

## ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

by Prof. Dr. Georgi Shopov, 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*

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alla Kirova possesses a **solid experience in conducting fundamental, scientific and applied research studies in the social-economic field**. Proof of this is her participation in many projects from the research activity plan of the ERI-BAS, 7 of which are after the acquisition of the scientific rank “Senior Research Fellow II degree” in 2000, respectively the academic position “Associate Professor” in 2011. In addition, I would note the participation with individual tasks in other “external” scientific and educational projects in the field of the current competition, such as: “Key indicators for equality between women and men in Bulgaria in the fields of labor, education, health and family”, commissioned by MLSP; “Increasing the sensitivity of Bulgarian society to gender issues” implementing a project on the Framework Program for Equality between Men and Women in Bulgaria of the European Community, commissioned by MLSP; writing 9 scientific articles on the history of economic theories under a project of UNWE. To this should be added the expertise of my colleague Kirova related to the implementation of many concrete applied tasks in our country and abroad, and her participation in inter-departmental working groups, through which she links the results of her scientific activity with the practice. Scientific recognition are: her election as a member of the International Scientific Committee at the Sixth and Seventh International Scientific Conference Employment, Education and Entrepreneurship (2017 and 2018); the issuance of a Certificate of Membership in: Editorial Board in “International Journal of Economics, Finance and Management Sciences (IJEFM)” at the Science Publishing Group (2018); the two prestigious scientific awards – Jubilee diploma of the Competition for Excellence in BAS, dedicated to the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Academy (2014) and Diploma for scientific and applied contribution of the Competition for Excellence of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria for 2015.

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

I accept for evaluation all presented indicators, and my conclusion is that the candidate not only fulfills, but also in the groups of indicators “C”, “D” and “E” **significantly exceeds** the minimum science-metric national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations of ERI-BAS, as overall, her **total points are more than 4 times higher than the minimum required**.

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

Assoc. Prof. Kirova's research results and contributions are mainly in the following research fields: gender equality and economic theories. They are fully in line with those announced in the competition for which she is applying – "Economic Theories, Gender Equality", professional direction 3.8 "Economy". Also, part of her publications and the results therein are dedicated to the use of the expert potential of the higher education and science to establish the Southeast European scientific and educational space.

The scientific contributions are mostly related to the *enrichment of existing knowledge* – most notably proving by new means of essential aspects of already existing scientific fields, problems, theories, the acquisition and proving of new facts, the clarification of terms and the systematization of existing knowledge. In particular, I would point out:

First, in the field of "Gender Equality":

- The conducted analysis of the institutional framework in Bulgaria and the EU and proposals for changes in it, such as:
  - evaluation of the national legal framework protecting the rights of the children in the context of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children; proposals to supplement legislation and policies in support of the woman – mother in priority areas (employment, childcare services, family partnership); evaluation of the degree of transposition in the Bulgarian laws of the European legal norms for equal treatment of men and women; proposed system of national mechanisms for implementing state policies and measures to equality and encouragement of women; developed proposals to limit the impact of the factors determining the low employability of women and the reduction of family barriers; proposed measures to limit the women's labor in the shadow economy.
- Enrichment of the scientific instruments – scientific terms and research indicators, such as:
  - the precise difference between the terms "equality" and "equal rights"; developed structure of the system of social-economic indicators for the welfare of children and their defining and grouping by levels – at macro level and at the level of households with different numbers of children; the author's proposed version of the term "gender" and the hierarchy of other related terms;
- Enriching the scientific knowledge with new facts obtained from own research studies on:
  - horizontal gender segregation in employment (by developing and calculating indexes of branch and professional segregation);
  - vertical job and qualification segregation (by developing and calculating relevant coefficients);
  - identification of the main areas and activities of the shadow economy where women's work predominates;
  - differences in entrepreneurship field – the motivation, difficulties and incentives to orient women to own businesses;
  - comparative evaluation of the trends in the development and formation of the modern family in Europe and Bulgaria;
  - the tendency towards increasing female workload as a result of the inter-family division of labor;

- evaluation of Bulgaria's positioning on the European map of equality in higher education and science, and others.

Second, in the field of "Economic Theories":

- evaluation of the main contributions to the development of the economic theory and political economy by a number of representatives of the German History School;
- systematization of the statements of German scientists in the political-economic aspect, focused mainly on the historical and ethical problems of the genesis, development, fate and "spirit" of the contemporary capitalism;
- systematization of:
  - categorical apparatus, stages of the creation and formation of the New Keynesian theory;
  - New Keynesian conceptual statements and models related to improving the macroeconomic foundations of the macroeconomics, as well as their critical review;
  - the distinctive features and principles of the macroeconomic theory of New Keynesianism and the macroeconomic models developed and used in this doctrine.
- the evaluation of the opportunities for using the ideas and recommendations of the New Keynesian theory in the development of the macroeconomic policy in Bulgaria, and other.

As a *novelty to science*, I would outline the following scientific results and contributions:

First, in the field of "Gender Equality":

- The entire focus on these problems in a number of works presented for the competition (e.g. publications № 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12-14, 35-38), as well as the complex research approach to it.
- The achieved scientific results (new scientific facts, proposed indicators for measuring and evaluating the studied object), which are the result of original author's studies of academic and applied nature.

Second, in the field of "Economic Theories":

- The research studies of the candidate, covering the systematization and evaluation of the development of the German History School, the Neo-Keynesian doctrine, and economic theory in general, are some of the few in this field in recent years.
- The character of these studies, which has a (naturally) predominantly theoretical nature, is enriched and supplemented by conclusions and evaluations oriented to development of the economic policy and to enrichment of teaching in the field of "Political Economy" in higher education.

I relate **the importance of the scientific contributions to science and practice** with the mentioned scientific results, aimed at optimizing the institutional framework (normative order, institutions), designed to regulate gender equality, and with the outlined opportunities for using the scientific results in the field of the economic theories in forming our national macroeconomic policy.

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

The presented works and scientific results and achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alla Kirova are **entirely** the result of her long conscientious research activity at ERI-BAS. I have had the opportunity to participate in expert discussions of scientific projects and developments in which she has participated and I have become convinced of her high professional ethics. The provided scientific data are reliable and do not cast any doubt on the quality, correctness and relevance of the sources and the used work methods.

***V. Critical notes and recommendations (including an evaluation of their impact on the quality of the presented scientific and applied production)***

I have no critical remarks to question the quality of Dr. A. Kirova's production. My mutual work with her at ERI-BAS, as well as my role as a reviewer of her publications and research studies, has convinced me that she is responsible to all constructive comments and recommendations aimed at improving the quality of her scientific results. In this connection, I would recommend her in the future to continue her research in the field of economic theories and strengthen the theoretical aspect in the field of gender equality, and seek even more persistently opportunities for systematic contributions in this direction.

***VI. Conclusion***

Based on everything I mentioned so far concerning the results of the candidate, her scientific results and contributions, the originality of the presented works and the accuracy of the presented scientific data, **I express my complete conviction that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alla Kirova fully meets the requirements for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" at Economic Research Institute at BAS.**

Date: 15.05.2019

Member of jury: .....  
(Prof. Dr. G.Shopov)