

REVIEW

On the materials submitted for participation in the open academic procedure for “associate professor”, higher education area 3. Social, Economic, and Law Sciences, professional field 3.7 Administration and Management, scientific specialty „Economics and Management“, subject „Macroeconomics“, conducted at the University of Forestry according to State Gazette No.37 / 07.05.2019, procedure code ABM – AsP – 0419 – 05.

Only one candidate has submitted materials for the procedure:

Senior Assistant Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov.

Review prepared by a member of the Scientific Jury:

Prof. Dr. Matilda Ivanova Alexandrova-Boshnakova, professional field 3.7. Administration and Management, UNWE-Sofia.

Short biographic data for the candidate:

Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov graduates the University of National and World Economy with MA degrees in „Management of Spatial Systems“ (1997) and „Accounting and Control“ (1998). He holds a PhD degree since 2017 obtained at the University of Forestry – Sofia on scientific specialty „Economics and Management (by Sectors)“ with a topic of his PhD thesis: „Economic problems of the depressed regions in Bulgaria“. The candidate has been appointed to academic position „Senior Assistant Professor“, professional field 3.7 „Administration and Management“, at the University of Forestry where he works as a full time lecturer since 1999. Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov has acquired significant experience as a university lecturer on the courses „Macroeconomics“, „Accounting“, „Insurance“, „Risk Management“, „Financial Management“, etc. The candidate participated in the execution of several research projects with thematic orientation towards economics, management, firm competitiveness in forestry sector, etc. He is a member of the Association of Lecturers on Economics and Management in Industry. He is proficient in English and Russian languages.

2. Compliance of the submitted materials by the candidate to the University of Forestry Regulations of Academic Promotion.

The candidate has submitted all documents and materials required by Article 60 of this Regulation. The summary points acquired by the candidate exceeds the requirements for academic position „associate professor“ in professional field 3.7 „Administration and Management“ according to the Regulation, as follows:

Indicators Group	Minimum threshold	Points of the candidate
A	50	50
B	–	–
C	100	100
D	200	247,98
E	50	95
F	–	236,67
Total	400	729,65

As a result of the review of the materials submitted by the candidate, 20 points have been reduced in Group D due to a change in the categorization of 1 single-author article of the

candidate (in Trakia Journal of Sciences) for which no indexation record is found in the Web of Science. The derived summary of the candidate's results shows that **the candidate fulfils the scientometric requirements** stated in the aforementioned Regulation.

3. Assessment of the teaching activities of the candidate

Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov has 20 years of pedagogical activity as an Assistant and Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics and Management of Resources and Environmental Management at the Faculty of Business Management at the University of Forestry – Sofia. During the last 5 academic years he has completed an auditorium workload with a total of 2039 hours in the subjects "Macroeconomics", "Economic Statistics", "Accounting", "Insurance", "Risk Management" and "Financial Management". During the period 2014-2019 the candidate has reviewed 24 successfully defended master theses. He uses modern forms of teaching, which is also evident from his participation in applied scientific projects aimed at modernizing the teaching process, as well as in specialized courses for teaching skills (Working with specialized software; Using modern methods of teaching via ICT; Web technologies; E-learning methods and systems; Academic teaching methodology; Training for the operation and maintenance of the E-learning platform Blackboard Learn TM). A separate textbook (electronic resource) on Macroeconomics has been developed by the candidate. He co-authored textbooks on Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Theoretical Economics: Practicum".

4. Assessment of the scientific and publication activity of the candidate

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

The applicant has demonstrated an extensive experience as a researcher and is actively involved in eight research and education projects as a member of research teams - three projects funded by the EU Operational Programs (two under OP HRD 2007-2013 and one under OP SEIG 2014-2020); one funded by the National Research Fund; four university-funded projects. Since 2018 he is the head of a project funded by the National Research Fund at the Ministry of Education and Science (on the study of regional and local socio-economic inequalities in Bulgaria: ReLoSEIn). The candidate participates as a member of the team of an international project funded by the EU FP7 (2012-2015) on the topic of "Integrated Future-oriented Management of European Forest Landscapes (INTEGRAL)".

