

REVIEW

By: Prof. Dr. Darina Ruscheva Todorova, research specialist: "Economics and management (agriculture)" and "National economy (incl. regional economy and history of the national economy)", Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Regarding: application competition for the academic position "Associate professor" in professional direction 3.8. Economy: Agrarian economy, announced in SG no. 33 of 29.04.2022, for the "Regional and sectoral economy" section of ERI at the BAS

Information about the contest

The competition has been announced for the needs of the section "Regional and Sector Economy" at the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, on the basis of Art. 4 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 86 of the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and according to the decision of the National Assembly of the ERI at the BAS, Protocol No. 10 of 15.06.2022. I participate in the composition of the Scientific Jury for the competition according to order No. 282/27.06.2022 of the Director of ERI at the BAS.

Information about the candidates in the competition

For participation in the competition, documents were provided to only one candidate - chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Hristomirova Branzova from the section "Regional and Sectoral Economy", in ERI at the BAS. Chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Hristomirova Branzova graduated from secondary education in 2004. in 19 SS "Elin Pelin". In 2008, she became a "Bachelor of Economics" - Agrarian Economics, and in 2009 - a "Master of Economics" - Agrarian Business. She received two degrees at UNWE, Sofia. During the period 2010-2013, she was a full-time phd student in the Department of "Economics of Natural Resources", Faculty of Business at UNWE. In 2010 she participated in a summer school on "Climate Change and Impact on Agriculture" at the University of Pannonia and "Theoretical Models and Empirical Measurement of Pesticide External Costs" at Wageningen University. She has an educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Since 2013 until 2019, Dr. Petia Branzova was an assistant, and from 2019 until now - ch. assistant in the section "Regional and Sectoral Economy" in ERI at the BAS. During her doctoral studies, dr. Branzova is a part- time lecture - she

conducts seminars for students from the Faculty of Finance and Accounting of UNWE, on "Ecology and Sustainable Development".

In 2019-2020 chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Hristomirova Branzova is a part-time teacher at UNWE, Department of "Economics of Natural Resources", conducts workshops for students from the Faculty of Business, in the disciplines "Management Consideration" and "Economics of Cooperatives". She speaks English and uses Russian. She has very good computer training, knows how to work in a team, is organized, correct and shows high professionalism in her research work.

Dr. Branzova's scientific interests are in the following areas: agrarian economy, agrarian business, Common Agricultural Policy, organic farming, climate changes in agriculture and economic impact, bio economy. Education and publications fully correspond to the announced competition. Chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Branzova is a member of: the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Union of Economists in Bulgaria and the General Assembly of the Union of Agricultural Economists in Bulgaria.

General characteristics of the presented scientific publications and citations For participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Branzova presents: habilitation thesis - monograph, "Impact of climate change on the development of major fruit crops in South-Eastern region of Bulgaria" (2019), ROLL COMPANY, ISBN: 978-954-92236-8-2, 187; published book based on a protected dissertation work for the award of the "PhD"- "Economic Impacts of Climate Change on Bulgarian Agriculture in the Southeast Planning Region" (2022), ISBN 978-619-188-835-1, 179 Publications: a) articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in global databases with scientific information - 1 item; b) articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 16 and c) studies published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in global databases with scientific information – 2. Of the specified 19 publications, 17 (90%) are independent and 2 publications - in co-authorship, for which the respective Separation Protocols are presented. The publications are in important journals and collections of scientific forums in various universities in Bulgaria: the journal "Economic Studies" and the journal "Economic Thought" (ERI at the BAS), the journal "Economics and Management of Agriculture" (Institute of Agrarian Economics, Agricultural Academy), journal "Trakia Journal of Science" (University of Trakia - Stara Zagora), journal "Management and Sustainable Development" (Forestry University) and from conferences in: EU - Varna, SU "St. Kl. Ohridski", UARD-

