



OPINION

From: Prof. Dr. Vanya Petrova Ivanova Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University "St. K.Ohridski".

Professional field 3.8 Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Economics)

Subject: competition for associate professor in 3.8 Economics(European Public Finance) at the Institute for Economic Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Regulatory basis: Order RD426/05.07/2024 of the Director of the Institute for Economic Research at BAS.

1. Brief information about the candidates

The competition was announced in State Gazette No. 40 of 07.05.2024 for the needs of the International Economics Section at the Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The only candidate in the competition is Asst.prof. Dr. Yana Pelyova. Dr. Pelyova has submitted a complete set of the required documents under Article 87, paragraph 4 of the PPNSZADII, and the documentation is clear and correct. The submitted reference for fulfilment of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the Law on Economic, Social and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics shows that the candidate not only fulfils but also exceeds the minimum number of points required for the academic position of Associate Professor. With a threshold of 400 points, Dr Pelyova shows evidence of having accumulated 575 points. Both the educational and scientific degrees obtained and the extensive research experience of Dr Pelyova show her solid training and development in the subject of the announced competition.

2. Fulfilling the requirements for the academic position

According to the report on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements under Article 26 of the DRRBA for PD 3.8. Economics for the academic position of Associate Professor, Dr. Yana Pelyova exceeds the quantitative criteria many times - with a minimum of 400 she has 575 points as follows:

- indicators of group A- dissertation for awarding the PhD - 50 points;
- Group B - habilitation thesis, monograph - 100 points;
- from group D - monograph, incl. not presented as a major habilitation work and publications (studies, articles, reports, etc.) in different rank and type of scientific publications - 285 points;
- Group E - citations and reviews in scientific publications - 140 points;

Participation as a member of a scientific collective in 4(four) scientific research projects is also presented separately in the competition materials.

All publications and contributions to projects are from the period after 2021 and have not been evaluated in previous competitions for the title of Assistant Professor and PhD.

3. Brief description of the submitted scientific papers/publications

Dr. Yana Pelyova participated in the announced competition with a total of 16 publications, distributed as follows:

- Monographs - 1 in Bulgarian, main habilitation thesis (203 p.);
- Published book based on a defended dissertation - 1
- Studies published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information - 2;
- Studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 1,
- Articles and papers published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 11, of which one publication was co-authored.

Of the publications mentioned, 9 are in Bulgarian and 7 in English. This contributes to their internationalization and good citation (evident from the citation reference), as well as to the international recognition of the author. 5 of the citations are in journals refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. It is noteworthy that most of the publications (15) of Assoc. Pelyova are independent and have been published in Bulgarian publications, all of them listed in the National Reference List of Contemporary Bulgarian Peer-Reviewed Scientific Publications.

All submitted publications are in the thematic area of the competition and are eligible for peer review.

4. Synthesized evaluation of the main scientific and applied contributions of the candidates

The main thematic areas of the candidate's publication activity can be systematized in three areas:

- European public finances and fiscal consolidation;
- Public finance and green transformation;
- Green transition - public finance in Bulgaria.

The researched problems are topical, of great public importance, relatively new for the scientific community. At the same time, these issues are multilayered, different aspects and directions of influence and interrelations can be analyzed. "Green issues are present in 9 of the 16 papers submitted for review, including the habilitation thesis.

Contributions of head asst.prof. Yana Pelyova for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor " are defined in two directions - *scientific and theoretical and applied*. They fully cover and correspond to the attached publications.

The enrichment and deepening of the scientific literature is mainly in the area of clarifying the place and role of the green transformation of the EU economy, the role of public finance in this transition and the importance of fiscal measures for mitigating and adaptation to climate change in the economies of EU member states. Clarifying the place of new financial instruments in the MFF in prioritising sustainable growth can also be seen as a contribution of **a scientific-theoretical nature**.

By exploring the legal framework of these new initiatives and instruments in the 2021-2027 programming period, as well as the new own resource related to the amount of non-recycled plastic packaging, the feasibility of decarbonisation as a means to combat climate change is clarified.

The analysis of ecofiscal policy and its instruments in increasing the effectiveness of eco-policy in Bulgaria can also be considered as a theoretical contribution. The conclusions drawn not only elaborate on previous such studies in the specialized Bulgarian literature, but also provide a solid basis for recommendations oriented towards overcoming the obstacles and causes leading to the delay of the green transition in Bulgaria.

A serious analysis, not only in scientific-theoretical terms, but also to a very large extent in **scientific-applied terms**, is the critical analysis and empirical verification through a developed methodology and model of basic dependencies related to:

- the impact of eco-taxes, public subsidies and investment spending on certain sustainability indicators (GHG emissions, net savings adjusted for resource depletion) for Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia and on this basis relevant conclusions, recommendations and assessments are made on their positive role in reducing emissions. The proposed impact assessment model and methodology, based on the one developed by the World Bank, has been further enriched with additional variables, which increases its explanatory power and provides a good insight into the assessed impact.
- The impact of publicly financed green policies on Bulgaria's deficit and debt over the two programming periods. The conclusions drawn, especially in terms of the effects on the expenditure side of the budget, are important in the context of assessing the effects of delaying and/or failing to meet the objectives of the green transition projects. The judgement to increase the expenditure side of the budget by up to 0.2% of GDP to address the damage caused by climate change crisis events is particularly important in the context of the natural disasters that have occurred in recent years.
- The impact of the European Structural Funds for additional economic growth in Bulgaria for the programming period 2021-2027 and their relationship with the sustainability of public finances. The conclusions drawn have serious potential for application in the development of the country's fiscal policy. The necessary fiscal consolidation is argued through measures to change tax and spending policies and increase the efficiency of public spending, as well as a mechanism for replacing EU with national project funding. This would support efforts to achieve financial sustainability and meet the Maastricht criteria.

5. Key critical comments and recommendations for each candidate individually

I recommend increasing publication activity abroad, increasing the share of publications in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. This will lead to an even greater recognition of the candidate and his/her establishment as an authoritative scientist in the field of green transformation.

6. Conclusion

The quantity and quality of the scientific papers and evidence of the candidate's research activities presented in this competition fully comply with the minimum requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA) and the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDA, as well as with the PASDA of the Institute for Economic Research at BAS. Dr. Yana Pelyova convincingly demonstrates that, in terms of content, the subject matter and quality of the submitted publications fully cover the field of the announced competition. No unauthorised use of other people's research was found and there was no evidence of plagiarism.

Therefore, I confidently express my positive opinion on the candidacy of Dr. Yana Pelyova to take the academic position of Associate Professor at the Institute and I propose the distinguished jury to vote in favor.

06.09.2024 г.
Sofia

Signature: