results of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova contain original and important contributions that have received international recognition, confirmed by the substantial number of citations. The applicant's participation in scientific research projects, as well as her industry experience emphasize the fact that submitted scientific research has useful applications. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Prof. Dr. Vanya Ivanova are

undoubted and are confirmed by my personal impressions, from our joint efforts at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova educational and research achievements fully comply with all national requirements for occupying the academic position of "professor".

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and contributions, I give my firm **positive assessment** and recommend the Scientific Committee to submit a report-proposal to The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration for the election of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Petrova Ivanova to the academic position of "Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 3.8 Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and International economics in Bulgarian and French).

10.Aug.2022

Reviewer: .....

/ prof. Stanimir Kabaivanov, PhD /