

## Opinion

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scientific fields Economics and Management,  
National Economy, Political Economy

Subject: competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty "Economics of Transport (Water and Air Transport)", promulgated in the State Gazette, issue no. 44 of 19.05.2023

### 1. Information about the competition

The competition was announced for the needs of the Regional and Sectoral Economy Dpt., on the grounds of art. 4 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, art. 86 of the Rules for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions in the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and according to a decision of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Economics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – Protocol No 7 of 12.07.2023. I am included as a member of the Scientific Jury for the competition according to Order No 365/18.07.2023 of the Director of the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

### 2. Brief information about the candidates in the competition

The only candidate in the competition is Chief Assist. Dr. Petya Delcheva Koralova – Nozharova, Regional and Sectoral Economics Dpt. of the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She holds **a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the UNWE (Economy of Transport), 2008/2009 and also a Master's** degree in Economics from the University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna (2009). In 2010-13 she was a full-time PhD student and acquired a PhD at the UNWE. Doctor Koralova-Nozharova worked as an assistant and chief assistant at Todor Kableshev University of Transport, Sofia, and in 2019 she was Deputy Head of the Department of Economics and Accounting in Transport.

She has lectured at the Todor Kableshev University and the UNWE on *Economics of Transport, Planning and Forecasting, Commercial Exploitation in Transport, International Transport*, etc. Since November 2020 she has been Chief Assistant and Scientific Secretary at the Regional and Sectoral Economics Dpt. of the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Petya Koralova-Nozharova has experience in the state administration – EA *“Road Transport Administration”* and Operational Program on Transport Connectivity 2021-2027 at the Ministry of Transport and Communications and expertise in the field of trade union practice within the project "Partnership in the Digital Environment". She speaks English at a professional level and German at a high level.

### 3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position

National minimum requirements fulfilment table

Groups	Indicators	Min. Nat. Requirements	Performance
<b>A</b>	1. Protected dissertation.	50	50
<b>B</b>	3. Habilitation work/monograph	100	100
<b>Г</b>	4-10. Publications	230	297,5
<b>Д</b>	11-13. Citations	70	160
	Total	450	<b>607,5</b>
<b>Additional requirement for taking an academic position "Associate Professor"</b>			<b>Performance</b>
Group of indicators Г (publications) must include at least 2 publications in the <b>SCOPUS</b> or <b>WoS</b> refereed and indexed editions			<b>3 items Scopus</b>

As can be seen from the above table, Chief Assist. Dr. Petya Koralova-Nozharova not only covers but also exceeds the minimum national requirements and the Additional requirements under the Rules for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions in the Institute of Economics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

### 4. Characteristics of the submitted scientific papers

The presented for the competition scientific production of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Petya Delcheva Koralova – Nozharova includes 20 public. – (16.5 if taken into account, that 7 are in co-authorship) – of which 2 monographic books, 2 studies, 7 articles and 9 reports. Three of the publications are in editions referenced in Scopus (one, in print, is provided with the necessary official note by the editor-in-chief).

The scientific production of Dr. Koralova-Nozharova is concentrated in several groups of problems on the topic of the competition:

**1.** Competitiveness and efficiency of maritime and inland waterway transport. This includes the monograph presented as a major habilitation work dealing with the theoretical problems of maritime transport competitiveness and effective forms of competition and an article on the institutional environment of maritime transport - 1.1, 6.3.

**2.** Problems related to the need to manage and overcome exogenous economic shocks in the industry, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the political crisis, and the uncertain business environment. This includes articles – 6.2, 6.3.

**3.** Issues of digitalization in different modes of transport – factors determining development, obstacles that hinder it, results, etc. - 7.1, 6.3, 6.4 and 1.1.

**4.** The problems of human resources, the labor market and corporate social responsibility in the different branches of transport – 8.1, 8.6, 8.7.

**5.** Issues of impact and results of the implementation of climate neutrality activities, green transition, sustainable and circular economy in individual transport modes – 8.3, 8.4, 8.5.

