

Opinion

By: Prof. Dr. Albena Todorova Kraeva-Miteva

Scientific specialty "Economics and management /Ecoeconomics/"

Regarding: competition for the academic position of associate professor for the "Regional and Sectoral Economy" section of the Institute for Economic Research of the BAS in professional field 3.8. Economy - Agrarian economy, announced in the State Gazette №. 33/29.04.2022

Grounds for participation in the scientific jury - Decision of the SC protocol 10 of 15.06.2022 and Order of the Director No. 282/27.06.

1. Information about the candidate in the competition

Chief Assistant Dr. Petya Hristomirova Branzova is the only candidate for the position of "Associate Professor" according to the announced competition. She has a bachelor's degree in economics (2004-2008) from UNSS with an acquired specialization in "Agrarian Economics"; Master of Economics at UNSS in "Agrarian Business" (2008-2009) and full-time doctoral studies at UNSS (2010-2013) with acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Dr. Branzova works as an assistant and chief assistant in the "Regional and Sectoral Economy" section of the Institute for Economic Research of BAS. She was a part-time teacher in the Department of "Economics of Natural Resources" at UNSS on the courses "Management Consulting" and "Economics of Cooperatives".

She speaks English and Russian, is a member of the Union of Scientists, the Union of Economists and Agricultural Economists in Bulgaria.

2. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position

Chief assistant Branzova participates in the competition for the academic position at the Institute of Scientific Research with scientific production and citations, which form in the map for fulfilling the national minimum requirements 508 points out of the required minimum of 450 points, which is a 12.8% total overperformance. The greatest excess is in citations - 150% and in published scientific works in the form of articles and reports - 110%.

In fulfillment of the additional requirements under Art. 87 para. 4 of the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions at the Institute of Scientific Research of the Academy of

Sciences, the candidate presents 3 participations and memberships in scientific organizations with the scientific field of the competition, namely - the Union of Scientists, the Union of Economists and the Union of Agrarian Economists. Chief Assistant Branzova also presents a list of participation in 6 international and national scientific conferences.

It can be concluded that the candidate convincingly surpasses the minimum quantitative indicators for occupying the academic position of "associate professor".

3. General characteristics of the presented scientific works.

For participation in the competition, Chief Assistant Branzova presents 19 scientific works published in the period 2014-2022, which do not duplicate the publications for the acquisition of the academic position "chief assistant" and Doctors| degree."

In the structure of the types of publications, independent publications prevail (over 99%) of the total number of pages. The presented scientific production by the candidate for the competition, Dr. Branzova, allows to highlight several directions of her scientific interests, which can be arranged according to the number of scientific works presented in the following way: Impact of climate changes on agriculture and the economy of Bulgaria - 7 issues of publications; Organic farming and Common Agricultural Policy of the EU - 8 issues; Bioeconomy - 4 issues.

The problems of the impact of climate change on agriculture and the economy of Bulgaria occupy a central place in the research activity of chief assistant Branzova, with the leading place being the monographic work "Impact of climate change on the development of major fruit crops in the South-East region of Bulgaria". The problems related to the cultivation of fruit crops in this region have been revealed, the necessary ones have been defined and their effectiveness has been evaluated for the development of the production of fruit crops in the region. On this basis, the author derives the thesis that the influence of climate changes, as well as the projected estimated yields can be used in determining the size of the areas and the required resources, as well as the expected production results.

Of great interest is the independent monograph, developed on the basis of the protected dissertation work "Economic impact of climate changes on Bulgarian agriculture in the South-Eastern planning region". It presents five options for changing the average yields of the studied crops, the results of which were used as input data for the made assessments, and through an economic-mathematical model, the optimal structure of agriculture in the South-Eastern planning region was determined.

In the second research area "Organic agriculture and EU CAP", the development of organic production and the application of the CAP for the period

2014-2020 are analyzed. Proposals for achieving sustainable development and environmental protection are of interest. In the works of chief assistant Branzova, the development of the bioeconomy in the EU, adopted policies, strategies and innovations at regional level are presented, and conclusions and recommendations for our country are developed.

Dr. Branzova's scientific work is dedicated to current and significant, not sufficiently developed problems and fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

3. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

The candidate has submitted a report on the contributions of her scientific production. The theoretical and methodological contributions to the scientific output can be summarized as the development and adaptation of a climate model to assess the impact of changes leading to a change in the final results and estimated yields of agricultural crops; Scientific proof of the "climate-average yield" relationship with the establishment of the size and volume of production and the necessary resources and investments to start new productions; Assessment of the economic problems that make it difficult for organic producers, related to the expansion of this type of production; Expanding and enriching the theoretical views related to the concept of "green infrastructure" in the context of the EU CAP; Summarizing and systematizing the scientific and scientific-applied foundations of the bioeconomy and policies to ensure sustainable development and food security.

Scientific-applied contributions are related to revealing the impact of climate changes on agricultural production and regional development of the country, as well as forecasting and formulating project decisions related to agrarian policy; establishing the status and parameters of organic production of crop production and the potential opportunities to support the producers of organic products laid down in the Rural Development Program and to implement the funds for implementing good practices and methods for organic production of new and traditional products of plant and animal origin.

In conclusion, it should be summarized that the presented scientific production contains significant scientific and applied contributions that fully correspond to the profile of the announced competition.

4. Notes and recommendations

I have a recommendation for Dr. Branzova to use the collected data more widely for the development of methodological aids and textbooks.

Conclusion

Positively evaluating the presented scientific production and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in it, I propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury Dr. Petya Hristomirova Brunzova to be elected to the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 3.8 Economics, Agrarian Economics with the Institute of Economic Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Science.

15.08.2022г.

Signature:.....

/prof. Albena Miteva/