

OPINION

**By Assoc. Prof. Dr Reneta Marinova Dimitrova
New Bulgarian University
Professional field 3.8 "Economics"**

Subject: competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 3.0 "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.8. "Economics", published in State Gazette No 29/12.04.2022.

Candidate for the academic position of "Associate Professor": Senior Asst. Prof. Dr Tsvetelina Ivanova Marinova, academic lecturer at Department of economics, New Bulgarian University

Grounds for the opinion: Order No. Z-PK-243/18.05.2022 of the Rector of New Bulgarian University.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of New Bulgarian University

In accordance with the information provided in the self-assessment report for the fulfillment of the national minimum science-metric requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.8 "Economics", by virtue of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its implementation as well as the requirements of the New Bulgarian University (NBU), Senior Asst. Prof. Dr Tsvetelina Marinova scored **780 points**. The submitted report shows the following results for the individual groups of indicators:

- A, B – 150 points with a minimum requirement of 150 points;
- Г - 290 points with a minimum requirement of 200 points;
- Д - 105 points with a minimum requirement of 50 points;
- Ж - 95 points with a minimum requirement of 50 points;
- З - 70 points with a minimum requirement of 70 points;
- И - 70 points with a minimum requirement of 50 points.

My conclusion is that the different groups of indicators for quantifying publications and academic activity are correctly stated.

II. Research activities and results

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including an assessment of the scientific and applied contributions of the author.

The monographic work on "Social and Solidarity Economy and Finance in the Balkans and Europe. Historical Development, Contemporary Ideas, Institutions and Policies" consists of 271 pages. Undoubtedly, it is devoted to a topical, important and still understudied not only in Bulgaria, but also in the Balkans and Europe, i.e. the issue of social and solidarity economy and finance.

The monograph is structured in a balanced way and fully meets the requirements for a habilitation thesis in terms of volume, structure and content. Interesting is the author's approach to explore leading ideas and concepts in the field of social and solidarity economy in historical

and contemporary perspective. It is noteworthy, that the author has used a large number of sources in Bulgarian, English, Romanian, Russian and French, which contributes to the interdisciplinary and wide-ranging nature of the study.

Regarding the scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the monographic work I would emphasize on:

First, an important theoretical contribution is the definition, systematization and development of ideas and theories on cooperatives, solidarity economy, social economy, social enterprises in Europe and the Balkans, as well as the introduction of new concepts such as "social money", "alternative money", "social and solidarity finance" in the Bulgarian economic literature;

Second, the synthesis, comparative and analytical study of ideas on social economy and finance can be identified as an important theoretical and methodological contribution. Moreover, the monographic work is the first of its kind comparative study in the Bulgarian economic literature of the origin, evolution and transformation of financial cooperatives in the Balkan countries namely Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia.

Third, as a practical and applied contribution can be pointed out the in-depth analysis and critical assessment of the public policies of the European Union and the Balkan countries, the recommendations made for the further development of social and solidarity economy and finance in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia, with a focus on Bulgaria.

In addition to the monograph, I will also focus my opinion on the evaluation of publications that correspond closely to my expertise: publications in the field of monetary policy and monetary regimes – these are publications No. 2 and No. 5 under Indicator 7, publication No. 2 under Indicator 10, publication No. 1 under Indicator 8 of the presented self-assessment report. Significant scientific and applied contributions in these publications are: the derivation of a theoretical and empirical link between the exchange rate regime in Bulgaria and the Baltic States and the state of budgetary positions and levels of government debt, on the one hand, and the institutional framework and the dynamics of sovereign debt in eurozone countries, on the other hand; the comparative study of the debt crisis and its causes in the eurozone and the low sovereign debt of Bulgaria in the period of global crisis; the analysis of the analysis of the main risks to the public finances of Bulgaria after the accession to the eurozone.

The analysis of the content of the above-mentioned scientific works of Dr Marinova give me grounds to conclude that they are primarily in the scientific field of "Economics" in which she works. Moreover, they are developed at a high scientific and theoretical level and show her high competence and ability to implement in-depth independent research and analysis.

