

REVIEW

**By Prof. Dr. Stoyan Anastasov Totev, Economic Research Institute
at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

In relation to: Announced competition for the academic position "associate professor", by the Economic Research Institute at the BAS, for the "Economics of the Firm" department in the professional direction 3.8. "Economics - Statistical and econometric methods", published in the State Gazette number 33, from 29.04.2022.

Confirmed for a member of the Scientific Jury according to the decision of the Scientific Council with protocol No. 10/15.06.2022 and according to order No. 281, dated 27.06.2022 of the Director of the Economic Research Institute (ERI) at BAS in accordance with the procedure for holding a competition for the academic position "associate professor" announced from the ERI BAS - the reviewers were selected at a meeting of the Scientific Jury (minutes from 07.07.2022).

The only candidate in the competition is Chief Assistant PhD Nedyalko Mariev Nestorov, from "Economics of the Firm" department, ERI BAS.

The candidate meets the necessary formal requirements for acquiring the scientific degree and holding academic positions at the Institute of Higher Education at the BAS "associate professor". He has an educational and scientific degree "PhD"; more than 3 years of experience as a "Chief Assistant", he has presented published habilitation thesis - a monograph that does not repeat the one presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

For the other criteria, common to group G ¹ "publications", including the requirement under subsections G.6 and G.8 and total for group D "citations and reviews", the required minimum of points is exceeded.

I. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Nedyalko Nestorov was born in 1986 in Stara Zagora. In 2005, he graduated from "Commercial High School - Stara Zagora" with main subject "Accountant". He graduated from the University of Economics - Varna in 2009, specialty in "Statistics and Econometrics". In 2010, he graduated

¹ G correspond to Cyrillic Г. and so on for the others.

from the Master's College at the University of Economics - Varna, specialty "Forecasting the Financial Markets"

For the period 2005-2011, he worked at ET Micro Account, first as an accountant, and later as a chief accountant.

For the period 2012-2014, he was a full-time doctoral student at the ERI BAS, successfully defending his doctoral dissertation in 2015, and was awarded the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the scientific specialty "Statistics and Demography".

From February 2015 to February 2019, he held the position of "Assistant" at the ERI BAS, from February 2019 to now the position of "Chief Assistant".

Nedyalko Nestorov participates in different public activities, has worked in non-governmental organizations, student organizations, engages in volunteer work, he speaks English.

His main research interests are in the fields of "Statistics and Econometrics", "Foreign Trade", "Energy" and "Tourism". His total scientific experience, as a doctoral student and assistant at the ERI BAS is ten years, of which eight years after the defense of his doctoral thesis.

II. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Nedyalko Nestorov participates in a number of scientific projects directly related to the topic for which he applied for the position of associate professor. He is one of the three young scientists from Bulgaria selected to participate in the 6th International Meeting of the Nobel Laureates in Economics, in August 2017 in the city of Lindau, Germany. He is a member of the Union of Economists and the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

The scientific production presented by the candidate includes 18 publications - of them:

- Two independent monographs;
- Chapter of a monograph in co-authorship;
- Participation in four annual reports of the Institute of BAS, with an independent chapter.
- Four articles, three of which in co-authorship;
- Seven published papers from conference, four of which in co-authorship.

All submitted publications have been accepted for review, they are for the period after obtaining the educational and scientific degree "PhD" and occupying the academic position "Chief Assistant". They reflect active scientific work and determine the candidate as suitable for

participation in the competition for the academic position "associate professor, completely meeting the scientometric requirements for it.

Systematized, the publications define scientific research that fully coincides with the theme of the competition, specifically - I would divide the publications, and accordingly the contributions of the candidate Nedyalko Nestorov, into the following main areas:

1. Of a theoretical-methodological nature - mainly Monograph B.3.1., as well as publications G.6.1, G.7.12 and G.8.1.;
2. In the field of foreign trade research - mainly Monographs B.3.1 and G.5.1., as well as in the almost all other publications. Some main highlights in the publications in the study of foreign trade are G.7.12, G.7.6., G.7.7 - foreign trade and changes in GDP. Export of production of the Mining industry G.7.8, G.8.1. Development of high-tech and innovative exports G.7.9. G.7.13 and export of funds for communications G.7.10 and G.7.11.;
3. In the field of Statistics and economic research - it is widely represented in all publications, with a particularly clear emphasis on their use in forecasting and modeling of foreign trade in - the monographs B.3.1. and G.5.1. , as well as in the publications G.7.3, G.7.12. G.7.13. and G.8.2.

III. SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS

The researches of Chief Assistant Nedyalko Nestorov were carried out at a visibly good professional level. The subject of his publications concern current and important economic processes, some of which, due to the scope and depth of the research, can be defined as new scientific fields for Bulgaria. They are aimed on real economic processes and problems, well structured, with clearly presented results based on the analysis done. A lot of information is adequately used, modern statistical and econometric methods are skillfully applied for analysis and forecasting.

