

STATEMENT

Under a procedure for taking academic position „Associate Professor“ in Professional Field 3.8 „Economics“ (Statistical and Econometric Methods), at the Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

By Associate Prof. Dr. Venelin Boshnakov
UNWE-Sofia, PF 3.8 “Economics” (Statistics and Demography)

1. Information about the procedure and candidate

This statement is submitted according to Order № 281 by 27.06.2022 of the Director of Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (ERI-BAS) for establishment of a Scientific Jury for a Procedure announced in State Gazette № 33 / 29.04.2022 for the needs of „Economics of the Firm“ Section of ERI-BAS. The only candidate on this procedure is Senior Assistant Prof. Dr. Nedyalko Mariev Nestorov, who has been taking the position of “Assistant Professor” (2015-2019) and currently “Senior Assistant Professor” (since 2019) at the „Economics of the Firm“ Section of ERI-BAS. The candidate finishes his secondary education in 2005 as a graduate of the High School of Commerce, city of Stara Zagora. He has obtained a BA degree in Economics (Statistics and Econometrics) and MA degree (Forecasting of Financial Markets) at the University of Economics – city of Varna. In 2012 the candidate is awarded a PhD degree in PF 3.8 „Economics“ (Statistics and Demography).

2. Обща характеристика на представените научни трудове

The candidate on this procedure has submitted 18 publications, of which 10 single-authored, and 3 published abroad:

- Habilitation work (self-authored monography): 1
- Book published on the basis of his PhD thesis: 1
- Articles and conference papers published in scientific editions (journals and books) refereed in world level scientific bases (Scopus, WoS): 3
- Articles and conference papers published in scientific editions with editorial boards, not refereed in world level scientific bases: 13

A total of 15 citations of the candidate’s publications are identified in the scientific literature. The submitted publications and citations provide a summary of scientometric points that reveal with no doubt the fulfillment of both national minimum requirements and the enhanced thresholds of ERI-BAS for taking the

position “Associate Professor”: Section G (270, with required 250 points minimum) and Section D (115, with a minimum of 70 points).

The thematic orientation of the submitted publications reflect the focus of scientific interests of Dr. Nedyalko Nestorov. His publications are predominantly in the field of foreign trade and export of Bulgarian economy, where we also find his PhD thesis. Additionally, he continues to work on the topic of the impact of external trade, particularly export, on the economic growth and dynamics of Bulgarian GDP. Of particular interest are also his publication focused on “Mining and Quarrying” Sector. The publications submitted by the candidate provide evidence for his competences to perform scientific studies of empirical character (individually or in a team) at the required scientific level, with correct application of statistical methods for analysis and successful publication of achieved results in specialized scientific outlets.

3. Evaluation of scientific and applied contributions

The submitted Statement of Contributions contains 13 separate items, the main of which can be summarized in the following directions:

- An adaptation of a form of the correlation coefficient for estimation with time series is suggested in order to evaluate quantitatively the degree of “sustainability” of export. By approbation of this “sustainability coefficient” (CS) new analytical information is derived for the goals of the empirical analysis of specific characteristics of Bulgarian foreign trade for a time period.
- Own variants for a coefficient of geographical concentration (GCr) and coefficient of geographical stability (GSr) of export /or import/ are suggested along with a method for their calculation. By approbation of these coefficients using data for particular commodity groups new analytical information is obtained for the goals of the empirical analysis of geographical targeting of foreign trade with these commodities in a given period.
- New analytical information is generated in respect of specific aspects of the dynamics of production and/or export of particular sectors (e.g. „Mining and Quarrying) or commodity group (e.g. „Ores and Concentrates”), where the medium-term perspectives and trends are evaluated regarding Bulgarian export of particular commodity groups and sectors.

Up to the knowledge of this statement’s author, there are no indications for authorship breach and improper usage of non-own scientific achievements

without respective citations. I find the contributions of the candidate as significant for the economic analysis of Bulgarian foreign trade and other aspects of economic dynamics in Bulgaria – so they could be deemed acceptable for taking the academic position of “Associate Professor”. They reflect the systematic efforts of the candidate for conducting economic research at the required contemporary level.

4. Critical notes and recommendations

I do not have any substantial critics toward the submitted research publications. In any case, a fact should be taken into account that each empirical result is achieved with the limitations of time and space, and reflects also the specifics of methodological choices made – for example, the results on the coefficient of geographical concentration of export of particular commodity group can be altered if recalculated not on the basis of top 5 but top 3 or top 10 export destination countries; the coefficient of sustainability can reveal a trend if recalculated for consecutive series of 8-years periods (e.g. 2009-2016; 2011-2018; 2013-2020, etc.).

I would recommend the candidate Dr. N. Nestorov to enhance his efforts for disseminating his scientific results by searching of additional opportunities for publishing in refereed journals with impact factor.

5. Conclusion

On the basis of the aforementioned statements I consider the candidature as satisfying the requirements of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulation for its implementation, and the Regulation for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at ERI-BAS. I would suggest the respectable Scientific Jury to support **Dr. Nedyalko Mariev Nestorov** for taking the academic position “Associate Professor” in Professional Field 3.8 „Economics“ (Statistical and Econometric Methods), **and vote by „YES“**.

Sofia,
27.08.2022

Jury Member:
/Associate Prof. Dr. V. Boshnakov/