

POSITION

FROM ASSOC. PROF. DR. NEDELIN KOSTADINOV MARKOV

PROFESSIONAL FIELD 3.8 ECONOMICS WITH SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "NATIONAL ECONOMY (REGIONAL ECONOMY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)"

TRAKIA UNIVERSITY - STARA ZAGORA

REGARDING: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN PF 3.8 ECONOMICS IN "FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES"

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The competition was announced in SG Nr. 44/19.05.2023 following a decision of the Scientific Council of the Economic Research Institute at BAS. The Scientific Council at its meeting with Protokol No. 7 of 12.07.2023 and Order of the Director No. 368/18.07.2023 select and approve a scientific jury composition for the announced competition.

2. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATES IN THE COMPETITION

According to the Protocol dated 21.07.2023 of the admission committee, appointed by Order No. 338/04.07.2023 and protocol No. 43/25.07.2023, from the first meeting of the scientific jury until evaluation in the competition, the only candidate is admitted Ch. Associate Professor Dochka Angelova Velkova, Ph.D. The candidate for the competition was born in 1973, and since 2009 has held an academic position at the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 2009, the candidate also defended a doctoral dissertation on "Changes in the public pension system and their impact on the labor market".

3. DEGREE OF FULFILLMENT OF THE NATIONAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AT THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The requirements for occupying the academic position of „associate professor“ are divided into several groups of indicators:

Group "A" - Dissertation work for the award of the PhD degree - the candidate defends a dissertation work on the topic "Changes in the public pension system and their impact on the labor market". **I believe that the candidate fully meets this requirement.**

Group "C" - Development and publication of habilitation thesis - monograph. The candidate presents a monographic work on the topic "FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS". The work has a volume of 238 pages and is structured in an introduction, four chapters, conclusions and recommendations, appendices, and a bibliography. Relevant separation protocols governing research authorship are presented. **I believe that the candidate fully meets this requirement.**

Group "G" - Publications including:

1. Published monograph, which is not presented as the main habilitation thesis - in the documents, the candidate presents a monograph on the topic "FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES FOR CO-FINANCING VIK PROJECTS UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 1 OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM "ENVIRONMENT 2014-2020"". The monographic work has a volume of 229 pages and is structured in an introduction, four chapters, conclusions and a list of the literature used. Relevant separation protocols governing research authorship are presented.

2. A published book based on a protected dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" or for the award of a scientific degree "Doctor of Science" - in the documents, the candidate presents a book based on a protected dissertation work. The volume of the book is 176 pages.

3. Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced, and indexed in world databases with scientific information - According to this criterion, the candidate presents - The candidate presents two co-authored publications. When analyzing the separation protocols, it is necessary to conclude that the candidate realized 25 points.

4. Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - the applicant submits 3 publications that award 11.67 points (after analysis of co-authorship and separation protocols)

5. Studies published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - the candidate presents studies in the journal Economic Studies with a volume of 18 pages, which is co-authored, and for which a duly completed separation protocol is attached. For these criteria, the candidate objectively receives 22.5 points

6. Published chapter of a collective monograph - the candidate presents chapters of published collective monographs, for which he should be awarded 40 points.

For group "G" Ch. Associate Professor Dochka Velkova scored 274.17 points and I believe that the candidate fully meets this requirement.

Group "D" - Citations in incl.

1. Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world databases – Three citations are presented, which is equivalent to 45 awarded points.

2. Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes - The candidate submits - 7 citations are found, for which 70 points are awarded.

3. Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 6 citations are presented, which entitles the awarding of 30 points.

For group "D" Ch. Associate Professor Dochka Velkova scored 145 points and I believe that the candidate fully meets this requirement.

4. EVALUATION OF CANDIDATE'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Ch. Associate Professor Dochka Velkova reports contributions that can be divided into two main groups:

4.1 Contributions of a theoretical-methodological nature - The candidate systematizes the essence, content and development of the financial instruments provided through operational programs in Bulgaria, aimed at municipal investment projects for the development of public services in the period 2007-2020. In addition, an evaluation methodology has been developed the advantages and disadvantages of the sources for financing municipal investments in Bulgaria. The methodology

includes criteria that, to the greatest extent possible, cover the full spectrum of the specifics of the funding sources of public services. A structured system of indicators for assessing the financial status of water supply operators and municipalities in Bulgaria with a view to their opportunities to secure financial resources for co-financing investment projects to improve public water supply and sewerage services under the Operational Program "Environment 2014-2020" ". Approaches for assessing the creditworthiness of municipalities applied by credit rating agencies, commercial banks and urban development funds have been systematized. A methodology has been adapted for assessing the creditworthiness of municipalities in Bulgaria through an integral indicator of credit potential, etc.

4.2 Contributions of an applied nature - the applicant performed an evaluation and ranking of the sources of financing of municipal investments for the improvement and development of public services by using the methodology developed in item 1.2 and the advantages, disadvantages and role of financial instruments are brought out. Key and additional barriers to the use of financial instruments by Bulgarian municipalities for the development of public services have also been identified and assessed. An assessment was made of the financial status of the 15 consolidated water supply operators in Bulgaria, which are beneficiaries under Priority axis 1 of the Operational Program "Environment 2014-2020" and the municipalities with a population of over 10,000 equiv. wheat on their territory by applying the developed system of indicators. The main challenges to the financing of infrastructure projects for the development of public water supply and sewerage services through funds from the European social and investment funds have been identified. The social tolerability of the prices of water supply services for the population was assessed. Due to the enormous investment needs and available financial constraints, the introduction of the mechanism of water social assistance is proposed. Good practices for water assistance are presented, which can be used as a basis and adapted to the conditions in Bulgaria, etc.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the review and evaluation of the scientific production, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The presented scientific production categorically meets the developed national minimum requirements, as well as the additional requirements of the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with some indicators even exceeding the minimum thresholds by several times.

2. The presented scientific production is distinguished by its originality, authenticity, and applicability.

3. The candidate's contributions are significant and adequate.

In conclusion, I can state that I positively assess the work and the achieved results of Ch. Associate Professor Dochka Angelova Velkova. I propose to the scientific jury to vote positively for the candidate in the competition to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor" in scientific field 3.8 ECONOMICS OF "FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES"

11.09.2023

Signature:.....

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nedelin Markov)