

REVIEW

by Associate Professor Ludmila Pavlova Vekova, Ph.D.,

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field of higher education 3. Economic, social and legal sciences

professional field 3.8. Economics (Social Security and Social Assistance)

This statement was prepared in connection with an announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" from the Economic Research Institute (ERI) at the BAS, for the needs of the "Macroeconomics" section, in professional direction 3.8. Economy (poverty and social protection), published in the State Gazette, No. 44 of 19.05.2023.

By decision of the Scientific Council (SC), protocol No. 7/12.07.2023 and according to order No. 369/ 18.07.2023 of the Director of the Economic Research Institute at the BAS, according to the procedure for holding the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury.

The only candidate in the competition is Ch.Assistant Professor Teodora Margaritova Peneva, Ph.D., "International Economics" section, ERI at BAS.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Ch. Assistant Professor Teodora Peneva, Ph.D., holds a bachelor's degree in Chinese studies at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and in Chinese language and economics at the Beijing University of Languages and Cultures, as well as a master's degree in "International Economics" at Peking University and "Management of Institutions for Social Work" at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski". She defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic "Analysis of the methods for researching energy poverty in Bulgaria" at the Faculty of Economics of the SU "Kl. Ohridski".

He has professional experience in management and expert positions in Bulgarian and Chinese companies in the period 2004-2016 - product manager at Internet Securities EOOD, market analysis expert at EVN Bulgaria EOOD and as Deputy Director "Clients" at All China Marketing Research and analyst markets at GCiS China Information Services - a consulting firm in China. From August 2017 to March 2019. is successively assistant and chief assistant in the "Public Policies and Social Changes" Section of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the BAS. Since May 2019, he has been a chief assistant at the Economic Research Institute at the BAS - in the "International Economy" and "Macroeconomics" sections.

The accumulated academic experience of the candidate, Dr. Teodora Peneva, exceeds the minimum requirement of the ERI at the BAS of at least 3 years of experience as a "principal assistant".

Her main research interests, specified in the attached scientific publications, are in the field of social protection, social assistance, social services, general poverty and energy poverty.

In addition to Chinese, Dr. Peneva is fluent in English, French and Russian.

II. EVALUATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ERI at BAS

Ch. Assistant Professor Teodora Peneva not only fulfills, but also significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor", regulated in the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as those determined by the Acquisition Regulations of scientific degrees and occupying academic positions in the Economic Research Institute. She has a defended dissertation, for more than 5 years she has been a chief assistant at the Economic Research Institute at the BAS and participated in the competition with a habilitation thesis - a peer-reviewed monograph "Energy poverty in Bulgaria: dimensions and factors" (with a volume of 174 pages), with one monograph that did not is presented as the main habilitation work („Innovative model of patronage care in Bulgaria“, with a volume of 111 pages) and with 5 publications. With 200 points required for Group G (Publications) on the national and 230 points on the specific ERI , it has 258 points , and in group D (Citations) with 70 points required for the ERI, they are 130. The total number of points from all groups A-D of the head assistant Dr. Teodora Peneva are 538 and they exceed the minimum national requirements of 400 points and the 450 points required according to the criteria of the ERI .The candidate also fulfills the specific requirement of the ERI to have at least 2 publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.

III. RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND RESULTS

1. General characteristics of the author's publications

Ch. Assistant Professor Teodora Peneva participated in the competition for associate professor with two independent monographs (No. 1 and No. 2), with two articles in English published in a scientific publication indexed in SCOPUS (No. 4 and No. 5) and 3 articles in Bulgarian language in non-refereed journals with scientific review - one independent (No. 5), one co-authored (No. 6) and one article (No. 7) in a collection of materials from an international scientific conference. All publications are peer-reviewed and are from the period after receiving the ONS "Doctor" and holding the academic position "principal assistant".

The publications reflect in-depth scientific research, which is the result of active scientific work and fully coincides with the theme of the competition. They present the candidate as suitable for participation in the competition for the academic position "associate professor" and fully meet the scientometric requirements for this.

