

OPINION

by Prof. Dr.Sc.(Econ.) Nikola Kolev Valchev, scientific specialty "Economics and Management of Industries (Agriculture)" and scientific specialty "National Economy (incl. regional economy and history of national economy)".

About: competition for "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.8. Investment Economics and Infrastructural Development at Territorial and Sectoral Level, published in State Gazette No. 44/19.05.2023, for the Regional and Sectoral Economics Department, Economic Research Institute at BAS, Sofia.

I. Contest information

The competition is announced for the needs of the Department of Regional and Sectoral Economics, Economic Research Institute at BAS, Sofia, on the basis of Article 4 of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, Article 86 of the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions in the Institute of Academic Staff at Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and according to the Decision of the National Council of the Institute of Academic Staff at Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - Protocol No. 7 of 12.07.2023.

Only one candidate was admitted to the competition – Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova.

II. Reasons for the Opinion

The opinion was prepared on the basis of the Order No. 366/18.07.2023 of the Director of Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for appointing a Scientific Jury for conducting a competition for associate professor in professional field 3.8. Investment Economics and Infrastructural Development at Territorial and Sectoral Level.

III. Fulfilling the requirements for the academic position

The detailed review of the Report on the fulfilment of the minimum requirements under Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions in the Institute of Academic Staff at Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, shows that Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova completely covers the quantitative and qualitative requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.8. Investment Economics and Infrastructural Development at Territorial and Sectoral Level.

IV. Evaluation of the candidate's research activity

For participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted monographic research, articles and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, as well as in non-refereed. Collective research works are accompanied by separating protocols. Some of the publications are in a foreign language.

Among the presented publications are distinguished monographic study, co-authored, "Financial instruments for the implementation of municipal investment projects" and collective monographic study, co-authored, "Financial opportunities of potential beneficiaries for co-financing of water and wastewater projects under Priority Axis 1 of the Operational Programme "Environment 2014-2020". In these two studies, as well as in the candidate's independent monograph - "Municipal investments and sources of their financing", financial instruments are examined and evaluated in the European and national context, a methodology for the evaluation of each individual source of financing is developed and applied. The most common barriers to the use of the different financial instruments are highlighted. Significant public finance issues are also explored.

The published articles examine various regional and municipal problems and offer ideas for their successful resolution.

V. Synthesized assessment of the candidate's scientific and applied contributions

Detailed and careful acquaintance with the scientific production of Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova allows to highlight the following most important contributions of theoretical-methodological and practical-applied nature:

1. The systematization of the essential characteristics of municipal investments, including own and attracted funds in the investment revenues of municipalities.
2. The proposed model for calculating the financial discount factor as an element for the evaluation of investment projects.
3. The developed and proposed methodologies for the analysis and evaluation of municipal investment costs and the advantages and disadvantages of sources of financing municipal investments in Bulgaria.
4. The assessment of the credit potential of municipalities in Bulgaria in the period 2017-2019.
5. The proposed indicative financial discount factor for environmental investment projects.
6. The assessment of necessary changes in municipal waste management systems.

Chief asst. Prof. Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova stands out as an established researcher, with contributions to national and regional development, with a reputation in scientific circles, which is evident from the Citation Report submitted for the competition.

VI. Conclusion

The listed circumstances and findings, the convincing achievements in the candidate's research activities, give me grounds with full conviction to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote for the occupation of the academic position

"Associate Professor" by Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova in the professional field 3.8. Investment Economics and Infrastructural Development at Territorial and Sectoral Level, Economic Research Institute at BAS, Sofia.

29.08.2023
Sofia

Signature:
(Prof. Dr.Sc.(Econ.) Nikola Valchev)