

## OPINION

by Professor KIRIL PETROV ANGELOV, DSc  
(Scientific specialties: *Economics and Management, Organisation and Management of Production and Organisation and Management Outside the Field of Material Production*)

regarding the competition for academic position Associate Professor of the Professional Area 3.7 *Administration and Management*, Scientific Specialty *Economics and Management*, published in the State Gazette No 37/07.05.2019

for the candidate Chief Assistant Professor IVAYLO HRISTOV IVANOV, PhD.

### 1. General characterization of the candidate's research and applied scientific activities

Chief Assistant Professor Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov is the only candidate in this competition. He has submitted for assessment 51 scientific publications: 1 monograph, 40 scientific papers and scientific reports (one of them indexed in the Web of Science), 7 participations in chapters of collective monographs and 3 textbooks and manuals. The scientific publications published in Bulgaria are 34 and those published abroad – 17. The distribution by language is 26 in Bulgarian and 25 in English. The publications without co-authors are 18; the candidate is a co-author in the other publications. The candidate is the author of a monograph entitled *Sustainable Development: Regional Inequalities in Bulgaria*. The publications' main focus is in the field of ensuring enterprises' competitiveness in the woodworking industry, thus guaranteeing sustainable development and the related analyses of regional economic inequalities. The submitted publications for assessment definitely have the characteristics required for the specialty *Economics and Management*. They do not repeat the publications presented during obtaining the Education and Science Degree *Doctor* and during the competition for the academic position *Chief Assistant Professor*.

The candidate obtained the Education and Science Degree *Doctor* by defending a thesis entitled *Economic problems of the depressed regions in Bulgaria* in the same scientific specialty as in the current competition.

Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov is a well-known scientist in the Bulgarian and foreign scientific space through his publications and his activities as a university lecturer since 01.10.1999.

The citations of his publications by Bulgarian and foreign scholars is a sign of this. His publications make significant scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions in his field, which is in compliance with the present competition.

For his almost 20-year career as a university lecturer, Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov has grown as an instructor and scientist in the field of *Economics and Management*. His application in the current competition is not an end in itself, it is a well thought out and purposeful path of scientific development whose results are his scientific contributions.

With these publications the applicant significantly exceeds the minimum national scientific-metric requirements of Article 2b of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant requirements of the University of Forestry – Article 2a, Paragraph 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff.

### 2. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical preparation and activities

The candidate for the academic position of Associate Professor assumed the academic position of Assistant Professor at the University of Forestry, Faculty of Business Administration,



Department of Economics, on October 1, 1999. For the next 20 years he has held the academic positions Senior Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor in the same university. He was also a part-time lecturer (until June 2015) at the University of National and World Economy.

Throughout his entire development, as a lecturer, Dr. Ivanov has conducted classes (lectures and practical seminars) in a number of disciplines such as: Macroeconomics, Economic Statistics, Insurance, Accounting, Financial Management, Risk Management and more. For his lectures and seminars, Dr. Ivanov has developed relevant teaching materials. In this way he helped initiate new courses and develops existing ones. For educational purposes the candidate published two textbooks (*Macroeconomics*) and a manual on *Theoretical Economics* as single author or as co-author.

The candidate for the current competition conducted training sessions (lectures and practical seminars) for the last 5 years amounting to more than 2000 hours recalculated as practical seminars (reference with No. FSU-4000#1/20.06.2019 at the Faculty of Business Administration). For the last year they were over 580 hours. The requirements of Article 24 (1) of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria are overfulfilled multiple times.

In addition to teaching, the applicant has repeatedly confirmed his professional competence over the years by managing coursework and diploma work for students and developing reviews for them.

The entire teaching activity of the applicant has been concentrated in the Bachelor and Master Degrees Programs in the professional area 3.7 *Administration and Management*. It fully corresponds to the specifics of the specialties of the University of Forestry.

In connection with his teaching activity, Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov has not stopped improving his qualification related to: language competence, shown by his ability to conduct courses in English; IT competency, which led to the implementation of application programs related to the courses he runs; competences for distance learning and etc.

The presented pedagogical preparation and activity of the candidate clearly characterize Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov as suitable for the academic position in this competition.

### **3. Main scientific and applied scientific contributions**

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov has presented a detailed report with 11 contributions. Studying the scientific publications submitted in the current competition serves as grounds to conclude that they contain scientific, scientific-applied and applied results which relate to using new tools for dealing with existing scientific problems, theories, hypotheses by applying new methods for this purpose, which enriches the scientific knowledge mainly in the field of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian woodworking industry, the sustainable development of the industry and the inequalities between the different Bulgarian regions.

I consider the claim of the candidate regarding the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions of his publications as completely relevant. My opinion is that some of the contributions can be claimed more convincingly while grouping them all into the three fields mentioned above.

### **4. Significance of contributions to science and practice**

The applicant's contributions are related to the use of new tools for dealing with existing scientific problems, theories, hypotheses by applying new methods for the purpose, whereby enriching the scientific knowledge mainly in the fields of competitiveness of the Bulgarian



woodworking industry, the sustainable development of the industry and the inequalities between the different regions in Bulgarian.

Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov is not simply a theoretician scientist. Many of his contributions have found realization both in scientific and applied projects in industry and in the educational process.

The documentation provided contains 14 citations of the candidate's publications, 5 of them by foreign scholars and the other by Bulgarian scholars. On the basis of the above, as well as on the basis of my own observations, I conclude that Dr. Ivanov is a scientist recognized in the Bulgarian and European space in the scientific fields mention above. In this regard, I accept the contributions as real and meaningful.

## 5. Critical notes and recommendations

Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov has submitted scientific publications which clearly show professionalism, good theoretical background and strong applicability of scientific results and prove the potential for further development of his research activities. These serves as the grounds for making specific recommendations with a view to further enhance his achievements.

I believe that the candidate has the potential to broaden his scientific influence by increasing his publishing activity in peer-reviewed editions in world scientific bases.

I recommend that Dr. Ivanov intensify his research in order to cover in greater detail the relationship between his research and the impact of the European Structural and Investment Funds on reducing regional economic disparities and enhancing the competitiveness of the woodworking industry.

## 6. Conclusion

There are all the necessary grounds for declaring my positive assessment and recommendation to the members of the scientific jury to vote in favour of Chief Assistant Professor Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD, who is the only candidate in the competition for the academic position *Associate Professor* of the discipline *Macroeconomics* in the scientific field 3. *Social, Economics and Law Science*, of professional field 3.7 *Administration and Management*, of scientific specialty *Economics and Management* for the needs of the University of Forestry, Faculty of Business Administration.

09.08.2019  
Sofia

Member of the Science Jury:  
/Prof. Kiril Angelov, DSc/