3. Citations from other authors.

Dr Marinova meets the minimum requirements under Article 2b (2) and (3) of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, in the scientific area 3.0 "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.8 "Economics". She obtains 105 points against the required 50 points. The fact that some of the citations mentioned in the reference are in refereed and indexed scientific journals in world-renowned databases is very impressive.

II. Teaching and learning activities

3.1. Auditorium and non-auditorium activities, work in the electronic learning module "MOODLE - NBU", providing student internships and placements, work with students and postgraduate students.

Dr Marinova's auditorium and non-auditorium working hours exceed the minimum required. She lectures in courses at the Bachelor and Master levels. She has been a supervisor of 29 graduates and a reviewer of 43 theses. She has participated in 287 examination committees.

In the NBU Moodle system, Dr Marinova has published author's materials in 4 courses of Bachelor's and Master's programmes, two of them in French. Their topics are mainly in the field of money and monetary policy, the global financial system, the global financial institutions and instruments which confirms the scientific and applied interests of the candidate for "Associate Professor".

2. Working with Erasmus students.

In the period 2018/2019 and 2021/2022, Dr Marinova has been the Erasmus Coordinator of the Department of Economics. She actively works with Erasmus+ students.

She has developed and conducts three independent courses in English - "World Financial System", "Foreign Trade Transactions" and "European Project Management". She has also developed two courses in French - "Global Financial Institutions and Instruments" and "Introduction to Political Economy".

3. Evaluations from student surveys.

Dr Marinova is highly appreciated by the students. Her grade is excellent 4,17 out of a maximum grade of 5,00.

IV. Administrative and public activities

1. Participation in collective management bodies of the NBU.

Dr Marinova regularly participates in the meetings of the Departmental Council of the Department of Economics. In 2016/2017 she was also a member of the Department's Programme Board. She observes her office hours. She regularly conducts her classes.

2. Public activity.

Dr Marinova's public activity is also active. From 2015 to the present she has been a member of the Association Internationale des Economistes de Langue Française, and since 2019 of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought.

Dr Marinova is a reviewer and member of the editorial boards of the Bulgarian Journal of International Economics and Politics, Economic Alternatives Journal, Economic Research Guardian Journal, Romania.

In 2019, she was the technical editor of the Department of Economics' Yearbook of Economics and Business.

She actively participates in various scientific events organized by the Department of Economics and in the activities of the Francophone Center of the NBU.

3. Attracting students to the programme.

It is noteworthy to note Dr Marinova's work in attracting students during the presentation of the programs of the Department of Economics at the Open Days of the NBU.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Dr Tsvetelina Marinova for over 12 years and have direct observations of her scientific, teaching, administrative and public work. We have worked together on the Department of economics yearbook, on the development and improvement of undergraduate and graduate programs, and on the organization of various events of the Department of economics. I cannot fail to mention the responsibility and diligence with which she approaches every work assigned to her.

I am extremely impressed by her ability to find relevant and significant topics for our contemporary society. Along with this, Dr Marinova is active in her research and publication activities.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and comments on the activities and achievements of the candidate

I have not found any weaknesses in the submitted scientific and applied works for participation in the competition. I do not have any significant critical remarks that would change my final opinion on the participation of Senior Asst. Prof. Dr Tsvetelina Marinova in the competition.

I would recommend Dr Marinova to focus her efforts on expanding the field of her research, both in terms of other Balkan countries and in terms of new issues related to social and solidarity economy and finance, with a focus on Bulgaria, for example.

As a future holder of teaching courses, Dr Marinova should develop and publish textbooks, which will contribute to a higher accreditation score for the professional field 3.8 "Economics".

Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the candidate's scientific, teaching and public activities, which are entirely positive, I propose to the honorable members of the scientific jury, Senior Asst. Prof. Dr Tsvetelina Ivanova Marinova to be elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 3.0 "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.8. "Economics".

21.07.2022
Sofia

Signed:
/Assoc. Prof. Dr Reneta Dimitrova/