

# **OPINION**

**by prof. dr. Tatiana Houbenova-Delisivkova**

**Institute for Economic Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

**Regarding:** competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate professor", in professional direction 3.8. Economics, for a competition announced by the New Bulgarian University in SG no. 29/12/04/2022

**Candidate for the competitive academic position "associate professor" chief assistant Dr. Tsvetelina Marinova, academic teacher at New Bulgarian University, Department of "Economics"**

**Basis for drawing up the opinion:** Order No. 3-Pk-243/18.05.2022 of the Rector of the New Bulgarian University and Decision of the AC 09/17.05.2022 to conduct a procedure for filling the academic position of "associate professor"

## **I. Assessment of conformity of ch. Assistant Dr. Tsvetelina Marinova**

**with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University for holding an academic position "associate professor"**

In accordance with the information from the attached Report on the fulfillment of the national minimum scientometric requirements for the occupation of the academic position "Associate professor" in the professional field "Economics", by virtue of the Law for the academic development of academic staff of RBulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its application, as well as the requirements of the NBU, Chief Assistant Tsv. Marinova reports a total of 780 points, which significantly exceeds the required standards до 635.

My assessment is positive that Chief Assistant professor Dr. Tsvetelina Marinova has correctly presented in a self-assessment report the individual groups of indicators for the quantity of evaluation of publications and her lecturer's and other academic activity in accordance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University.

## **II. Research (creative) activity and results**

## **1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author.**

The habilitation work of the Chief assistant Dr. Tsv. Marinova is the monograph on the topic "Social and solidarity economy and finance in the Balkans and in Europe. Historical development, contemporary ideas, institutions and policies" (published by "St. Kliment Ohridski" University Publishing House, ISBN 978-954-07-5310-2), The book is in a volume of 271 pages. Based on an interdisciplinary research approach, the author convincingly analyzes the concepts and factor conditioning of cooperatives and social economy and finance in the context of modern trends in their development. The profound analysis of the leading cooperative schools in Europe in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century has made possible to reveal the historical evolution of cooperative ideas in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia since the end of the 19th century and in the 20th century.

The scientific contributions of the study are in two main directions: 1) a comparative analysis of the origin, evolution and institutional transformation of credit cooperatives and popular banks in the Balkan countries during the various periods of economic development is justified; 2) the modern development and features of the social and solidarity economy in the Balkans are evaluated, as well as the reasons for the sector's lagging behind the developed European countries.

## **2. Evaluation of other scientific publications**

The specific dignity of the presented scientific publications of the Chief Assistant Dr. Tsv. Marinova, that these academic works convincingly prove the candidate's creative development with her research in three main areas: social economy, economic and monetary integration in the EU and economic history of Balkan states. The contributions are as follows in the following topics:

a) specificity and finances of the social economy.

In this research area Dr.Tsv.Marinova has published 2 studies - an article and a chapter in a collective work, published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (45 items in total).

b) a comparative analysis of the monetary and budgetary policy in the euro area and Bulgaria, examining the causes of the debt crisis in the euro area (publications No. 5 on Indicator 7 and No. 1 on Indicator 8 of the reference-self-assessment)

c) Evaluation of the evolution of the Economic and Monetary Union of the EU and a comparative analysis of the exchange rate regime (fixed rate and monetary board) in Bulgaria and the Baltic States and the achievement of compliance of the budget policy with the requirements of the Eurozone. (publication N2 on Indicator 7, publication N2 on Indicator 10 of the reference-self-assessment) .

The analysis of the content of the candidate's above-mentioned scientific works gives me the basis for the conclusion that Dr. Tsv. Marinova establishes herself as an in-depth researcher of social economy and finance with high scientific competence. Her contributions are in monographic work and in co-authorship with a scientific collegium at home and abroad, as well as results of her successful cooperation with national and international research teams in chosen by her scientific fields. The fact that the citations indicated in the reference are in Scopus and Web of Science makes an excellent impression.

### **3. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the obtained results in practice.**

In terms of scientific projects, Chief Assistant Dr. Tsv. Marinova exceeds the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff and the requirements of the NBU. She reports quality participation in scientific projects with European funding, as well as in international scientific projects, which for the greater part of them have ended with publications.

### **III. Educational and teaching activities**

#### **Teaching employment, work in the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU", provision of student practices and internships, work with students and doctoral students.**

Chief assistant Dr. Ts. Marinkova is a lecturer with an extensive classroom and extracurricular workload, and the assessment of her teaching by the students' satisfaction surveys is high. She teaches in a number of disciplines, including Macroeconomics; Money and monetary policy; International Finance; World Financial System; Foreign trade transactions; Management of European projects; Political economy; International financial organizations and financial instruments.

She has participated in textbooks co-authored with colleagues from the NBU. In the "Moodle" system of the NBU, Assistant Professor Tsv. Marinova has published author's materials in bachelor and master programs. She participates in the initiated new Master program of the NBU "International Business and Development".

It is positive that she is actively involved in teaching in foreign languages and actively works with Erasmus+ students. Along with this, Assistant Professor Tsv. Marinova participates in various events of the NBU teachers' training program, as well as in the University's tutoring system and other academic activities.

#### **IV. Administrative and public activity**

##### **1. Participation in collective management bodies of the NBU.**

Chief Assistant Dr. Tsv. Marinova regularly participates in the programmes' actively in the activity of the "Economics" Department of NBU since 2013. It is positive that she has an active participation in the development of the Department's Programs, including the initiated new Master's program of the NBU "International Business and Development". As a representative of NBU, she is well known to the academic community in other national and international forums in our country and abroad in the areas of her research interests.

##### **2. Public activity.**

The public activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Tsv. Marinova is related to her academic interests. She is a member of the International Association of French-Language Economists (AIELF) and the European Society for the History of Economic Thought (ESHET). Participates in the Association for Research in Monetary Innovations and Communities and Complementary Currency Systems (RAMICS).

#### **V. Personal impressions of the candidate**

I know Dr. Tsv. Marinova as an author on the problems of the European financial integration of Bulgaria and the social and solidarity economy and finance, as well as from her participation in national and international scientific forums and conferences. I have excellent personal impressions of her scientific integrity and academic interests, as well as of her correctness as a colleague from the NBU. I know her as a French-speaking economist from participation in national and international scientific conferences, as well as from her articles published by the journals of the Economic Research Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

#### **VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate**

I have no critical comments on the works submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition, but based on the entirely positive results of the activities and scientific research of Dr. Tsv. Marinova, I would give

recommendations that may be the subject of her further creative research activity as a teacher and scientist:

First of all, a strong merit of the accumulated professional experience of Dr. Tsv. Marinova is the combination of her scientific economic training with the accumulated expertise in comparative economic history. This combination can give her greater freedom in choosing topics for research and analysis with theoretical-methodological importance. As a continuation of the analysis of the specifics of modern trends in the social economy, I recommend the candidate to further expand the scope of the analysis, with emphasis on the possibilities for the transfer of European and international positive experience in the field of social and solidarity economy.

Secondly, at the reached scientific level of teaching and research activities, I recommend to Dr. Tsvetelina Marinova to publish more confidently in international databases and scientific journals and series in the future, which will let her apply more fully the achievements and advantages of her scientific specialization.

### **Conclusion**

Bearing in mind the indisputable scientific qualities and merits of the candidate as a researcher and teacher, I propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury that Dr. Tsvetelina Marinova, chief assistant professor, be unanimously elected to the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction, 3.8. "Economy".

Signature:

Sofia, 27.07.2022 г.