

Statement

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Professional field 3.8 Economics
Scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Business Logistics)

Regarding: competition for an associate professor in professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Transport Economics (Water and Air Transport)", published in the State Gazette, no. 44 of 19.05.2023.

1. Information about the contest

The competition has been announced for the needs of the "Regional and Sectoral Economy" section, on the basis of Art. 4 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 86 of the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and the Occupation of Academic Positions at the Institute for Economic Research (IER) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) and according to the decision of the Scientific Council of the IER at the BAS - Protocol No. 7 of 12.07.2023. I am part of the Scientific Jury for the competition according to Order No. 365/18.07.2023 of the Director of the Institute for Economic Research at the BAS.

2. Brief information about the candidates in the competition

One candidate participates in the announced competition for an associate professor in the scientific specialty "Transport Economics (Water and Air Transport)" at the IER at the BAS - ch. assist. prof. dr. Petya Delcheva Korolova - Nozharova, from the "Regional and Sectoral Economy" section of the IER at the BAS. She started her academic career as a researcher and lecturer in the field of higher education in 2014 at the Higher Transport School "Todor Kableshkov", Sofia, where she successively held the positions of "assistant" and "chief assistant". In 2020, she continues as chief assistant in the "Regional and Sectoral Economy" section of the BAS, and in 2022 she was appointed scientific secretary of the section. Her professional career was accompanied by the development of expertise and administrative skills, while occupying expert positions in the Executive Agency "Automotive Administration", in the "Scientific and International Activity" department at HTS "Todor Kableshkov", as well as in the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria. Since the beginning of 2023, she has been a member of the Monitoring Committee of the "Transport Connectivity 2021-2027" Program. She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and the Union of Economists in Bulgaria. She speaks excellent English and very good German.

3. Fulfilment of the requirements for occupying the academic position

The candidate in the competition fulfils all the national minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" – she has obtained a doctoral degree (diploma № No 87 / 26.04.2013) and the total number of points (607,5) for all groups of national requirements exceeds significantly the minimum required points. Ch. assist. prof. dr. Petya Korolova - Nozharova meets all additional quantitative requirements of the IER at the BAS relating

to the scientific activity of the candidates and there is again an excess of the minimum threshold points for the criteria.

4. Characteristics of the presented scientific publications

The candidate ch. assist. prof. dr. Petya Koralova - Nozharova has submitted a total of 16.5 publications for participation in the competition, including one monograph and one published book, one study, one article and one conference paper each published in scientific editions, indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (Scopus or Web of Science), one co-authored study, 6 articles, incl. 3 co-authored ones, published in scientific publications indexed in other scientific international databases with scientific information, 8 conference papers, incl. 3 co-authored ones, published in peer-reviewed collective volumes.

In terms of content, the presented publications consider problems from the field of transport economics and allow me to fully accept the main directions in the scientific activity, which have been developed by the candidate, namely, competitiveness and efficiency of sea and inland water transport, digitalization of the transport modes with a focus on air, road and water transport, as well as climate neutrality and green transition of the transport modes.

The candidate's scientific publications are characterized by highly relevant researched problems, especially those concerning the digitalization and climate neutrality of the various types of transport. They are developed on the basis of a thorough research and analysis of the specialized national and foreign literature, as well as secondary data from representative international sources. The publications also have a significant applied character, as they are based on the derivation of appropriate and justified conclusions, inferences and guidelines for the improvement of practice.

The evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied results of the publication activity of ch. assist. prof. dr. Petya Koralova - Nozharova allows me to draw the conclusion that they are useful for the development of science and practice in the field of transport economics, particularly water and air transport, and correspond to the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor".

5. Main scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the candidates

The candidate in the competition, ch. assist. prof. dr. Petya Koralova - Nozharova, has correctly formulated the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of her publication activity. They can be summarized as follows:

- Knowledge about the competitiveness of maritime transport in Bulgaria has been studied and systematized and effective forms of competition have been identified to improve its market positions. The policies in the field of inland water transport and multimodal transport in Bulgaria have been critically analyzed and evaluated.

- A theoretical matrix has been developed for the application of the concept of corporate social responsibility in the transport sector, concerning its economic, ecological and social elements in accordance with the specific features of the different transport modes.

- A model is proposed for evaluating the possibilities of integrating the Bulgarian inland water transport into the multimodal transport network of Europe. The model is based on a system of financial-economic and operational parameters of the river ports' activity.

- The state of the river ports in Bulgaria and the most significant obstacles to the integration of inland water transport in the multimodal network of Europe have been investigated and revealed. The competitiveness of the seaports in Bulgaria was analyzed and evaluated based on a comparative analysis by EU member states, as well as the degree of sustainable development of the European transport system based on statistical data for Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Croatia.

- The relationships between the financial state of passenger air operators and the degree of digitalization of their core business, as well as between the process of developing the human resources' digital skills in the management of water and air transport infrastructure and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been proven and analyzed.
- Specific measures have been proposed to accelerate the digitalization processes of passenger air operators, as well as to achieve climate neutrality for the transport modes in accordance with the priorities of the European Green Deal and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

The purposeful and active research activity of ch. assist. prof. dr. Petya Koralova - Nozharova has developed in her valuable competences and knowledge in the field of water and air transport, which is why I recommend her to continue and deepen her research in this field, including the links of water and air transport with other types of transport in the context of multimodal transport, as well as to continue her publication activity in prestigious scientific editions indexed in world-renowned databases.

7. Conclusion

The candidate in the announced competition fulfills all the requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and the Occupation of Academic Positions at the Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. I propose to the respected members of the scientific jury ch. assist. prof. dr. Petya Koralova - Nozharova to be elected as an associate professor in professional field 3.8 "Economics", scientific specialty "Transport Economics (Water and Air Transport)", by voting with " YES".

24.08.2023
Sofia

Signature:
(Prof. Dr. Miroslava Rakovska)