

ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Irina Petkova Kazandjieva-Yordanova**, member of Scientific Jury in the competition for academic position “PROFESSOR”, approved by a decision of the Scientific Council minutes No 3 on 20.03.2019, and by an order of the Director No 79 on 25.03.2019, announced by Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, SG, issue 8 on 25.01.2019

Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Nikolova Bobeva-Filipova

I. General evaluation of the candidate regarding her research activity

The curriculum vitae of the candidate shows that she has significant scientific and practical experience in the field of international economics. In 1986 Daniela Bobeva defends a Ph.D. thesis in Economics from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and in May 2013 she becomes an Associate Professor at the department “International Economics” at ERI-BAS. From 1982 to 1991 Assoc. Prof. Bobeva is a research fellow at the Institute for Social and Trade Union Studies. She is a long-time lecturer on International Relations at VUZF and the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, and I myself have observations on her teaching work in the subject “European Market of Financial Services”, which she teaches to students in the Master’s Program on “Banking and International finances” at UNWE, of which I am the head. Students share that the subject is of high interest due to the currency of the lectures and their practical orientation.

I should mention also the serious practical experience that Assoc. Prof. Bobeva has in the field of international finance as well. For more than 10 years, Assoc. Prof. Bobeva was Director of “International Relations” Directorate at BNB – in 1997-1998 and 2003-2013. During that period our central bank was actively preparing for EU membership. Assoc. Prof. Bobeva was also Vice President of BSTDB and Chairman of the Foreign Investment Agency. She has held high-level positions in the executive power – Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Development in the expert government in 1997 and Deputy Prime Minister on Economic Development in 2013-2014, Advisor to the Council of Ministers in 1994-1995.

After the competition for Associate Professor in 2013, Prof. Bobeva’s research focuses on three directions – global and regional economy, European economy and EU membership, and economic and financial dimensions of international migration. These studies are reflected in a published monograph, many articles in Bulgarian, English and Russian, and participations in national and international projects. The publications of the candidate are also widely popular in the scientific community, as evidenced by the numerous citations in various scientific studies – mainly publications on migration and convergence.

II. Quantitative assessment of meeting the minimum science-metric national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations of ERI-BAS

Having in mind the work presented by the candidate with quantitative criteria for participation in the competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”, it should be noted that she participates in the competition with the following publications, which are in three main

directions – global and regional economy, European economy and Bulgaria's EU membership, European and financial dimensions of international migration:

- 1 individual monograph entitled “*The Role of International Financial Institutions for the Development of the Private Sector in Bulgaria*”, published by Academic Publishing House “Prof. Marin Drinov”, 2018, 139 pages in volume. The monograph is on the National Register of Published Books in Bulgaria. The monograph is accompanied by a review.
- Co-authorship in a monograph other than the habilitation work “Personal Finance. Introduction”. However, this book has more features of a textbook and would be more appropriate to be defined as such. The co-authorship is indicated in the book, defining which of the two authors wrote which chapter. This report shows that Assoc. Prof. Bobeva is the main co-author.
- 2 publications in scientific editions indexed in Scopus and Web of Science – 1 in 2013 in Journal of Central Banking, Central Bank of Montenegro, No 2, indexed in Scopus, and 1 in Economic Alternatives journal of UNWE, No 3, indexed in Web Science according to the List of Contemporary Bulgarian Scientific Publications, referenced and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information, published by NACID.
- 8 articles and reports published in non-referenced journals with scientific review in Bulgarian, English and Russian. These publications are in 2017 Yearbook of UNWE, Journal of BAS, Proceedings of International Scientific Conference “Investments in the Future – 2015”, “Economic Studies” series of “Scientific Result” (“Научный результат”) journal in 2016, A Social Science Review publication of the Vietnam Academy of Sciences in 2016, publications of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” and the Higher School of Management in 2015 and 2016. The publications stated by the candidate are included in editions listed in the National Reference List of Contemporary Bulgarian Scientific Publication with scientific peer-review, maintained by the Ministry of Education and Science through the National Center for Information and Documentation (NACID). “Scientific Result” is indexed by WorldCat, REPEC. A Social Science Review of the Vietnam Social Science Review – by WorldCat, EconBiz. 2 of the publications are co-authored for which is presented division protocols.
- 2 studies published in non-referenced scientific peer-reviewed journals – 1 publication in English in Scholedge International Journal of Business Policy and Governance, No 10, 2016 (indexed by EBSCO, WorldCat) and 1 publication in issue no. 1 of Economic Thought journal, No 1, 2017 (included in the National Reference List of NACID). Both studies are co-authored, with presented respective division protocols.
- 11 participations in published chapters of collective monographs – 2 chapters in two reports of the Korean Development Institute in 2016, 1 chapter in publication of the Donau-Universität *Migration und Globalisierung in Zeiten des Umbruchs*, as well as in numerous publications of BAS, all they are listed in the National Register of Published Books in Bulgaria. 4 of the publications are co-authored and presented with division protocol.

