



UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD ECONOMY

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Vania Petrova Ivanova, PhD, Department of Economics, UNWE - Sofia
Scientific speciality 3.8 Economics (Political economy - microeconomics and
macroeconomics)

Subject: competition for "**Associate Professor**" in the professional field **3.8 Economics**,
Faculty of Masters, Department "Economics", announced in Official Gazette No.
29/12.04.2022, with the only candidate Senior Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Ivanova Marinova, PhD.

I participate as a jury member by order 3-RK-243/18.05.2022 of the Rector of NBU-Sofia

General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied scientific activities

The evaluation of the candidate for the academic position of Associate Professor is prepared according to the fulfilment of the conditions under Art. 1. of the RAADB Act.

For participation in the competition, Dr. Tsvetelina Marinova submitted a reference and evidence material for reviewing a total of 21 scientific papers, distributed as follows:

Heading	Book	Chapter from a book	Studio/room	Report from a scientific conference	Textbook, textbook/helpbook
Number	1	3	12	4	1

All of them are original research, fully authored analyses and are strongly focused in the thematic area of economic history, development of economic thought, historical roots of social and solidarity economy. Of the papers presented, 7 (33%) are in Bulgarian and 14 (67%) in foreign languages (English and French). The candidate participated in the competition with 52% of independent works and 48% in co-authorship. According to the scientific metrics adopted by the NACID for the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements, the main as. Dr. Tsvetelina Marinova proves 545 points, which far exceeds the required minimum of 400 points. The additional requirements of the NBU are also met.

The candidate fully meets the mandatory conditions set out in Article 26 of the Law on Academic Staff Development and Article 64 of the Regulations of the UFT on Academic Staff Development as:

- ✓ She has a doctoral degree;

- ✓ She is the author of a significant number of scientific publications, entirely on the topic of the competition, including a stand-alone monograph reviewed by two scientific reviewers and the required number of citations.
- ✓ She has held the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor since 2013

The presented documents and publications give an insight into the active research and teaching activity during the years following the candidate's appointment to the academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor". None of the publications submitted for the competition repeats one that was submitted in a previous competition for the post of Senior Assistant Professor.

Evaluation of the candidate's pedagogical training and activity

The candidate has strong teaching experience. She has held the positions of Assistant and Visiting Assistant. Since 2013 Marinova has been a senior assistant professor at the Department of Economics, Faculty of Masters of the NBU. The candidate's rich professional experience as a lecturer and assistant professor at various universities is undoubtedly a proof of high professionalism, serious expertise and achieved good achievements in research. The varied portfolio of academic disciplines, which prof. Marinova has taught shows good basic training and broad specialization - Money and Monetary Policy; International Finance; World Financial System; Foreign Trade Transactions; European Project Management; Political Economy; International Financial Organizations and Financial Instruments. He has been involved in the development of a collective textbook - Introduction to Finance, as well as stand-alone teaching and learning materials on the Moodle platform.

The report on the annual academic employment of the chief asst. Marinova for the last 9 academic years shows an average of more than 300 hours per year for the Bachelor's degree and Master's degree. This allows to gain considerable teaching experience. The candidate's work experience at the NBU, in combination with teaching and learning activities at other universities, points to purposeful preparation for the academic position of Associate Professor in 3.8 Economics.

1. Main contributions

In the candidate's work, the most significant scientific direction is related to social and solidarity economy, mainly viewed through the prism of economic history and the development of economic thought. Both the habilitation thesis and the vast majority of the publications submitted to the competition interpret these issues from a historical and institutional perspective, in a national and regional context.

Second are the publications in the field of international economics and comparative analysis, devoted to the issues of European integration and in particular to the public debts of the countries, their structure, dynamics and debt management policies of the EU countries after the global financial crisis, as well as to the problems of the euro area enlargement.

In the presented scientific works and publications the candidate addresses topical and significant issues. This particularly concerns the issues related to the study of social and solidarity economy, a problem that is being revived in Bulgarian scientific thought and which will become increasingly important in order to overcome income inequalities and social cohesion policies.

In the works submitted for review, a good knowledge of the theoretical foundations and the development of the problems, skills for argumented analysis and derivation of possible solutions is evident.

All the publications are in prestigious journals, and five of the articles are in journals referred and indexed in world databases.

An assessment of the quality of scientific output can be made to a very large extent through citation rates. The attached reference shows 11 citations, including 3 citations per publication in journals indexed in Scopus. The citations are from both Bulgarian and foreign authors, which is a testimony to the author's recognition among the scientific circles both at home and abroad.

Synthesized assessment of the main scientific and applied contributions

The presented works of the candidate in the competition, as well as the results of the overall research and teaching activity allow to highlight a number of positive results, including contributions, summarized in the following directions:

Scientific contributions related to the enrichment and further development of theoretical categories and methodological issues, which are limited to systematization, expansion and enrichment of theoretical knowledge on:

- Research on social and solidarity economy and finance. Here, I mainly take up the claim of synthesizing ideas about cooperatives and social and solidarity economy in the analysis of leading cooperative schools in Europe in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century;
- the complex and interdisciplinary nature of the study of the social and solidarity economy and the foregrounding of the importance and opportunities of these forms for accelerating the economic development of the country;
- synthesis of cooperative ideas in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia for the same period of time;
- Summary of contemporary ideas and forms of the concepts of "social money" and "social and solidarity finance" in the Bulgarian scientific literature;

Scientific and applied contributions - the following are revealed and systematized:

- The emergence, development and models of social enterprises in Bulgaria in historical and contemporary perspective;
- the endogenous and exogenous factors influencing the contemporary development and characteristics of the social and solidarity economy in the Balkans, as well as the reasons for the sector's lagging behind the developed European countries. The clarification of the problems facing the sector in the period of transition and European integration, as well as the comparative analysis of the development trends of social and solidarity economy in the countries of the region are interesting and contributory.
- theoretical and empirical relationship between the currency board regime in Bulgaria and the Baltic States and the state of public finances and sovereign debt. In the context of the forthcoming Eurozone membership, the comparative analysis of monetary and budgetary policies in the Eurozone and Bulgaria have a practical-applied contribution to the discussions on the benefits and risks of membership.

2. Critical comments and recommendations

I have the following recommendation for the candidate's research:

- To orient its future research towards the problems of the development of social enterprises and the creation of new instruments for their financing in Bulgaria. This will allow to use the accumulated knowledge from the history and practice of cooperatives in Bulgaria and the region in the 19th and 20th centuries to the current state, prospects, obstacles and barriers to the development of social entrepreneurship. This would also support the process of institutional reform and increase the effectiveness of public policies in this direction.
- To deepen its analysis on the contribution of social economy organisations to fighting poverty, inequality and achieving sustainable development. Case studies and synthesis of their results can be a good basis for accelerating the process.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the acquaintance with the presented scientific works, their significance, the scientific, scientific-applied, applied and methodological contributions contained in them, as well as on the basis of the evidence provided and the evaluations made of the candidate's scientific, teaching and research activities, I can conclude that she meets the requirements of the Law on Research and Development and the criteria of the NBU for holding the academic position of Associate Professor. All this gives me a reason to propose with full conviction to the esteemed scientific jury to give a **positive assessment and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Master's at NBU to elect and confirm the head as. 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional field. 3.8 Economics.**

Date:15.07.2022.

Jury member:

/ Associate Professor Vania Ivanova/