

## **PEER REVIEW**

**by Prof. Dr.Econ.Sc. Vassil Todorov, member of Scientific Jury in the competition for academic position “PROFESSOR”, announced by Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, SG, issue 8 on 25/01/2019**

**The Scientific Juries is approved by a decision of the Scientific Council minutes No 3 on 20.03.2019, and by an order of the Director No 80 on 25.03.2019,**

**Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alla Valentinovna Kirova**

### **I. Short biography of the candidate**

Associate Professor Alla Kirova graduated the Faculty of Economics at Moscow State University “M. V. Lomonosov” (1981) with major in Economic Theory (Political Economy). From 1982 to 1986 she is a full-time Ph.D. student at the Institute of Economics at BAS. She defends her Ph.D. thesis for “Doctor in Economics” with a title in the field of distribution – real income. Since 1988 till now she is in the academic staff of the Institute of Economics/Economic Research Institute (ERI) at BAS. She is habilitated (senior research fellow II degree/Associate Professor) in 2000.

She was scientific secretary of a department, member and deputy chairman of the Attestation Commission of ERI-BAS. She is a member and deputy chairman of the Scientific Council of the Institute.

For ten years (1998-2007) she is an external expert at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, where she participates in different working groups and projects.

She has been a member of organizational and program committees at national and international scientific forums.

She is a member of editorial board and a reviewer for national and international journals. She is also a member of national and international scientific organizations.

At ERI-BAS is a permanent participant in working groups on drafting normative documents, opinions and strategies for and outside BAS; she is also a member and chairman of expert councils and examining committees.

She has been awarded a medal, diploma and certificates for scientific achievements.

She has the requires computer literacy.

Languages: mother’s tongue – Russian, other languages – Bulgarian, English; she writes in Bulgarian better than colleagues with Bulgarian as their mother’s tongue.

### **II. General characteristics of the scientific and applied work of the candidate**

The scientific works and results presented for the competition are in three research areas:

1. *Gender equality* (publications № 1, 3, 4, 7-14, 28-30, 34-38, 44-46).

Studied are issues of women's equality on the labor market, in various fields of their professional activity and in the family. Of particular interest, at least to me, are the studies on equality in the academic field.

2. *Economic theories* (publications № 2, 5, 15, 16-24, 25-27, 31, 32, 39-43, 48).

Research is focused on the history of the economic thought. They include: methodology and theoretical views of Werner Sombart and Max Weber; the new Keynesianism; "economic imperialism" (study of non-economic fields and phenomena through the cognitive apparatus of economic science); theory of human capital (in fact, in my opinion, what Assoc. Prof. Kirova and her co-authors do – a study of the human capital in *education and science* – is also "economic imperialism").

3. *Expert potential in higher education and science in research and education area in Southeast Europe*

Three publications (№ 6, 33, 47) show the state, problems and perspectives of the scientific and teaching potential in Bulgaria and in the region.

Characteristic features of the scientific production:

- academic studies, theoretical – in the second field, predominantly conceptual and empirical – in the first and third field;
- publications full of research and results;
- academic style, clear and comprehensible presentation.

Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova has a long and significant in volume teaching activity (in three higher education institutions) for a total of 1570 teaching hours. She has developed (unpublished) lecture course on the subject "History of Economic Theories" in three versions: for masters and for bachelors – full-time and part-time. She has been member of exam commissions for Ph.D. minimum and for assistants, and has participated in many discussions of dissertation works.

*Conclusion to section II:*

- The scientific production presented for the competition is in its profile and is at high scientific level.
- Assoc. Prof. Kirova's scientific and applied activity is enormous in scope and results and exceeds all possible idea of the scope of this type of activity required for the occupation of the academic position "Professor".
- Her teaching activity is also significant and exceeds the standards for the election of professors at the Bulgarian universities.

### **III. Quantitative characteristics of the candidate's scientific work**

For the competition are presented:

- 2 individual monographs (publications № 2 and 5);
- 4 participations in collective monographs (publications № 1, 3, 4, 6) meeting the definition of a separately reported monograph (over 100 standard pages), as adopted in the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff (LDAS);
- 1 chapter (less than 100 standard pages) of collective monograph (publication № 48);

- 15 publications (№ 31-33, 36-47), some of which correspond to the common academic conception of “study”, and others – “articles” (as the common academic conception), “studies” by the definition of RILDAS (more than 20 standard pages);
- 2 participations in collective studies (publications № 34, 35);
- 19 individual articles and published reports from scientific forums (publications № 10, 13-15, 16-24, 25-30). 9 of them (№ 16-24) are outside the common academic conception of an article or report in a scientific journal or proceedings, but they correspond to the definition of an “article” in the RILDAS. Also, 5 co-authored participations in articles and published reports (publications № 7-9, 11, 12).