The candidate has stated participation in 7 national scientific projects, 2 international scientific projects, as well as leader of 3 national scientific projects and 3 international scientific projects. The research focus of the participations in national research projects is on credit activity, demographic and migration changes in the EU and in Bulgaria, EU integration processes, expectations for Bulgaria's economic development, the role of the international financial institutions in the development of the private sector in Bulgaria, and some more concrete sector studies. The topics of the international projects aimed at the development of

the capital market, promotion of entrepreneurship, improvement of the governance of the state-owned enterprises. The implemented international projects are partnered with Korean Development Institute, Romanian Academy of Sciences, on Erasmus+ program, with Danube University in Austria.

The candidate has stated 17 citations in scientific publications in referenced and indexed world-famous databases – Scopus, Web of Science, GEOBASE, Social Sciences Citation Index, Ebsco, EconLit and others. Stated are also 45 citations in non-referenced scientific peer-reviewed publications. Of these, however, I identify 7 in the information of citations for the competition for “Associate Professor”, which leads to a decrease in the number of points in this category by 35, and accordingly the number of points in this category becomes 190. Stated are 24 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, and here I also identify 1 citation, which is included in the information of citations for the competition for “Associate Professor”, which reduces the number of points in this category to 300. Despite the established repetitions of citations and the reduction of the number of points, the candidate has significantly above the required minimum points for citations in scientific publications – respectively 10 and 5 points.

III. Evaluation of the results and scientific contribution of the candidate

The presented monograph work by Assoc. Prof. Bobeva entitled “The role of international financial institutions for the development of the private sector in Bulgaria” is an original study, with completeness and complexity. Such a study on the role of IFIs in Bulgaria has not yet been conducted. This study outlines quantitative and qualitative indicators for measuring the impact of the state participation in IFIs, and identifies the main obstacles to IFI activity in Bulgaria. At the end the monograph draws recommendations to IFIs and to the public institutions responsible for the state participation in IFIs.

The publications of the candidate give an impression on the topics she studies – Asian economies, in particular – Korean economy, and the region of Sub-Saharan Africa – the economic potential of this region has not been particularly explored in Bulgarian studies.

2 of the author’s publications reason the need for a new convergence paradigm based on a comprehensive study of the convergence in the Euro area, developing the thesis that the existing legal framework for convergence is ineffective.

Noticeable is the popularity of the article on the analysis of macroeconomic imbalance procedures and their applicability to candidate countries, published in Journal of Central Banking Theory and Practice. This article has numerous citations in publications in different languages – English, Spanish, German.

On the topic of migration, in the article “Migrant Remittances and Macroeconomic Developments in the Source Countries”, published in Proceedings of the Danube University in Krems, Austria, an econometric model is developed and tested to evaluate the dependence between migrant remittances and main macroeconomic factors, like economic growth, unemployment, inflation and wage, with panel data for 7 countries for the period 1999-2016. A new concept for the role of the receiving country is proposed.

The candidate is the main author of the first Bulgarian personal textbook on personal finance, published in the beginning of 2018 and intended for students. The textbook explains in clear language topics like preparation and management of personal budget, formation and management of savings, effective management of the most popular banking products – consumer loans, mortgages and payment accounts. In addition to these topics are studied

students loans, retirement insurance and life insurance. This textbook is a solid foundation for initiating a course on personal finance at various universities. The candidate gains considerable experience in this field as well.

IV. Evaluation of the originality of the presented works and the reliability of the presented scientific data

In the review of the scientific publications for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor” by Assoc. Prof. Bobeva, I have not found plagiarism in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Law and in the Regulations of ERI-BAS.

V. Critical notes and recommendations

Having in mind the presented studies by Assoc. Prof. Daniela Bobeva for participation in the competition for “Professor”, I would like to make the following recommendations to the candidate:

The candidate has presented only 2 publications in scientific editions indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – Scopus and Web of Science, as are the minimum requirements for participation in a competition for “Professor”, and at the same time numerous publications in non-referenced scientific editions. I would recommend the candidate to make more publications in indexed scientific journals, especially given the interest in them (I have mentioned above the many citations of the candidate’s article published in Journal of Central Banking Theory and Practice).

The book “Personal Finance. Introduction” is truly innovative and extremely interesting, with many practical examples presented in an accessible and easy to understand way, which makes it quite popular even with the general public. The book is stated as a monograph that is not a main rehabilitation work. The book, in my opinion, rather has the structure of a textbook – structured in 9 chapters on key topics in the field of personal finance and practical examples, and should be classified otherwise than as a monograph. However, even if this book is not considered a monograph other than main habilitation work, the candidate exceeds the minimum quantitative criteria required to participate in the competition – the points formed by the candidate’s publications in the different categories by quantitative criteria are well above the minimum required number of points.

VI. Conclusion

All mentioned so far gives me grounds to express a positive assessment to the candidate and to declare my support for a positive vote for conferring the academic position “Professor” to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Nikolova Bobeva-Filipova on the announced competition in professional field 3.8. Economy in “World Economy and International Economic Relations” at Economic Research Institute at BAS.

Date: 31.05.2019

Member of the jury:.....

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Irina Kazandjieva/