



ACADEMIC REVIEW

Of the papers submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in academic field 3. Social, economic and law sciences, PS (Professional Strand) 3.7. Administration and management, scientific specialty "Economics and management", from the discipline "Macroeconomics". The opening is announced by the University of Forestry in the State Journal issue 37/7.05.2019, code of the procedure ABM-AsP-0419-05.

Candidate for the Competition is:

Chief Assistant DSc Ivailo Hristov Ivanov

Reviewer: DSc Nikolai Stoyanov Stoenchev, professor of PS 3.7. Administration and management at the University of Forestry.

1. Short biography of the candidate:

DSc Ivailo Hristov Ivanov is a Chief Assistant in department "Economics and management of the resources and the use of nature" at the faculty of Economic management at the University of Forestry. He was born in 1970 in the town of Tryavna, Gabrovo region. He graduated from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia in 1998 with the specialty "Management of the territorial systems". He has assumed the positions of Assistant, Senior Assistant and Chief Assistant at the University of Forestry from 1999 until present. He has defended a dissertation entitled "Economic problems in the depressive regions of Bulgaria" in 2017. Since he started work at the University of Forestry he has successfully completed 18 upgrade qualification training courses, one of which was abroad. 9 were dedicated on the use of information and communication technologies in education and scientific research, 3 were aimed at upgrading foreign language competence and 2 were focused on the management of quality and information security. He authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications. He has been quoted 14 times (made available for the competition). He has taught lectures and seminars in the discipline "Macroeconomics" to the students in the specialties "Economic management" and "Alternative tourism" in the University of Forestry, as well as students from other specialties. He has given lectures in English in the discipline "Insurance policies" to students from the specialty Veterinarian medicine in the University of Forestry. He had participated in conferences in 13 countries.

2. Compliance of the papers submitted by the candidate with the requirements in the Regulations for DAS (Development of Academic Staff) in University of Forestry;

The submitted papers are in compliance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in University of Forestry.

3. Assessment of the educational and teaching work of the candidate

As a long-time head of the former department “Economics”, where the candidate had spent the main part of his university career, I am well acquainted with his achievements in education and teaching.

Chief Assistant DSc Ivailo Ivanov has given lectures and seminars in Macroeconomics, General Economic Theory, Accounting, Financial Management and Management of the Risk, as well as lectures in Insurance policies in English, seminars in Insurance, Economy Statistics and Regional economy. On occasion he has taught other disciplines when the title lecturers were absent.

During the period 2014-2019 he has produced academic reviews of 24 diploma papers of successful graduates.

Ivailo Ivanov is the author of an electronic educational module for distance learning in Macroeconomics, a co-author of a student's book Macroeconomics*Microeconomic, a co-author of the book Theoretical Economics, co-author in two books on Statistics, which were not included in the list of achievements for this competition.

The candidate has regularly exceeded the set norm of teaching hours by the University of Forestry and has regularly upgraded the curriculums in the disciplines he has been teaching. He has used modern electronic teaching technologies in his work and has won the respect and recognition of the students he has been working with. During the regular academic attestations the feedback from the students about his work has been unwaveringly positive. It is worth pointing out that Chief Assistant DSc Ivailo Ivanov has shown exceptional perseverance and dedication in his academic work. He has always aspired to self-perfection and teaching has always been his vocation.

In conclusion and based on all stated above I shall give this candidate the highest positive assessment.

4. Assessment of the scientific, applied-science and publication work of the candidate.

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied-science and educational projects

The candidate has taken part in 10 scientific and educational projects of high scientific, practical and educational value. One of the projects was international, while he was the head person of another. His participation consists of work on theoretical concepts,

conceiving and realising calculation algorithms and explaining the results of the analyses in order to extract clear and accurate conclusions and inferences. His participation in projects has been regular over time and the topics are normally in accordance with the specifics of his university, as well as the specialties and profile of the students whom he teaches.

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results.

The published scientific results of the candidate gravitate around several topical groups, namely:

- Regional development;
- Alternative tourism;
- Economics of forestry;
- Competitiveness of the companies in the furniture sector;
- Methodology of teaching in universities;
- Sustainable development in agriculture;
- Insurance marketing.

A leading topic for him is the sustainable development in national and regional aspect.

A significant number of the candidate's publications are in a foreign language (almost 50%) and not an insignificant number of them have been published abroad (over 33%).

