

ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

by Prof. Dr. Pobeda Vassileva Loukanova, Economic Research Institute at BAS, member of Scientific Jury in the competition for academic position “PROFESSOR”, 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, announced by Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, SG, issue 8 on 25/01/2019

Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alla Valentinovna Kirova

I. General evaluation of the candidate regarding her research activity

I know Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova after her admission as a Ph.D. student at ERI (former IE) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and I have witnessed her professional development and career as a research fellow. Assoc. Prof. Kirova successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis and continued to work at ERI-BAS. In her work, she worked hard on the problems of the welfare of the families and children (family social policy); the realization of women in labor and the situations of inequality; the human capital and its national and regional dimensions. From 1998 to 2011, Assoc. Prof. Kirova works as a part-time assistant and associate professor with lectures on “History of Economic Theories” at UNWE and as a lecturer in the Master’s Program of ERI and University of Veliko Tarnovo.

Assoc. Prof. Kirova successfully combines her scientific work with membership in expert councils and commissions at ERI, as well as in other (outside the Institute) organizational and scientific committees, editorial boards and councils, scientific organizations and networks. Since 2018, she is elected deputy chairman of the Scientific Council of ERI.

II. Quantitative assessment of meeting the minimum science-metric national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations of ERI-BAS

The list of scientific publications includes a total of 48 publications, which correspond to 1073 own standard printed pages. With a minimum requirement of 650 points, the candidate’s points are 2750 points. The candidate meets the quantitative science-metric national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations of ERI-BAS.

III. Evaluation of the results and scientific contribution of the candidate

The existing knowledge is enriched with the following groups of contributions:

A. Gender Equality

- Gender Equality

Based on analysis of the existing different definitions of the content of the term “gender”, the co-authors propose their own variant of it and present a hierarchy of the related terms in the form of a pyramid scheme;

- Gender differences and inequalities in employment and family

Measured is the horizontal and vertical gender segregation in employment through dissimilation indexes and constructing segregation coefficients.

Identified are cases of gender inequalities in the distribution of the unpaid domestic work in three areas of activity – housework, care for dependent family members, family economy.

Systematized are premises and factors for women's participation in the shadow economy; gender differences in entrepreneurship are evaluated.

- Gender dimensions of the academic area

After analyzing the results of a carried out (by the team of authors) questionnaire survey on the opinions of the scientists and teachers, evaluated are the gender differences in the academic institutions regarding the attitudes to make and maintain a family, raise children, postpone marriage or giving birth. Established is the absence of significant problems of institutional or personal character regarding the proposed conditions for reconciling academic and family life for both sexes.

B. Economic Theories

- German history school

Evaluated are the general and different characteristics of the studies of Sombart and Weber on the specific interaction between economy and religion. It is presented as an independent active force, determining through its inherent economic ethics and religious morality the emergence and development of modern capitalism in Western Europe, and in particular the emergence of the capitalist spirit.

- New Keynesian Doctrine

Evaluated is the specificity of the new Keynesianism, compared with the "old" Keynesians, as well as with the main trends in the modern macroeconomic theory, determining their differences in methodological, conceptual and practical terms. Systematized are the New Keynesian critical notes concerning the hypothesis of rational expectations and of the theory of the real economic cycle. Generalized and evaluated are the views of the New Keynesianism on the role and degree of state participation in the economic development nowadays and on the state policy in the conditions of inflexibility of the market structures.

- Development of economic theories

As a result of the analysis of the development of the traditional neoclassical theory of human capital, evaluated is the degree of its impact in the related concepts of other dominant trends in the contemporary economics.

- Theoretical aspects of the human capital in the fields of higher education and research

Determined is the functional role of the human capital in education and science for the establishment of knowledge-based economy, the formation, preservation and improvement of the human capital of the nation, the development of the innovation processes and the use of the expert potential of the academic staff.

C. Use of the expert potential in higher education and science to establish Southeast European science and education area

Evaluated is the degree of development of regional cooperation in higher education and research and is determined Bulgaria's place in it in the process of establishing the Balkan science and education area. Outlined are problem areas and obstacles of a more general and private nature to the transnational academic cooperation in the region.

Outlined are the benefits of the regional transnational cooperation and specific recommendations are made for the guidelines to improve the cooperation between Southeast European countries; recommendations for Bulgaria's role in it concerning the establishment of regional science and education space.

I consider the presented three main groups of contributions to be significant, reliable and of importance for enriching the research studies. They are significant to the practice concerning

changes in the legislation and existing social policies. Some of them are used to justify the need for changes in them and to suggest specific ones.

IV. Evaluation of the originality of the presented works and the reliability of the presented scientific data

Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova presents a reliable list of her works and detailed results obtained through her research studies.

Stated in section ***III. Assessment of the candidate's results and scientific contributions***, concrete contributions well illustrate the originality of the research topics chosen by her. It shows well concerning gender issues in our society – topic with no common opinions yet in our society. The other group of original questions are those about the New Keynesianism and changes in the economic policies.

Separately should be mentioned the high currency and over-national importance of the study on the expert potential in higher education and science for the establishment of science and education space of Southeast Europe.

V. Critical notes and recommendations

The specifics of the period of the professional career of Assoc. Prof. Kirova suggest targeting three different groups of problems and predominant realization in collective works. I propose that Assoc. Prof. Kirova expand her work with specific individual studies, in which to supplement and/or specify interesting personal hypotheses and suggestions for the practice, reached in the research process. Having in mind the already stated potential and the results achieved so far, it may be proposed her to continue her work in the broad field of the human capital and its realization; in specific studies of its manifestations in Southeast Europe and the Black Sea area.

VI. Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova presents scientific production that is sufficient in volume and has high currency and quality to occupy an academic position “Professor”. It is in three main groups with a common unifying element – the human capital and its contemporary realization. Exactly from these positions are raised questions of the economic theory with significance to the contemporary social policies and welfare of the population; to its full realization as representatives of both genders and their families.

The desire to find unexplored till now areas and aspects of contemporary problems leads Assoc. Prof. Kirova to the regional aspects of the human capital development and cooperations in the region of Southeast Europe. This is a valuable study that differs from the total flow of such studies for Bulgaria mainly from the aspect of its membership in the European Union.

With regard to the stated scientific results and their currency and significance, I propose Assoc. Prof. Alla Kirova as suitable for the academic position “Professor”.

Date: 16.05.2019

Member of jury:

(Prof. Dr. Pobeda Loukanova)