4.2. Characteristics of the published research results

In the open procedure for "Associate Professor" the candidate has submitted a total of 51 publications (18 single-author and 33 in co-authorship), of which: 1 monograph; 2 textbooks and 1 study guide; 40 research articles and papers presented at scientific forums; 7 chapters of collective monographs. The materials presented for the procedure demonstrate the scientific and applied orientation of the candidate's research work, focused on the sustainable development of the administrative-territorial units in Bulgaria; assessment of the corporate competitiveness of enterprises from the timber, wood processing, and furniture industries; management of forest landscapes, development of alternative tourism in Bulgaria and its tourism potential, etc. Highly positive impression induces the aspiration of the candidate to promote the results of his research work at scientific forums – international and national conferences and seminars, where he presents 23 scientific reports – is a good impression. The publication of 18 single-author titles indicates that the applicant is a recognized researcher in the above scientific fields.

4.3. Reflection of the candidate's research activity in the literature (citation)

The candidate's publication activity up to now had a visible impact on the Bulgarian and international specialized literature. The citations record shows that there are 2 citations in

scientific publications indexed in the world scientific information databases (Scopus: in the scientific journal "Business: Theory and Practice", Lithuania); additionally, one citation in a monograph and 11 citations in scientific peer-reviewed journals (three of which abroad).

4.4. Contributions of the candidate's work (scientific and/or applied)

The main scientific and/or applied contributions of Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov are featured in the submitted publications for the procedure. They are oriented towards proving (by new means or approaches) of significant new aspects in the research fields (including interdisciplinary topics) as well as towards obtaining confirmatory facts. In general, I accept the self-assessed scientific and applied contributions of the candidate, where I would put the focus on the following:

- A methodology for assessing the sustainable development of NUTS Level 3 administrative units has been developed, using a proposed integrated benchmark based on 25 indicators (Regional Sustainable Development Index: RDSI) [B3.1].
- A methodology for evaluation of the competitiveness of the regions in Bulgaria developed by applying the Regional Competitiveness Index based on 10 indicators [D6.1, D7.1, D7.4, D7.6, D7.9, D7.13, D7.23, D7.26].
- Development of a toolkit for assessing the corporate competitiveness of enterprises in the timber, woodworking and furniture industries by examining the role of these sectors in the national economy [D7.22, D7.32, D10.1, D10.2, D10.3, D10.4].
- Development of scenarios for integrated future-oriented management of forest landscapes, for example in two Bulgarian municipalities, by analyzing economic indicators and exploring the views of stakeholders [D7.3, D7.8, D7.10, D7.11, D7.12, D7.14, D7.15, D7.16, D7.17, D7.20, D7.21].
- Targeted studies have identified trends and problems in the development of the forestry and agriculture sector in Bulgaria [D7.24, D7.29, D7.37, D7.38, D10.5, D10.7].
- The conditions for the development of alternative tourism in Bulgaria and its potential have been identified through targeted studies of the tourism services [D7.5, D7.7, D7.18, D7.25, D7.27, D7.30, D7.31, D7.33].

It should be noted that the candidate has focused additional efforts to identify some problems in the teaching of economics courses in Bulgarian HEIs, as well as to evaluate the prospects and opportunities for using digital technologies in order to improve the quality of the educational process.

5. Assessment of the candidate's contributions

I am convinced that the contributions mentioned above are a personal matter of the candidate. His contributions are evident from the content of the single-author publications, the textbook, and especially from the scientific level of the habilitation monography. It demonstrates the applicant's ability to look for new developments in the respective field by suggesting options for new solutions as well as presenting evidence by applying an empirical approach and a quantitative research tools.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no specific critical comments on the submitted materials by the candidate on this procedure. My main recommendation to Dr. Ivaylo Ivanov is to seek further opportunities to disseminate and promote the results of his research work in prestigious international publications indexed in the secondary bibliographic and scientometric systems. I believe that the applicant also has the potential to expand its participation in research projects within the European research area.

7. Personal impression

My personal impression from the candidate's work is excellent. I know him as a lecturer and researcher with very good communication skills for team work, as well as for his excellent organizational skills – he is one of the main organizers of the Annual International Conference of the Faculty of Business Management at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

8. Conclusion

Based on the above arguments, **my statement is positive** and I support the candidate Dr. Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov **for the academic position of "Associate Professor"** at the University of Forestry, scientific specialty "Economics and Management", professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management".

Reviewer:
/ Prof. Dr. Matilda Alexandrova /

Review submitted on: 27.08.2019.