

OPINION

by Prof. Virginia Ivanova Zhelyazkova, DSc, from
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of the materials submitted for participation in the competition
to occupy the academic position "professor"
in Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
in field of higher education "Social, economic and legal sciences"
3.8 Economics

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 30 of 15.04.2022 and on the website of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", as the only candidate participated Assoc. prof. Vanya Petrova Ivanova, PhD.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate/s

By Order RD 38-272/06.06.2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" I have been appointed member of the scientific jury according to the announced procedure for the occupation of the academic position of "professor" in professional field 3.8. Economics (Microeconomics, macroeconomics and international economics in Bulgarian and French Languages). By decision of the scientific jury (No. 01/22.06.2022), I have been appointed to prepare an opinion on the competition.

Only one candidate submitted documents to participate in the competition - Associate Professor Vanya Petrova Ivanova, PhD. She has submitted, within the deadline set for the purpose, a complete set of documents that meet the requirements laid down in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulation for its implementation, including:

- Autobiography;
- Reference on the implementation of the national minimum requirements under the LDASRB and the Regulation for its implementation, as well as the additional requirements, laid down in the relevant rules of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski";
- Habilitation work;
- Scientific publications and their summaries;
- Reference for the citations of scientific works;
- Reference for the contributions in her scientific works;
- Separation protocols of joint publications;
- Certificate for scientific title "docent", issued by the Higher Attestation Commission;
- Diploma for Ph.D.;
- Criminal record certificate;
- Medical certificate.

The documents are presented neatly, in good condition, which facilitates the preparation of the opinion.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Assoc. prof. Vanya Petrova Ivanova has extensive academic experience. From 1988 to the present, she has worked at the University of National and World Economy - Sofia as a lecturer, while simultaneously teaching at other higher schools over the years - Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski", Burgas Free University, as well as at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", and also at the International

Banking Institute. Assoc. prof. Ivanova is a respected lecturer and established specialist in the field of economics.

During the years of her work in the academic environment, Assoc. prof. Ivanova has accumulated sound knowledge and experience both in teaching and in scientific activity. She is the author of numerous scientific publications that demonstrate her activity and interest in the development of theory and practice in the field of economics in the broadest sense. A part of her scientific publications has been developed in co-authorship, which testifies to her ability to work in a team and reach scientific results together with other researchers - an important quality for a candidate for the academic position of "professor".

From the report on the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements, it is clear that the candidate not only fulfills but also exceeds the minimum number of points required for the occupation of the academic position of "professor" laid down in the LDASRB and the Regulation for its implementation. The scientific publications submitted for analysis fall within the scope of the announced competition, and at the time of preparation of this opinion, there is no information and grounds to doubt the authorship of the scientific publications presented by the candidate.

Among the scientific production presented for consideration, the candidate's habilitation work stands out: "The circular economy - between the necessary and the possible". It is independent research and is dedicated to an extremely topical subject - the circular economy as an economic model to replace the linear one currently prevailing in the world. The discussion nature of the work is striking, a hint for which is already given in the title itself. The valuable contribution of the candidate in this work is that she not only fascinatingly describes various theoretical aspects of the economy and presents a significant amount of information related to them, but also provokes the reader to contemplate about the future of economic systems and awaken his interest in the forgotten "old" -

"new" - the circular economy and the opportunities it provides to all economic entities.

The other work of a monographic nature presented for analysis, which was developed by a group of authors, also examines the hot topic of accounting for the environmental impact that the linear model has, but already in the context of our country: "Opportunities of the "green economy" in Bulgaria and formation of a model of socio-ecological development". The presentation of the theoretical debate on the "green economy" in the specific dimensions for Bulgaria is what makes this current and timely work particularly interesting, and what leads to the main contribution of the scientific work materialized in it.

The majority of the candidate's works submitted for analysis are devoted to various important aspects of the "green" and circular economy issues. In them, assoc. prof. Ivanova examines various effects of the transition to a circular model on the realization of sustainable development. Significant aspects of the complex transformation associated with the transition to a circular model, such as the future of workforce competencies, the effects that will be observed at the microeconomic level, and others, do not escape her gaze. This complex topic deservedly arouses growing scientific and public interest, proof of which is the publication of assoc. prof. Ivanova's works in various scientific volumes not only in the country, but also abroad, some of which are indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information.

The results and conclusions reached by assoc. prof. Ivanova within the scope of her scientific production are significant, and this is evident from the high citation rate of her works, realized in various publications by different authors.

Assoc. prof. Ivanova is the author of a number of textbooks that help students and prospective students in the process of their preparation in economics. These manuals are compiled by teams of authors and this once again shows the ability of assoc. prof. Ivanova to work with fellow lecturers and researchers, and to reach

results of high practical value for the implementation of the educational process. Assoc. prof. Ivanova also has experience in working with doctoral students, and at the moment there is one successfully defended doctoral student.

Over the years, she has actively participated in various university scientific and educational projects, both as a leader and as a member of scientific teams. Two of these projects, of which assoc. prof. Ivanova was the head, are dedicated to the topic of the "green" and circular economy.

The work with doctoral students and the participation in projects, the choice of "hot" topics making a strong positive impression, complete the overall profile of the candidate as an active and searching scientist and lecturer, with a markedly innovative approach to scientific research.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant criticisms. I would recommend assoc. prof. Ivanova to continue her work on the current topic of the transition from a linear to a circular economic model, as this issue has a real future and huge research potential.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by assoc. prof. Vanya Petrova Ivanova, Ph.D. meet all the requirements of the LDASRB, the Regulation for its implementation and the relevant Regulation of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the procedure for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor". The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which has been published in journals and scientific volumes issued by international academic publishing houses. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are

directly oriented to academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of the candidate are unquestionable.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing the significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics of SU St. Kliment Ohridski" for the election of assoc. prof. Vanya Petrova Ivanova, Ph.D. to the academic position of "professor" in professional field 3.8.Economics (Microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international economics in Bulgarian and French Languages).

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Sofia

Prepared the opinion: (s)

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(Prof. Virginia Zhelyazkova, DSc)