#### *Science-metric indicators*

The indicator from group “A” (dissertation work for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”) has a fixed number of points, which – with successful defense – cannot be more or less. The indicator from group “B” (dissertation work for “Doctor of Sciences”) is optional.

For the indicators in groups “B”, “D” and “E” the science-metric indicators of the Assoc. Prof. Kirova are 2 to 4 times higher than the normatively set standard.

The publications referenced and indexed in SCOPUS or Web of Science publications exceed 1.5 times the standard.

#### *Conclusion to section III:*

The scientific production presented for the competition quantitatively is significantly higher than the usual academic standards.

For all groups of mandatory indicators, the science-metric evaluations for Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova exceed the norms by 1.5 to 4 times.

#### **IV. Evaluation of the results and scientific contribution of the candidate**

As already mentioned, the studies and scientific production and results presented for the competition are in three areas. In this section of the review, given the profile of the reviewer, the focus is on the field “Economic Theories”. The other two areas are also reported.

Four publications (№ 5, 39-41) present the results of research on the German history school in its development in the last decades of 19<sup>th</sup> and the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century, and in particular of its most prominent representatives: Max Weber and Werner Sombart (in literature, the history school of this period is defined as the “newest”, “youngest” or its “third stage”). Studied are the interesting but difficult questions about the methodology of Weber and Sombart, the general and the different between them. Publications № 5, 39-41 contribute to the understanding and comprehension of the methodology of the two distinguished economists (both of whom – especially Weber – are sociologists). Convincingly defended is the thesis that interdisciplinarity in the economic analysis and the increased attention to the interaction of the economy with the surrounding social environment, characteristic of Weber and Sombart, and today, at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, are very current to the economic theory.

The global financial and economic crisis of 2007-2009 confirmed the New Keynesian and disproved the neoclassical theses about the financial markets and the stability of the market economy, and increased interest in the new Keynesianism. The studies of Assoc. Prof. Kirova is the most serious Bulgarian participation in the global debate on the new Keynesian doctrine. They answer the question of why the new Keynesianism has established itself as an

authoritative line in the economic theory in the past three to four decades. The thesis that the new Keynesianism (main representative Joseph Stiglitz) is *post-Keynesianism*, i.e. in essence it is not a continuation of the theoretical views coming from Keynes, is refuted. Shown is how with neoclassical methodology – microeconomic approach, methodological individualism – the new Keynesians reach “anti-neoclassical” views (the term “anti-neoclassical” is of the reviewer). Particularly interesting and with an influence on the contemporary Bulgarian theoretical economic thought is the thesis of Assoc. Prof. Kirova that the new Keynesianism *is part of the “mainstream”* in the contemporary economic theory, *but not in* the neoclassical economics.

In the field “human capital” the studies and results on theoretical and applied issues are presents. In my opinion, applied studies predominate.

Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova is one of the very few Bulgarian authors who has conducted studies on the phenomenon “economic imperialism” in the contemporary social science. She gives grounds to the interesting (and somewhat unusual in my opinion) thesis that “economic imperialism” can be considered in the context of the contemporary political economy. This thesis is in line with the understanding of the political economy as an interdisciplinary intersection field between economic science, sociology, law and other sciences about the society.

As a whole I accept the information prepared by Assoc. Prof. Kirova about the results/contributions with which she participated in the competition. According to me, generalized the main contributions are:

- Outlined is a pyramidal scheme of the conceptual apparatus for the study of gender equality.
- Quantitative dimensions of horizontal (by industry and occupation) gender segregation are achieved. Also of vertical segregation (access to management positions).
- The differences in the conditions for academic careers and its realization are evaluated by gender.
- Established is a trend of increasing overload of women in the division of labor in the family.
- Evaluation is made and conclusions are drawn about the common and the different in the methodology of the leading representatives of the “newest” German history school Max Weber and Werner Sombart and their views on the interactions between the economy and the surrounding social environment.
- Suggested are systematization and classification of new Keynesian methodological positions, conceptual views and models.
- Convincingly defended is the thesis that the new Keynesianism (with leading representative Joseph Stiglitz) is an essential and indisputable part of the mainstream in the contemporary economic theory, without being in the frames of the neoclassical economy.
- Outlined are contemporary theoretical and empirical dimensions of the human capital in education and science for the conditions of the knowledge-based economy.

Explicitly should be notes:

- the many empirical results in the presented scientific production;
- also, the many suggestions aimed at the public practice (regulations, policies, mechanisms of influence on public attitudes).

The contributions have the character of:

- elements of novelty for science (above all in the empirical results for Bulgaria in the fields of gender equality and science and education, as well as in their outlined theoretical generalizations;
- enrichment of existing knowledge (mostly in the field of economic theories).