The reference submitted by the candidate on the his main achievements, correctly reflects the contributions and significant results of his scientific production. I would like to comment mainly on those contributions that have a clearly expressed such character and to further developed and systematize them as follows:

Of a theoretical and methodological nature.

In the field of assessing the sustainability of Bulgarian exports:

- Theoretical and methodological aspects of sustainability as a concept and of export accountability are analyzed. For this purpose, an author's classification of economic

sustainability is proposed according to the level of research and according to the trend of change. This allows to systematize the concept of export sustainability - B.3.1.;

- An original approach and methodology for assessing the sustainability of Bulgarian exports has been created. The adequacy of this toolkit for assessing the economic sustainability of Bulgarian exports is proven - B.3.1.;
- It is proposed and approbate an author's coefficient for assessing economic sustainability (CS), B.3.1.;

Specific coefficients for establishing the concentration and sustainability of the export of the mining industry have been developed and tested for adequacy – G.7.8.;

Derived is a model for the impact of final consumption, gross capital formation, exports and imports on GDP. This allows an assessment of the simultaneous effects of these factors on the imports and on the GDP – G.7.12.;

In the area of establishing the geographical stability of foreign trade transactions, a coefficient for establishing the geographical stability of foreign trade transactions has been developed and successfully tested – G.6.1, G.8.1.

Of a scientific and applied nature

In the field of the foreign trade studies:

The applied author's methodology for determining the sustainability of foreign trade allows to significantly expand the opportunities for studying these processes, which lead to better opportunities for their adequate forecasting - B.3.1;

Determined is the dependence of GDP growth on foreign trade is taken out. This allows the modeling of the import intensity of the Bulgarian economy in the light of the determined dependence - G.5.1. The relationship between the export potential of Bulgarian productions and economic growth is determined - G.7.6., as well as the relation between final consumption and the exports - G.7.12.

The export potential of specific sectors of the economy and the prospects for their development in this regard are determined - G.7.8., G.8.1., G.7.9., G.7.13., G.7.10 and G.7.11.

In the field of Statistical-Economic and Econometric studies:

- Use of original statistical-econometric tools when studying the sustainability of Bulgarian exports - B.3.1.

- It is proven that the application of the co-integration approach significantly improves the accuracy of the design of an export-oriented growth model - G.5.1.;
- The relationship between international trade and development aid of the EU and China with the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa has been established, using an original co-integration approach - G.7.12.;
- The adequacy of the specific statistical-econometric methods used for modeling the dependencies between GDP, foreign trade and domestic consumption is proven - G.7.12.

Finally, I want to emphasize one quality of the candidate in the application of statistical-economic and econometric methods, which is evident from his publications - this is his scientific integrity. What I mean, unfortunately, many economists in our country (and not only in our country) usually have some prior understanding of what they have to "prove" in a given study. To do this, they selectively apply econometric methods in a way that confirms these preliminary views. This has led to the "catchy" maxim - "When the results of an experiment are favorable, never repeat it". Such an approach is alien to Nedyalko Nestorov, and for that the results of his research based on the application of statistical-economic and econometric methods are distinguished by scientific integrity, which makes them particularly valuable.

IV. CRITICAL NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The researches presented for the competition was carried out at a good professional level. I have no substantive objections to them, and no critical remarks. I would recommend the candidate, Nedyalko Nestorov, to expand them in the direction of the economic interpretation of the achieved results. What I mean, the very good application of statistical-economic and econometric methods gives ample opportunities for economic interpretation, forecasting and managerial decision-making. In this direction, I would recommend the candidate to develop his future research work. I believe that this will lead him to new original results, which will allow him to publish in journals with an impact factor in the future and thus find a wider international exposure to the scientific community.

Conclusion

The scientific indicators of Chief Assistant Professor, Nedyalko Nestorov, fully meet the requirements of the Economic Research Institute at BAS, for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" according to all indicators from the scientific-metric reference. All the requirements and conditions of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, have been complied with.

1. The candidate for the academic position "associate professor", Chief Assistant Nedyalko Nestorov presents himself with scientific works that are completely sufficient in terms of volume, content and contributions;
2. The scientific contributions of Nedyalko Nestorov are the result of serious research in the fields of foreign trade and the application of statistical-economic and econometric methods;
3. He has scientific contributions of a theoretical-methodological and scientific-applied nature, making a significant impact to the study of current and important problems for Bulgaria;
4. Writes competently, professionally, engaged and with positions, his research results are original.

All this gives me the reason, with complete conviction, to express a positive attitude towards the candidacy of Ch. Assistant Professor Nedyalko Nestorov, Ph.D., and to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury that he be elected as an "associate professor" in the "Economics of the Company" section in professional direction 3.8. Economics - Statistical and econometric methods.

Signature:

/Prof. Dr. Stoyan Totev/

25/08/2022