The majority of the presented publications by Dr. Petya Delcheva Koralova – Nozharova are a single-authored. The articles with co-authors are presented with protocols for separating contributions. All publications fully coincide with the problems of the announced competition.

Dr. Koralova-Nozharova has presented evidence of **18 citations** of her works in various scientific journals. Her works have been cited 4 times in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in worldwide databases and another 6 in monographs and collective scientifically reviewed volumes. During the check in **Scopus**, I found another recent new citation (2023), which is not shown in the report and with which the total amount of the candidate's points on this indicator reaches **175**, which exceeds the requirements

for occupying the acad. position of "Associate Professor" more than twice. These citations are an excellent attestation of the candidate's reputation in the scientific community and of her influence on the development of the theory and practice of the issues under consideration.

## **5. Basic scientific and applied research contributions of the applicant**

The analysis of the content of the publications submitted for the competition allows us to indicate the main contributions in the works of Chief Assist. Nozharova. They are derived alongside the scientific themes pointed above by me.

1. In the field of competitiveness, they are derived contributions of both types. With the character of scientific contribution is the proposed definition of competitiveness of maritime transport in Bulgaria and the identified effective forms of competition to improve its market positions. In scientific-applied terms, on the other hand, it is the assessment of the competitiveness of our seaports compared to several other ports from The Black, The Baltic and The Adriatic Seas in terms of: cargo turnover, capacity utilization rate, number of personnel, labour productivity and investment activity of port operators.

2. In the field of management of adverse factors, scientific contribution has been realized through the development of a model for assessing the obstacles and opportunities for integration of inland waterway transport in Bulgaria to the multimodal transport network of Europe. It is proved that the current state of river ports is an obstacle to this integration.

3. Scientifically applied contribution is the assessment of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the process of digitalization of human resources in the management of infrastructure projects of water and air transport, which is realized simultaneously in the fields of overcoming exogenous economic shocks and issues of digitalization in transport.

4. In the field of digitalization in transport, scientific contribution is the disclosure of factors influencing the degree of application of information and communication technologies in the main activity of Bulgarian air operators: short-term liquidity, deployable resources, labor productivity, etc.

5. A scientific contribution is also the developed theoretical matrix for the application of the concept of corporate social responsibility in the transport sector in accordance with the specific characteristics of the different modes of transport.

6. In the last problem area - Priorities of the European Green Package and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, opportunities and constraints for the transport sector - several scientifically applied contributions have been made: the risk of dependence of the transport sector on fossil fuels and the high share of harmful emissions from transport modes have been assessed; a system of indicators has been analyzed, which reveal the degree of sustainable development of the European transport system; opportunities for achieving climate neutrality on individual modes of transport, such as the use of alternative fuels, including in the EU Emissions Trading System, are identified; application of electric rolling stock.

I find that the achievements formulated here, as well as the others in the reference list presented by Dr. Koralova – Nozharova, are her own and original contributions.

## **6. Notes and recommendations**

I have no comments on the submitted materials and the candidacy of Dr. Nozharova. I have a recommendation, given the serious teaching experience that the candidate has from her work at universities I think it is good to make efforts to preserve and develop this experience by joining one of the master's or doctoral programs that the Economic Research Institute at BAS develops. I believe that this will not only be useful for the institution but will also successfully complement its research career.

## **7. Conclusion**

The scientific research work, as well as the teaching and expertise of Chief Assist. Dr. Petya Koranova-Nozharova meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the additional requirements of the Regulations for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions in ERI at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Her scientific works are developed at a high academic level, dedicated to significant problems, and contain important scientific and applied scientific contributions in the scientific field of the competition.

This gives me reason to recommend to the honorable members of the scientific jury that they vote positively for the selection of Chief. Assist. Dr. Petya Delcheva Koranova-Nozharova for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty "Economics of Transport (Water and Air Transport)".

August 26, 2023.

Sofia

Signature:.....

/Prof. Dr. Plamen Tchipev /