Ch. assistant professor Dr. Teodora Peneva participates in scientific and scientific-applied projects, which are directly related to the topic for which she is applying for the academic position of "associate professor". These are the project "Preparation of a National Strategy in the field of energy, with a focus on electricity" (2017-2019), "Energy poverty in Bulgaria: dimensions and factors" (from the plan of the III-BAS, 2020-2022), as well as

the development of Methodology for determining energy poor households in Bulgaria (2022).

2. Evaluation of the author's scientific and scientific-applied contributions in publications made after the appointment of the academic position "Chief Assistant".

The independent original scientific and scientific-applied results of Dr. Teodora Peneva can be systematized in two research areas - energy poverty and social protection (in the aspect of social services). The report prepared by the candidate correctly reflects the contributions and more important results in the scientific publications submitted for review under the competition.

The scientific achievements and contributions of candidate Dr. Teodora Peneva in both research areas can be summarized in the following main directions:

1. Contributions of a theoretical-methodological nature

In the field of energy poverty:

- formulated possible definitions of "energy poverty" and "vulnerable consumers" with an orientation towards the goals of social policy;
- measured and estimated level of energy poverty in the country according to 8 indicators of the cost approach, applied on specially processed reporting information of NSI for several years (2014-2019)
- defined main challenges for dealing with energy poverty;
- assessment of the negative effects of the administrative mechanism for the protection of energy consumers in Bulgaria on energy poverty;

In the field of social protection:

- analysis of the current state of patronage care and public canteens in Bulgaria as of 2020.
- assessment of the accessibility, effectiveness and quality of the existing social service in a home environment "Patronage Care"

2. Contributions of a scientific - applied nature

In the field of energy poverty:

- a proposed model for the quantitative assessment of the energy needs of households with the possibility of valuation at the regional level;
- developed model for individual assessment of energy poverty;
- developed methodology for determining the official line of energy poverty in the country;
- systematized unresolved key methodological issues for quantifying energy poverty and principles for determining the normative amount of energy;

In the field of social protection:

- a formulated system of coordinated measures at the state and individual level to reduce energy poverty;

- developed an innovative model for patronage care in Bulgaria.

The achieved scientific results and contributions are a personal achievement of Dr. Teodora Peneva and have a unique character for Bulgaria, as I have not found any plagiarism in the publications submitted for the competition. They are the result of an extremely thorough and conscientious study of the issue and have a clearly expressed practical orientation, providing optimally possible and effective solutions.

3. Citation from other authors

According to the list presented by Dr. Teodora Peneva, she has 11 citations, 4 of which are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, and the remaining 7 are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review. The points collected in group D are a total of 130 points, with a minimum requirement of 70 points according to the specific requirements of the Institute of Higher Education of the BAS.

Dr. Teodora Peneva's articles are cited by Bulgarian and foreign authors. The presented citations reveal the candidate as a recognizable scientist with her own contribution to the specific theme of the competition.

IV. CRITICAL NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I have no critical remarks about the peer-reviewed scientific production of Dr. Teodora Peneva in the competition for "associate professor".

My recommendation to Chief Assistant Dr. Teodora Peneva is for the promotion of scientific achievements and results through university teaching work in addition to her involvement in the III at the BAS.

CONCLUSION

The scientific indicators of ch. Teodora Peneva, assistant professor, fully meets all the requirements and conditions of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of ZARSRB, as well as the specific additional requirements contained in the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Tenure of academic positions at the Institute of Higher Education at the BAS for the occupation of the academic position of "associate professor".

The candidate Ch. Associate Professor Teodora Peneva presents herself with scientific works that are completely sufficient in terms of volume, content and contributions, she has scientific contributions of a theoretical-methodological and scientific-applied nature in the study of current and important for our country problems from the topic of the competition. The scientific results are original, the result of independent and thorough scientific research and represent personal views and positions.

All this gives me the reason **with full conviction** to propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury **to categorically support the election of Dr. Teodora Margaritova Peneva for the academic position of "associate professor" in the "Macroeconomics"**

**section of the Economic Research Institute (ERI) at the BAS in professional direction
3.8. "Economics" (poverty and social protection).**

10.09. 2023-09-17

Signature:

Assoc.Prof. Lyudmila Vekova