The publications and results presented at the competition provoke an interest and have an influence on the research studies in the respective fields. Their impact in the literature, judged by their citations, exceeds many times the foreseen norms. Presented are 148 citations, 16 of which are in referenced and indexed in SCOPUS and Web of Science publications. Publications of which Assoc. Prof. Kirova is author or co-author are in a number of foreign libraries.

Presented is a detailed information on the successful practice-oriented results of the research work of Assoc. Prof. Kirova. Among them are:

- provided consultations to foreign experts and national and international institutions;
- participation in the developing of regulatory documents;
- participation in the work of national institutions and international organizations as an external expert;
- use of publications, in which Assoc. Prof. Kirova is author or co-author, in developing opinions, concepts and strategies by different institutions;
- participation in trainings organized by various organizations and institutions;
- Bulgarian and foreign textbooks and teaching aids directed to using publications of Assoc. Prof. Kirova.

*Conclusion to section IV:*

The scientific results presented at the competition, their level and volume, as well as their significance to the practice, fully meet and exceed the requirements for occupying the academic position “Professor”.

## **V. Evaluation of the originality of the presented works and the reliability of the presented scientific data**

Presented is a declaration under Art. 29, para 1, item 6 of the LDAS for the originality of the scientific works and results participating in the competition. There are no direct or indirect data of deviation from the scientific ethics. Presented are separate protocols for publications with undivided co-authorship. The publications presented for the competition have the cited sources.

## **VI. Critical notes and recommendations**

I have no notes in essence on the application of Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova. Notes and recommendations of another nature:

1. The scientific contributions presented for the competition, labeled modestly as “achievements”, are well defined (which indicates that their author knows what she is doing and what she has done) and are detailed by fields and sub-fields. But perhaps it

would have been better if the results, which, according to their author, are main and leading, have also been outlined.

2. The summaries and the Results Information contain the statement “It is proved that...”. I think it would be more appropriate to rephrase them into “It is shown that...”, “It has been established that...” and others of this kind. What is “proof” in the social sciences (one of them is economic science)? This subject has long been debated in the philosophy of science.
3. What is a (scientific) article? According to RILDAS and the NACID schemes, a publication of 2-3-pages in a publication meeting certain requirements, is an “article”. In the common academic practice, the concepts are more different and, in my opinion, more meaningful. I have reservations about the perception of publications № 16-24 as “articles” presented in an academic competition.

The situation with the studies is similar: the definition of a “study” according to the definitions in RILDAS and NACID is different than the one according to the academic concepts.

4. I do not share the enthusiasm of Assoc. Prof. Kirova on the theory of the human capital and the “economic imperialism”. (“The theory of human capital is one of the most significant scientific and applied achievements in the history of economic thought in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”. – Summaries, p. 13, summary of publication № 31).
5. Why, in my view, the thesis of “economic imperialism” in the political economy is unusual (see section IV of the review)? By definition, this “imperialism” is the economic science (methodology, concepts, methods) going outside its usual boundaries and “conquering” new territories in fields such as politics, law, family relations, etc. Since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, for 200 years the political economy has been considered an economic theory, and (in this understanding) it cannot be a territory where economic imperialism can “enters”.
6. I went to one university, then to another, for a total of 10 years. In the faculties of economics at both universities and other universities, girls/women are between 2/3 and 3/4 of the total number of students. Estimated by the conceptual apparatus of Assoc. Prof. Kirova and her co-authors, is this not horizontal segregation towards boys/men? How will the academic staff of the university economic education look like in 20-25 years: maybe women in it will also be between 2/3 and 3/4? Will this be good or bad for the education and science? Is this segregation towards men or will it not be a segregation?
7. Assoc. Prof. (with confidence I expect in a few weeks – Professor) Alla Kirova works on a wide front: her first habilitation in 2000 is in the field of incomes, consumer protection; then – three other fields very slightly related to each other – feminism, economic theories, education and science. What is next: maintaining the wide front, expanding to new areas, or shrinking, which I think is better?

## **GENERAL CONCLUSION**

Alla Valentinovna Kirova:

- has an educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (1988);
- she is habilitated – senior research fellow II degree/Assoc. Prof. (2000);
- meets the science-metric norms of LDAS and RILDAS for the scientific position “Professor” and significantly exceeds them;

- has presented scientific production and results that by scientific level correspond to the position for which she is applying, and in volume are for more than one “Professor” procedure.

It is with conviction that I suggest Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alla Kirova to occupy the academic position “Professor” in the field “3. Social, economic and legal sciences”, professional field “3.8. Economy”.

Date: 04.05.2019

Reviewer: .....

(Prof. Dr.Econ.Sc. V. Todorov)