

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Darina Ruscheva Todorova, scientific specialty "Economics and Management of Industries (Agriculture)" and scientific specialty "National Economy (incl. regional economy and history of national economy)", Economic Research Institute at BAS.

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.

1. Contest information

The competition is announced 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. 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 the procedure for competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Department of Regional and Sectoral Economics at Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in professional field 3.8. Investment Economics and Infrastructural Development at Territorial and Sectoral Level.

2. Candidate Information

Since December 2008 Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova has been working at Economic Research Institute at BAS. She is a Chief Assist. Prof. And has PhD. She is engaged in scientific research, scientific and applied activities and expertise. She is involved in various successfully completed projects. Personal skills and competences - she is able to work in a team, as evidenced by her very good communication skills, related to her experience in project development, trainings and public discussions; very good command of English and excellent computer and office equipment skills.

3. Fulfilling the requirements for the academic position

From the attached in the candidate's documents Reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions in the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences it can be seen that Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova meets, and in the group of indicators "C" and "D", exceeds the minimum required points for "Associate Professor", in the competition announced in the professional field 3.8. Economics of Investment and Infrastructure Development at Territorial and Sectoral Level.

4. Publications

For participation in the competition chief assist. Prof. Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova has submitted various publications (monographs, studies and articles). The studies and articles are published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information, as well as in non-refereed journals, with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes. Collective research papers are accompanied by separating protocols. Some of the publications are in Latin.

Among the presented publications stand out the monographic studies. The independent monograph of the candidate - "Municipal investments and sources of their financing", (2023) (in co-authorship with chief asst. Prof. Dr. Dochka Velkova). The candidate's independent monograph "Municipal Investments and

Sources of their Financing" (2023) is also presented. The first collective monograph deals with issues related to financial instruments (their characteristics as one of the sources of financing municipal investments in Bulgaria, advantages and disadvantages, barriers and challenges to their use for financing municipal investments). The second collective monograph is devoted to the financing of water and wastewater projects under priority axis 1 of the Operational Programme "Environment 2014-2020" (specific features, framework of the activities of water and wastewater operators and municipalities in Bulgaria, analysis and assessment of their financial situation in the period 2007-2013, etc.). Also mentioned are the contributions of the candidate, with separate chapters, in collective monographs - (Chapter II-6, in the Annual Report of the Institute of Water Management at BAS (2012) and Chapter 4 in "Territorial Differences in Bulgaria - Trends, Factors and Policies", (2010), AI "Prof. (2010). The subject of the candidate's publications corresponds to the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor.

5. Scientific and applied contributions of the candidate

The main scientific contributions, of theoretical-methodological and practical-applied nature, are as follows:

1. The systematization of the essential characteristics of municipal investments, and the sources of their financing.
2. Development of methodologies (including the analysis and evaluation of municipal investment costs and investment capacity of municipalities; evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of sources of financing municipal investments in Bulgaria).
3. Justification of approaches for assessing the creditworthiness of municipalities.
4. Proposing a system of indicators for assessing the financial situation of municipalities and water and sewerage operators in Bulgaria, in terms of

their capacity to provide financial resources for co-financing investment projects under OP "Environment".

5. Development of a model for calculation of a financial discount factor applied as an element in the evaluation of investment projects, tested for environmental investment projects.
6. Assessment of the social tolerability for the population of the prices of water and sewerage services.
7. Evaluating the necessary changes in municipal waste management systems.
8. Systematizing the objectives of the regional policy in Bulgaria and assessing its implementation on the basis of a proposed summary assessment of 12 indicators, including investment and infrastructure indicators for the territorial units.

For me, chief asst. Dr. Yana Tsvetanova Kirilova is a well-established scientist-researcher in the field of national and regional development, with extensive expertise, diverse publishing activities, with popularity in the scientific and expert space, judging by the attached to the materials of the competition Reference of her citations. Our long-standing work in the Regional and Sectoral Economics Department at the Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences gives me reason to say that Dr. Kirilova shows depth and perseverance in her research activities, responsibility and organization in her work, and many of the results obtained from her scientific research have important significance for the social and economic practice in Bulgaria.

6. Conclusion

The facts and evidence set forth in the opinion warrant, with full conviction, my recommendation to the Honorable 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

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12.09.2023
Sofia

Signature:
(Prof. Dr. Darina Ruscheva)