

Opinion

by Prof. Dr. Daniela Nikolova Bobeva – Filipova

at the Economic Research Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Economic Research Institute (ERI) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) in the higher education field 3. Social, Economics and Legal Sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics in European Public Finances at the International Economics Section of the ERI at the BAS

1. Information about the contest

The competition has been announced for the needs of the International Economics Section of the ERI at the BAS according to the decision of the Scientific Council of the ERI at BAS - Protocol No. 9 of 26.06.2024. I participate as a member of the Scientific Jury for the competition according to the Order No. 426 / 05.07.2024 of the Director of the ERI at the BAS.

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Vitanova Paliova from the International Economy Section of the ERI at the BAS is the only candidate who participates in the announced competition for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

2. Brief information about the candidate in the competition

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Paliova holds a Master's degree in Economics. She holds PhD in Economics from the ERI at BAS obtained during the period 2015 - 2017, with a doctoral thesis "Fiscal Stimulus and Effects of the European Structural Funds in the Central and Eastern Europe". Her scientific work is directly related to the main focus of her professional career – fiscal policy in a broad international and European context. Her more than 14 years of experience in the Ministry of Finance gives her the opportunity to obtain rich knowledge and analytical skills in the field of public finances and fiscal policy in the European context - participation in committees and working groups at the European Council and the European Commission. The created capacity for scientific analysis on the legal framework of the EU, which she knows and follows very well, enables her to develop the applied aspects of scientific

activity. Her work (to this day) at the International Monetary Fund broadens the international scope of her knowledge and experience.

As Chief Assistant Professor and Scientific Secretary of the International Economy Section, Dr. Paliova adds value to the work of the Section in the field of European integration, green transition and public finance challenges. She participates actively in the international project of the ERI at BAS with the Romanian Academy of Sciences.

During the period of 4 years in which Dr. Paliova worked at the Institute, she participated in the research activity of the institute with three successfully completed projects and is currently working on two projects.

In conclusion, it should be noted that both Iana Paliova's educational training, as well as her research activity at the ERI at BAS, as well as her work in practice at high-level positions at the Ministry of Finance and the International Monetary Fund, fully correspond to the topic and requirements of the announced competition for the academic position "Associate Professor".

3. Fulfillment of the quantitative and qualitative requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor"

The information in the presented completed quantitative map shows that the application of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Paliova fully meets the National minimum requirements according to the Law on the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria (Art. 2b) and the Regulations for its applications (Art. 1a, para. 1), exceeding the minimum requirements. The information proves that the additional requirements of the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at the BAS have also been met - with a minimum threshold of 450 points, Dr. Paliova, Chief Assistant Professor, has 575 points. The candidate also has presented 2 publications in the Economic Studies Journal of the ERI, which meets the requirements for the scientific publications, referenced and index-renewed world databases of scientific information.

4. Brief description of the presented scientific works/publications

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Paliova has presented, in addition to her habilitation work, a sufficient number of publications that exceed the quantitative requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

My assessment of the presented scientific works of the candidate is high. In an extremely short period of time, the candidate managed to make a significant scientific contribution both in terms of quantity and quality. Several main directions in her research work stand out. At the center of her scientific interests are two main topics: fiscal policy under the impact of sustainable development and the green transition and the effects of European funds on fiscal policy.

The research presents her point of view on the green transition and its relationship with sustainable development and, on this basis, she analyzes the role of fiscal multipliers and fiscal rules under the EU Stability and Growth Pact for sustainable development (publications 2, 4, 7, 11, 14, 16), EU financial instruments under the Next Generation EU initiative and the Fit 55 package and their impact on fiscal sustainability (publications 1, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 12). She has assessed the impact of environmental taxes and public subsidies and investment costs on sustainability indicators "greenhouse gas emissions" (publications 1, 13 and 15); developed a Model and methodology for assessing the impact of green policies, financed with national and European funds for 2021 - 2027, on the fiscal deficit and government debt of Bulgaria. (publications 1, 3, 9 and 10); and a model and methodology for assessing the impact of European funding and the national contribution to the EU budget on the budget balance of Bulgaria (publications 1, 2, 4, 11).

Significant contributions are also contained in the publications dedicated to the impact of European funds on economic growth in Bulgaria and the member states of Central and Eastern Europe (publications 1, 2, 4, 11 and 16).

The habilitation thesis, as well as the publications of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Paliova are generally distinguished by the following merits:

A thorough and comprehensive analysis of the theoretical aspects of the problems it explores. The perception for theory and theoretical discussion is demonstrated in all her scientific articles, impressing the excellent knowledge and respect of the Bulgarian authors. Her analyzes of regulatory framework and policies in a critical context and search for better and working practices are extremely interesting. The candidate's publications emphasize the modeling of the investigated processes and develop working methodologies for the study of this complex matter. It is noteworthy that the international comparisons that are present in most articles are skillfully selected both as countries and as statistical approaches.

5. Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied) and citations

My assessment is that the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Paliova are correctly defined and presumed from the content of her studies and their results.

The candidate's scientific contributions can be presented as: systematization of existing methodologies, research and knowledge for the purposes of revealing trends, connections and problems in the announced specific area of the competition - European public finance. This contribution has a significant scientific-applied effect resulting from the excellent knowledge and analysis of the European legal framework and policies in this area. This enrichment was achieved through in-depth theoretical and empirical analysis and skillfully selected methodological approaches, which led to: the discovery of new facts and processes; definition of basic concepts; proposing models and policies for the confirmation and development of some modern new areas of economic theory and practice such as the green transition, the means from the EU structural and investment funds and others.

This summary of the contributions is also confirmed by the citations of the publications, which demonstrates the already established place of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Paliova among the academic community in the field of public finance and European integration.

It should also be emphasized the fact that the scientific output of the candidate complements its capacity to assist with its expertise countries subject to assessment under Art. 4 of the IMF's charter and expands its academic and applied recognition.

6. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

The presented habilitation work, the scientific publications and the highlighted scientific and scientific-applied contributions of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iana Paliova are her personal achievement and the product of her scientific research in accordance with the standards of scientific ethics according to the procedure regulated in the Law on the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulation for the Academic Staff Development of the BAS.

7. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical comments on the presented materials and on the candidacy of Chief Assist. Prof. Iana Paliova, in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor".

For the future, I would recommend to broaden the scope of her research beyond the topics of the green transition and to do research on the new challenges facing European public finances in relation to the new European Competitiveness Strategy, the Industrialization Strategy and the Open Strategic Autonomy. The candidate could also contribute to the preparedness of the country in the field of the relationship between fiscal and monetary policy in the context of the country's upcoming accession to the Eurozone.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by the candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Iana Paliova, meets all the requirements of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the its application and the requirements of the ERI at the BAS.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number (above the minimum requirements) of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and for holding the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor. There are original scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the scientific works of the candidate that have been cited and received recognition among the scientific community at home and abroad. The combination of academic development with practical experience enables the candidate to formulate conclusions and recommendations of importance for the development of fiscal policy in the changing socio-economic and international environment.

After familiarizing myself with the documents and scientific works presented for the competition process and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Scientific Council of the ERI at BAS for the selection of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Iana Vitanova Paliova for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at the International Economics Section at ERI of the BAS in the professional direction 3.8. Economics in European Public Finances, higher education filed 3. Social, Economics and Legal Sciences.

10.09.2024

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Daniela Bobeva