

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 ON "INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AT THE TERRITORIAL
AND SECTORAL LEVEL"

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The competition was announced in SG Nr. 44/19.05.2023 after the decision of the Scientific Council of the Economic Research Institute at the BAS. The Scientific Council at its meeting with Protocol No. 7 of 12.07.2023 and Order of the Director No. 366/18.07.2023 selects and approves 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. 340/04.07.2023 and protocol No. 42 /25.07.2023, from the first meeting of the scientific jury until evaluation in the competition, the only candidate is admitted Ch. Assistant Professor Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova, Ph.D. The candidate for the competition was born in 1974, and since 2008 has held an academic position at the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In the same year, the candidate defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Municipal investments in Bulgaria and sources of their financing".

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 "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 "Municipal investments in Bulgaria and sources of their financing". **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 work - 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 ENVIRONMENT OPERATING PROGRAM 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 156 pages.

3. Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world databases with scientific information - 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 4 publications that award 21.67 points (after analysis of co-authorship and split 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 this criterion, 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. assistant professor Dr. Yana Kirilova scores 284.17 points and I consider 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 – One citation is presented, which is equivalent to 15 awarded points.

2. Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes - The candidate submits - 3 citations are found, for which 30 points are awarded.

3. Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 11 citations are presented, which give the right to award 55 points.

For group "D" ch. assistant professor Dr. Yana Kirilova scores 100 points and I consider that the candidate fully meets this requirement.

4. EVALUATION OF CANDIDATE'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Ch. Assistant Professor Yana Kirilova reports contributions that can be divided into two main groups:

4.1 Contributions of a theoretical-methodological nature - the candidate specifies and systematizes the essential characteristics of municipal investments and the sources of their financing. The relationship between the relative share of own and borrowed funds in the investment income of the municipalities and the level of their investments is derived. Methods have been developed for the analysis and assessment of municipal investment costs and the investment capacity of municipalities. An algorithm was created for calculating the net operating balance indicator with data reported in the

form of municipal budgets in Bulgaria. The essence, content and development of the financial instruments provided through operational programs in Bulgaria and aimed at municipal investment projects in the period 2007-2020 are systematized. The candidate develops a methodology for evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of the sources for financing municipal investments in Bulgaria. A model is proposed for calculating a financial discount factor, as an element of cost-benefit analysis, applied to the evaluation of investment projects, etc.

4.2 Contributions of an applied nature - the candidate presents a methodology for assessing territorial differences in investment costs and the investment capacity of municipalities in Bulgaria. Also presented is a methodology for assessing the credit potential of municipalities in Bulgaria for the period 2007-2019. Based on the structured system of indicators, the financial condition of municipalities and water supply operators in Bulgaria was assessed with a view to their possibilities for securing financial resources for co-financing of investment projects for water supply and sewerage under the Operational Program "Environment 2014-2020". The candidate proposes measures to support the water supply operators as future beneficiaries of investment projects under the OPE 2014-2020. An assessment of the social tolerance for the population of the prices of water supply services was carried out by applying the developed algorithm. A summary of the results of the economic analysis of water as an element of the development of the first River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in Bulgaria after the country's accession to the EU is presented, and mechanisms for financing the investment costs for the programs of measures incl. financial, resource and environmental costs, 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. Assistant Professor Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova. I propose to the scientific jury to vote positively for the candidate in the competition to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor-Docent" in scientific direction 3.8 Economics in "Investments and infrastructural development of territorial and sectoral level".

11.09.2023

Signature:.....

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nedelin Markov)