

## **OPINION**

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regarding

contest for acquiring academic position of "associate professor" at the Economic Research Institute at the BAS in the professional field 3.8 "Economics" - European public finance

### **1. Information about the contest**

The contest for the academic position of "associate professor" for the needs of the "International Economy" section was announced in the State Gazette no. 40/07.05.2024. By Order No. 426 / 05.07.2024 of Prof. Dr. Irena Zareva-Zafirova and according to the decision of the Scientific Council of the ERI at BAS, registered in protocol No. 9 of 26.06.2024, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the procedure.

The only candidate is Yana Vitanova Palyova, PhD, assistant professor. According to the protocol dated 10.07.2024 of the admission committee appointed by Order No. 427/05.07.2024 and protocol No. 54/15.07.2024 of the first meeting of the scientific jury, Dr. Palyova was admitted to participate in the procedure. At the first meeting of the scientific jury, I was designated as a member submitting an opinion.

### **2. Information about the candidate in the competition**

The only candidate in the competition is Yana Vitanova Palyova, PhD, assistant professor. She presented the following documents:

1. Resume
2. Reference for the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements and the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions in the ERI at the BAS.
3. List of publications that have not been submitted for the acquisition of the degree "doctor" and for the academic position "chief assistant"

4. Separation protocol for 1 joint publication.
5. Reference to original scientific contributions.
6. List of citations
7. The summaries of the publications submitted for review in Bulgarian and English
8. List of scientific publications submitted for the acquisition of the degree "doctor" and for the acquisition of the academic position "principal assistant".
9. Information on additional indicators under Art. 87, para. 4 of the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions in the ERI at the BAS
10. The publications indicated in the List of publications that are not submitted for the acquisition of the degree "doctor" and for the academic position "chief assistant"
11. Acceptance and transfer protocol from the National Library "St.St. Cyril and Methodius" from 06.06.2024.

The presented documents are comprehensive, well organized and systematized. They contain the necessary information, so that it is possible to carry out an assessment regarding the fulfilment of the requirements introduced with the LDASRB, the Regulation for its implementation and the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions in the ERI at the BAS.

The attached resume certifies that the requirements regarding education, professional and academic experience fully correspond to the requirements of the contest. Dr. Palyova has research experience, which she combines with active professional activity in practice - at the International Monetary Fund (from 2009 to the present), and before that - at the Ministry of Finance (from 1995 to 2009), in which she also holds managerial positions. It makes a positive impression that in her experience - both research and professional, Dr. Palyova is active not only nationally, but also internationally.

In the ERI at the BAS, Dr. Palyova holds the position of assistant from October 2020, chief assistant - from August 2021 and scientific secretary of the "International Economy" section from April 2021. My personal impressions of the candidate are limited, but entirely positive – especially when participating in various forums (in one of which we were both panelists).

### **3. Fulfilment of the requirements for occupying the academic position**

#### ***3.1. Fulfilment of quantitative requirements***

Chief assistant professor Yana Palyova , PhD, has submitted 16 publications for her participation in the procedure (after the dissertation defence): 1 monograph, presented as

the main habilitation work; 1 published book based on a defended dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"; 2 studies published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus); 1 study published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes; 11 articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes.

The publications were carried out after the acquisition of the degree "Doctor" and are not included in the list of works for obtaining it. The monograph presented as the main habilitation thesis awards the required 100 points for the candidate. The remaining publications form the quantitative format of group D provide the amount of 285 points, which significantly exceeds the minimally required 200 items. The requirements of Art. 81, para (1), item 4, that at least 2 publications to be in a refereed and indexed edition is met.

The list of citations presented by chief assistant professor Dr. Yana Palyova testifies to a substantial over-fulfilment of the minimum requirements for this indicator with a total score of 140 points (out of the required 50 points). There are 5 citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, which carry 75 points. Two of the citations are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 20 points. In non-refereed publications, the citations are a total of 9 and carry 45 points.

In view of the above, I accept that the quantitative requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" have been met.

### *3.2. Fulfillment of quality requirements*

In my opinion, the publications submitted for evaluation correspond to the theme of the contest. I believe that Dr. Palyova has the knowledge, skills, qualities and experience necessary to develop them. Therefore, I confidently accept that the publications are the personal work of the candidate. I have not detected plagiarism in accordance with the law.

## **4. Brief description of the presented publications**

The leading direction in Dr. Palova 's research activity is the management of public finances. She focuses on public policies in the European Union and the resource provision related to their implementation through the European Structural Funds. In an even narrower

aspect, policies aimed at sustainable development and the transition to a green economy stand out more specifically.

The publications are developed in an academic style, in clear and understandable language, which supports their application in practice. The candidate skilfully demonstrates ability for working with a wide range of research tools, selecting appropriate methods depending on the topic of the specific work. The issues that the candidate examines in her scientific activity are characterized by relevance and high importance.

## **5. A synthesized evaluation of the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

In the attached reference, the applicant formulated numerous contributions. In my opinion, they should be clarified or reformulated, as some of them are not contributions in themselves, but are actually research methods by which Dr. Palyova achieved the relevant contributions. Thus, for example, the study of fiscal multipliers and the critical analysis of changes in fiscal rules are a means by which the need to change the latter and the accumulation of buffers is justified. It is the substantiation of these claims (the conclusion, not the research itself) that is the more important contribution.

Despite the above, I fully accept what was stated by Dr. Palyova . The research goals and tasks that she sets for herself in her scientific work are challenging, and the level of their implementation is high. In my personal opinion, the scientific and applied contributions that are the most valuable are related to impact assessment of:

- environmental taxes and public subsidies and investment costs on sustainability indicators;
- green policies financed with national and European fund for 2021-2027, on the fiscal deficit and the government debt in Bulgaria;
- the European funding and the national contribution for budgetary of the EU on the budget balance on Bulgaria .

## **6. Remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks about the candidate. I encourage her to continue her active research.

## 7. Conclusion

The documents and materials presented by chief assistant Yana Vitanova Palyova, PhD, fully comply with all the requirements of LDASRB, the Regulation for its implementation and the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions in the ERI at the BAS.

The candidate has presented a significant volume of publications, carried out after obtaining the degree "doctor" and occupying the academic position "chief assistant". In the scientific activity of the candidate, original scientific and applied contributions can be found, which have received national and international recognition.

In view of the above and based on the significance of the scientific achievements of Dr. Yana Palyova, I express my positive assessment and recommend the respected scientific jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Scientific Council of the Economic Research Institute at the BAS that she occupy the academic position "associate professor" in professional direction 3.8. "Economics" - European Public Finance.

16.09.2024

Sofia

Signature: .....

/Assoc. Prof. James Jolovski, PhD/