It is also worth mentioning that the candidate boasts of having a large number of individual publications (35% of the ones submitted to the competition) and in number of pages the individual publications represent even a larger share.

An excellent balance is achieved in the structure of the publications (in particular the proportion between monographs, participation in group monographs, reviewed articles and reports). One of the articles has been published in a journal that was referenced in reputable databases of scientific publications. Two of the publications can also be found on the internet, which facilitates access. The group publications of the candidate on one hand indicate that he has been able to learn from the research proficiency of more experienced authors, and on the other - it is a form of recognition of his qualities as a scientist and a teacher.

In terms of contents the publications of the candidate reflect the current state and developments of certain processes and phenomena of national and European

significance and offer competent analyses, conclusions and suggestions for solutions in the interest of the economy, society and nature.

In quantitative aspect, by distinctive groups of indicators, the proposed publications far exceed the minimal state requirements for assuming the academic position of Associate Professor.

4.3. Reflection of the scientific work of the candidate in literature (quotations)

The candidate has offered 14 quotations that he had come across, two of which are in publications referenced in world-famous databases. This leads us to believe that the publications of Chief Assistant DSc Ivailo Ivanov are well-known and provoke interest in the scientific community.

4.4. Contributions in the works of the candidate (scientific, applied-scientific, practical)

In the summary, prepared by the candidate, he points out to 11 contributions which are in line with the topics of the publications offered for the competition.

I deem appropriate to group the candidate's works into scientific, applied-scientific and practical.

Considering the volume of the publications, their consistency in time and the candidate's personal involvement, we could point out to some of the most significant being the contributions related to establishing trends in the sustainable development of the regions and the country as a whole, the classification of regions by complex criteria for sustainable development, as well as analysis of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian regions. Other subjects of interest for the candidate are developing plans for an integrated future for the forestry landscapes in certain municipalities in Bulgaria, for which forestry is a traditional industry. Other topics include problems in the competition between furniture producing companies; revealing the potential for development of the alternative tourism in Bulgaria; as well as the application of innovative approach and methods in university teaching.

Some of the candidate's publications present the results from some research, which could not be called fundamental, but rather oriented towards real life problems and the possibility for applying quantitative methods for producing results that would support the information provision when taking important decisions to do with regulating economic, social and demographic processes.

On the whole I would conclude that the research endeavours of the candidate have been fruitful and he had succeeded in separating the current, relevant and perspective aspects of

the explored economic processes and phenomena and presenting it in the form of general conclusions, inferences and recommendations with scientific and practical value.

5. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate.

The great number of individual publications, the long-term teaching and research experience and the personal qualities of the candidate give me sufficient grounds to acknowledge that his personal contributions in the presented results are indisputable.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

In publication C3.1.: Ivanov, I. Sustainable development: regional inequalities in Bulgaria, Sofia, Avanguard Prima, 2019 on pages 63 and 64 are presented the results from modelling the trend in dynamic ranges, formed by two of the explored indicators for sustainable development through exponential trend models. A coefficient of correlation has been calculated based on the same dynamic ranges, which has a very high value, however we have to bear in mind that it can be affected by a similar trend. Also the result in figures for the coefficient of correlation is presented in square, which I suspect is a technical error. The same goes for the coefficient of correlation presented on page 67.

The candidate has quite a few subjects of interest, which to a certain extent could lead to some loss of focus. To that end I will suggest a slight reduction in the number of explored topics.

7. Personal impressions

I am well acquainted with the candidate's work. We have acted together as part of the same team at the University of Forestry since he assumed his academic position. We have collaborated in teaching, as well as in multiple scientific projects.

I could attest that Associate Professor DSc Ivailo Ivanov is a hard-working, talented individual, possessing the skills of an excellent teacher and scholar, which he uses to the fullest in his work.

In addition, he is modest, affable and reliable and that makes him always a preferred choice for team work. He is also fully committed to his administrative duties.

8. Conclusion

Based on the scientific achievements described above, as well as on his teaching competences, I officially PROPOSE the candidature of CHIEF ASSISTANT DSC IVAILO HRISTOV IVANOV for the position Associate Professor in the discipline "Macroeconomics" from PS 3.7. Administration and Management.

Signature of the reviewer:

The academic review is handed out on 7.8.2019