Plovdiv and Publishing house "prof. Marin Drinov" – BAS. Chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Branzova is the author of the monograph "Impact of climate change on the development of major fruit crops in South-Eastern region of Bulgaria". It has the following structure: Introduction, 7 parts, Conclusion, Sources used, Appendix and List of abbreviations used. In the Introduction, the following are substantiated: the relevance of the chosen topic; the goal - "... to determine the investments and their effectiveness in the development of main fruit crops in the South-East region of Bulgaria, in the context of the impact of climate changes on their average yields"; the object of the research - "... the production of main fruit crops and its results in the South-Eastern region of Bulgaria"; the subject of the study "... the impact of climate change for the period 2020-2050 on the development of production and its results...". The exhibition consistently examines issues related to: discussion on the problem of climate change, characteristics of the SER and its agricultural sector, methods and models for researching the impact of climate factors on agriculture, results and analysis of the impact of climate change on average yields for the forecast period 2020-2050 in the SER, sources for financing investment projects in agriculture, the amount of production and investments for the development of fruit growing, taking into account climate changes. One of the main conclusions in the conclusion that the author draws, based on the research, is that "... the development of forecast options of average yields and investments for the implementation of production, taking into account climate changes, provide an opportunity to search for new technical and technological solutions for efficient production'. In the monograph, Dr. Branzova clearly proves the successful combination of the development of the regional and sectoral economy, as is the profile of the section in which she works. The obtained results are of interest from a scientific and practical point of view.

With regard to citations (group of indicators D), candidate Dr. Petia Branzova indicated 11 citations, which are distributed as follows: a) citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in global databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 3 items, b) citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 4 items. and c) citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals - 4. The total number of points of the candidate under the group of indicators - D is 105, with 40 points - in the minimum national requirements and 70 points - in the requirements of the ERI at BAS.

Assessment of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

I accept the Reference for the contributions in the scientific production of the candidate in the competition chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Branzova. I positively appreciate her chosen approach to substantiate three research areas in her

publications: a) Impact of climate change on agriculture and the economy of Bulgaria; b) Organic farming and Common Agricultural Policy and c) Bioeconomy and distribute the publications and contributions contained therein. The main scientific and scientific-applied contributions are reduced to:

1. Evaluating the impact of the choice of climate model on the forecasting of the yields of different agricultural crops.
2. Expanding and enriching knowledge in the field of organic production (theoretical foundations, place and role of organic agriculture in the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU, justification of proposals for overcoming the problems in it, further development of the concept of "green architecture", in the context of The EU's Common Agricultural Policy).
3. Upgrading of knowledge about the definitions of the bio economy and the processes taking place in it.
4. Development and testing of a methodology for researching the impact of climate change on the development of agriculture.
5. Development of forecast variants of average yields and investments for production, taking into account changes in the climate.
6. The methodology and forecast options have a specific practical-applied meaning. They are of marked usefulness in terms of the application of the methodology for different regions, agricultural crops and animal husbandry in the country, as well as through the forecast options - providing the opportunity for new technical and technological solutions for efficient production.
7. Guidelines for overcoming the difficulties with the numerous bureaucratic requirements that organic producers in Bulgaria face.

The presented arguments and evidence give me reason to determine chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Hristomirova Branzova as an erudite researcher in interesting and current areas of development in Bulgaria, with a diverse publication activity, known in the scientific space of the country, with an affinity for studying the complex and dynamic processes in the agrarian sector.

Critical notes and recommendations

I have not critical notes. I take the liberty of recommending to the candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor", on the basis of the acquired fundamental knowledge as a "Bachelor" and "Master", the scientific and experimental experience gained during the doctoral studies and the results of the research work at the Economic Research Institute at the BAS, to directed

her future scientific pursuits to expanding and deepening her knowledge in the field of bio-production and bio-economy in Bulgaria.

Conclusion

In conclusion, on the basis of the presented facts and evidence related to the scientific research activity and the achieved results, with full conviction, I propose to the respected Scientific Jury to vote for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", professional direction 3.8. Economy: Agrarian economy from chief assist. prof. dr. Petia Hristomirova Branzova.

17.08.2022
Sofia

Signature: