

RECENSION

on the materials for participation in a competition for occupying an academic position "associate professor" , field of higher education 3. Social, business and law sciences , professional field 3.7. Administration and management , Scientific specialty „Economics and management“, in the course „Macroeconomics“, announced by the University of Forestry, SG № 37/7.5.2019 г., procedure code ABM – AsP – 0419 – 05 .

Applicants to the competition are:

1. d-r Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov

Reviewer: Dr. Nikolay Hristov Shterev , professor professional field 3.8 Economics from UNWE-Sofia

1. Brief CVs of the applicant (s)

The only candidate in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor": Ch.Assistant Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov was born on 07/08/1970. He completed his secondary education in 1988. in Tryavna - Unified Polytechnic School "P. R. Slaveykov" and received his higher education from the University of National and World Economy, majoring in Accounting and Control (1998) and Management of Territorial Systems (1997). In 2017 has acquired a Doctor degree in scientific specialty: Economics and Management (by Industry) with a dissertation on the topic: "Economic Problems of Depressed Regions in Bulgaria".

The work began in 1999 at the University of Forestry as an assistant and gradually moves through the academic positions: senior assistant (2001) and chief assistant (2014). With the cancellation of the EPA and the admission of ZRAS, he was elected Chief Assistant in 2018. after attaining a PhD. In the period 1999-2015 he was selected as a part-time lecturer at UNWE.

He conducted a number of specialization trainings. There was a specialization in the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, Belgium in 2015. Fluent in English (B2 level) and Russian (C1) and basic German (A1).

2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant (s) with the required ones in accordance with the RAC Rules in Forestry University

The following summaries can be made from the submitted information for the fulfilment of the minimum National requirements for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", as well as the requirements according to the Rules for RAC at the **Forestry University**:

- The reference is correctly made and reflects the main scientific achievements (published books, studies, articles and papers from conferences, and citations of scientific publications) of the candidate for associate professor at the University of Forestry: Assistant Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov
- The inquiry shows that all the minimum requirements are met, including:
 - The applicant has obtained a Doctoral degree from the LTU-ONS-2017-86 /22.05.2017, issued by the LTU.
 - The applicant has published a monograph on the topic of the Associate professor competition on the topic: "Sustainable Development: Regional Inequalities in Bulgaria", published by Avangard Prima in 2019. with ISBN 978-619-239-215-4 and reviewers: Prof. Ph.D. Tatiana Tambovtseva, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mityo Velushev, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilze Yudrup.
 - The candidate participates in the competition with 1 monograph, 7 chapters of collective monographs, 13 articles and 27 papers that form 750 points (minimum

number of 200 points according to the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria).

○ The candidate has cited in reference 15 quotations in indexed and refereed publications that form 95 points (minimum number of 50 points according to the Rules for Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria)

In summary, the submissions for the Associate professor competition are within the scope of the Economics and Management competition and all of them should be included in the calculation of the performance criteria according to the Rules for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria.

In this way, the sole applicant in the Associate professor competition meets all the minimum requirements arising from the implementation of the law.

3. Assessment of the teaching / teaching activity of the applicant (s)

The candidate for associate professor at the time of submitting the application for participation in the competition is a main lecturer of 7 disciplines, incl. one in English: Macroeconomics; "Accounting"; "Insurance"; "Insurance in English"; "Risk Management"; "Financial Management" and "Fundamentals of Accounting".

In 6 other main core courses Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov is part of the teaching team: "General Economic Theory"; Microeconomics; "Statistics"; Finance and Credit; Local Finance and Administration and International Institutions and administration".

For the courses that he has taken, he has published 2 textbooks, one in the discipline of the associate Professor's competition: Macroeconomics and one co-authored by: Microeconomics • Macroeconomics. He also participates in a collective textbook: Theoretical Economics. Workshop.

In summary, the candidate in the associate professor's competition actively participates in the learning process through lectures and seminars, authoring textbooks and teaching aids used in the learning process.

4. Assessment of the applicant's scientific, applied and publication activities

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

For his participation in the competition for associate Professor, the candidate: Ch.Assistant. Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov indicated participation in 10 projects, of which 9 national projects and 1 international, incl. and as head of one ongoing (2018-2020) national project: Research on regional and local socio-economic inequalities in Bulgaria.

The participation of the applicant in various scientific and educational projects guarantees, on the one hand, high quality of research work and, on the other, allows participation in a number of significant national and international forums.

The topics of the projects in which Dr. Ivanov participates or manages is diverse, but always falls within the main scientific area in which the applicant develops: Economics and Management (by industry). The results of the completed projects are significant for both theory and practice, which demonstrates the applicant's scientific and research potential.

In conclusion, the Ch.Assistant Professor is involved in various national and international projects that allow him to conduct quality scientific research and to publish results relevant to theory and practice in refereed and indexed journals and collections.

4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results

Submitted publications can be grouped according to their subject matter and content into 3

groups:

Group 1: Theory of Regional Development:

This group of publications concerns important components of the topic of the announced competition for ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR of the scientific speciality: Economy and Management. There are 8 articles and 8 papers that address the main issues of regional development, incl. and the development of forest science. The main issues affecting publications in this group cover the following issues:

- the socio-economic processes in Bulgaria and the established inequalities at regional level as a result of the Bulgarian society's desire to achieve sustainable development;
- assessment of regional inequalities in Bulgaria;
- regional development of Bulgaria: analyses, methods and tools for regional development;
- regional development policies in Bulgaria;
- use of GIS for regional development, incl. through tourism development;
- External and internal migration from / to the big cities of Bulgaria.

Group 2: Theory of Competitiveness:

This group of publications addresses important macro- and microeconomic aspects of Economics and Management, incl. and sustainable development topics. Here are 7 chapters of collective monographs, 8 articles and 13 conference papers. They address issues related to competitiveness, business or sector management; crisis management and sustainable development of companies and sectors, incl. tourism and forestry. Basic questions that have been raised to address theoretical and applied methods include:

- Assessment of the Regional Competitiveness Index (PCI) for selected municipalities in Bulgaria, incl. the place of the Bulgarian economy according to the global competitiveness reports;
- Opportunities for sustainable development and sustainable forest management in individual regions of the country;
- Predicting the behavior of stakeholders in the forest sector;
- Opportunities for reindustrialization of the backward regions in Bulgaria;
- Opportunities and measures for sustainable competitiveness of the forestry, wood crafting and furniture companies in Bulgaria;
- Impact of the economic crisis on Bulgaria's competitiveness / forestry in Bulgaria.

Group 3: Practical Questions for Student Education:

This group of publications addresses important pedagogical aspects of Economics and Management that allow for quality lectures and seminars. Here are 3 conference papers that look at how to use Geographic Information Systems - GIS in student education. Here the main question being explored is:

- What are the trends in the development of forms and methods of training in economics and management at the University of Forestry, incl. and Regional Development?

In summary, the review of the submitted for peer-reviewed papers of the candidate for associate professor: Dr. Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov shows that there are sufficiently significant theoretical and applied publications of the candidate, which publications are entirely within the scope of the thematic area of the competition in Scientific Speciality "Economics and Management "

4.3. Candidate's Scientific Activity in Literature (Citation)

The achievements (scientific and applied) of the ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR applicant can

be defined as important and significant, according to the established citation in the literature. Citations of 9 publications of the candidate have been established: Chief Assistant Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov, with over 15 citations.

Of these quotes, 1/3 are from foreign authors, and the remaining 10 quotes are in refereed journals and conference proceedings.

4.4. Contributions to the work of the applicant (s) (scientific, applied, applied)

In a Report the applicant for the ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR indicated 11 contributions, which I fully accept and for which there is evidence in the submitted materials for review. These contributions can be classified into the following 2 groups:

