

STATEMENT

By Blaga Petrova Madzhurova, PhD

Associate Professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski, Plovdiv

Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition
to occupy the academic position of "associate professor"
of Institute of Economic Studies at the BAS

by field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences

professional direction 3.8 Economics of financing and development of public services

In the contest for an "Associate Professor", published in the State Journal, issue 44 of 19.05.2023 and on the electronic website of the Institute of the BAS for the Macroeconomics section at the Institute of Economic Studies of the BAS, Dochka Angelova Velkova from the Institute for Economic Research of the BAS has applied as a candidate at the cited university.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. 368 of 18.07.2023 of the Director of the Institute for Economic Research at the BAS, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at the Institute for Economic Research of the BAS in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics of financing and development of public services to the Macroeconomics section. To participate in the announced competition, Chief Assistant Professor Dochka Angelova Velkova, Ph.D., Institute for Economic Research of the BAS has submitted documents and is the only candidate in the competition. The paper set of materials presented by Dr. Velkova is in accordance with the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the possession of academic positions at the Institute for Economic Research of the BAS for "associate professor" and includes all the necessary requisites for the preparation of an opinion. According to the attached reference on the fulfillment of national minimum requirements according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and its

Regulation, Dr. Velkova successfully meets the required criteria. Evidence is also attached for the compliance of Dr. Velkova's activities:

1. Application form to the rector for admission to participate in the competition;
2. CV;
3. List of scientific works;
4. Scientific works (copies of publications);
5. List of citations;
6. Certificate of compliance with the minimum national and additional requirements;
7. Statement of contributions;
8. Annotations of the materials (in Bulgarian and a foreign language) and self-assessment of contributions;
9. Documents for scientific research work;
10. Other documents.
11. Set of documents on paper
12. Set of documents on electronic files

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Evaluation of the candidate's research and project activities

The works presented are: Two co-authored monographs (one of which is a habilitation thesis); Published book based on defended dissertation work; Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases - 2; Articles and reports published in non-refereed scientific journals - 3; Studies published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases; Published chapter of collective monograph; Published chapter of a collective monograph.

Dr. Velkova's scientific works give the impression that she upgrades on the research from the dissertation, and then develop and clearly differentiate from it. For each publication, the candidate has contributions that are clearly documented and form the necessary basis for a positive assessment to be given for appointment to the academic position of "associate professor". Following the logic of developing and upgrading the research from the dissertation work, the candidate publishes a book based on the protected dissertation work and co-authors a book that examines working conditions and the quality of the workforce.

The candidate also published, as already part of her specialization in development and financing of public services, two monographs in co-authorship and five more articles, one study and one report, three of which in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information. The author investigates in depth from a theoretical and analytical point of view financial instruments as a source for financing public policies and services of increasing importance, a system of indicators for assessing the financial condition of water supply operators and municipalities in Bulgaria, as well as systematizes approaches for assessing the creditworthiness of municipalities, applied by credit rating agencies, commercial banks and urban development funds through an adapted methodology for assessing the creditworthiness of municipalities. Of extreme importance is the assessment of the financial status of the 15 consolidated water and sanitation operators in Bulgaria, which are beneficiaries under Priority Axis 1 of the Operational Program "Environment 2014-2020".

In publications forming the candidate's most recent scientific research, which are focused on cost-benefit analysis, cohesion instruments and in particular new financial instruments, as well as narrowly specialized analyzes on the mechanism of the formation of the municipal waste fee, new financing models of the construction of nuclear power plants and the public utility sector, complete the candidate's research in these extremely specific areas in the public sector economy. Of interest is an algorithm for applying the requirements of the Law on the Regulation of Water Supply and Sewerage Services to assess the social affordability of the prices of water supply services for the population, as well as the extremely problematic topic of the Law on Local Taxes and Fees and the urgent assessment of the necessary changes in municipal waste management systems (including the public services of garbage collection, garbage disposal and cleaning of public benefits).

There are enough noticed citations, as well as active activity on scientific and scientific-applied projects. I fully accept the author's self-assessment of her contributions to the field.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I would recommend the candidate to consider more future publications in publications indexed in SCOPUS and/or Web of Science. This will give additional visibility to her contributions to the scientific literature, as well as the publication of an independent monographic study.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assistant. Dr. Dochka Velkova, meet all the requirements of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and its Regulation, the relevant Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the possession of academic positions at the

Institute for Economic Research of the BAS. Dr. Velkova's documented contributions in the scientific works attached to the competition are in accordance with the requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor". This gives me the full reason to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal for the election of the Chief assistant Professor Dochka Velkova, PhD at the academic position of 'associate professor' at the Institute for Economic Research of BAS 3.8. Economics of financing and development of public services.

13.09. 2023

Assoc. Prof. Blaga Madzhurova, PhD