- First group: theoretical and theoretical-methodological contributions:
 - A methodology for assessing the sustainable development of NUTS level 3 administrative units has been developed, in accordance with European Union legislation, on a set of 25 indicators called the Regional Sustainable Development Index (RDSI) (B3.1).
 - Methodology has been developed and instruments have been proposed for assessing the corporate competitiveness of enterprises in the forestry, wood crafting and processing and furniture industries by examining macroeconomic indicators and examining the place of sectors in the country's economy (D7.22, D.7.32, D10.1, D10.2, D10.3, D10.4).
 - Methodology for assessing the competitiveness of the regions in Bulgaria by applying the Regional Competitiveness Index (D6.1, D7.1, D7.4, D7.6, D7.9, D7.13, D7.23) has been developed and tested. (D7.26).
- Second group: applied and methodological-applied contributions:
 - Different integrated management scenarios are developed and put into practice, aimed at the future management of forest landscapes by the example of two key municipalities - a common one. Velingrad and the municipality. Teteven (D7.3, D7.8, D7.10, D7.11, D7.12, D7.14, D7.15, D7.16, D7.17, D7.20, D7.21)
 - Main trends and problems in the forestry and agriculture sector have been studied and analysed, incl. the opportunities for the development of crop and agriculture in national and international aspects were evaluated (D7.24, D.7.29, D.7.37, D.7.38, D10.5, D10.7).
 - The development of Bulgaria for the period 2006-2016 has been identified and analysed by the key indicators for monitoring the sustainable development of the country and a regression model and direction of development for each of them has been proposed (B3.1).
 - Bulgaria's place in global reports and rankings has been identified and analysed, and its competitive advantages have been identified through a comparative analysis of its strengths and weaknesses (D7.19).
 - Sectors relevant for the economy of the country have been researched by: exploring the conditions for the development of alternative tourism in Bulgaria and its tourism potential, developing a tourist profile; improving and improving the management process; identification of unique opportunities for diversification of the tourism product and services (D7.5, D7.7, D7.18, D7.25, D7.27, D7.30, D7.31, D7.33).
 - The problems of the major cities in Bulgaria related to internal and external migration and the problems of the rural areas of the example of the North Central Region were studied through demographic survey (D.7.28, D.7.39).
 - Problems in training in economic disciplines have been identified, prospects and opportunities for digital technologies to overcome these issues have been

evaluated, measures for improving the quality of the educational process have been proposed and the achievements in science in the field of macro and microeconomics have been systematized and interpreted (D7.2, D.7.34, D.7.35, E20.1, E20.2, E21.1).

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

The personal contribution of the applicant is indisputable. In recognition of his personal scientific, applied and teaching contributions, the following may be mentioned:

- Joint publications in collective monographs, articles and conference proceedings with a number of Bulgarian authors.
- The publications are referenced in the secondary indexing systems.
- 15 citations in indexed and refereed publications were reported and one third of them were from foreign authors.
- Participated in the development of 1 stand-alone and 1 collective textbook, as well as the development of 1 collaborative study tool.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

Essentially, the scientific and applied results of the applicant for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR fully correspond to the direction of the competition. They set out and consider important for theory and relevant for the Bulgarian practice, especially for sectors such as forestry and agriculture, furniture industry and others. questions.

Notwithstanding the good impression of the papers submitted for review, the applicant may be asked the following question:

- To what extent it can be determined whether regional inequalities result from the deteriorated competitiveness of regions in Bulgaria or vice versa, the low competitiveness of firms (such as the forestry and furniture industries) and regions in Bulgaria as a result of deepening regional inequalities in the country?

In conclusion, 2 recommendations can be made for the applicant to consider in their future research and publications:

- To orient its publications to a higher degree of study of theoretical and methodological tools at the expense of the applied nature of research;
- To achieve greater diversity in participation in various international fora, which will increase the number of publications in indexed publications.

7. Personal impressions

I know the Associate Professor candidate from his participation in conferences organized by LTU and other universities in the country. My impressions of the candidate are good - short presentations on key issues that are relevant to the candidate's issues. He does not bother to enter into a public discussion on the topics presented or discussed on which he has sufficient competence.

As Chairman of APIUI, I have good impressions of Dr. Ivanov's participation in various forums of the Association. He actively participates in the activities and tasks of the annual meetings of colleagues in Economics and Management in the country.

8. Conclusion

Accordingly, I give a POSITIVE ASSESSMENT to the candidate in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.7 Administration and Management, scientific specialty "Economics and Management" for the needs of the University of

Forestry.

This review of the papers submitted for review give reason to highlight sufficiently significant scientific and applied contributions, on the basis of which I find it justified and **OFFER** the candidate **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. IVAYLO HRISTOV IVANOV** to occupy the academic position **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** in the course „**Macroeconomics**„ of Professional Field **3.7. Administration and management**

Reviewer:

/prof. Dr. Nikolay Sterev/



The review was submitted to: 2.9.2019 r.