



## OPINION/REVIEW

on the materials for participation in a competition for the appointment of an academic position "associate professor", higher education area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, PF 3.7. Administration and Management, scientific specialty "Economics and Management", in the discipline "Macroeconomics", announced by the University of Forestry, Sofia in the State Gazette, vol. 37 / 7.5.2019, procedure code ABM - AsP - 0419 - 05.

### **Candidates for the competition are:**

1. Senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD;

**Prepared the opinion:** Nikolay Ivanov Tzonkov, Associate Professor, PhD 3.7. Administration and Management at University of National and World Economy in Sofia

### **1. Brief biographical data of the applicant**

Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov was born on August 7, 1970 in the town of Tryavna. He graduated in 1997 at the University of National and World Economy, Sofia with specialty "Management of Territorial Systems", and in 1998 he holds a degree in Accounting and Control at the same university. In 1999, he joined the University of Forestry as an assistant. In 2004 he became a senior assistant. His scientific interests are related to the study of the economic problems of the regions; competitiveness of the regions; tourism, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. From 1999 to 2015, he is a part-time assistant in the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management and Administration of the University of National and World Economy in the field of Regional Economics. In 2017 he acquired PhD Degree in Economics and Management (by Branch) and defended a dissertation on the topic "Economic Problems of the Depressive Regions in Bulgaria".

All these facts speak of the high competencies that senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD holds in his professional field.

### **2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with the required under the Regulations of Academic Staff Development at the University of Forestry**

In the competition for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field "Administration and Management", scientific specialty "Economics and Management" in the discipline "Macroeconomics" at the University of Forestry is admitted to participation only one candidate –senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD, which is working as Lecturer at the Department of Economics and Management of Resource and Natural Resources at the University of Forestry.

According to the normative requirements of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation, as well as the requirements for occupying academic positions under the Internal Academic Staff Development Regulations at the University of Forestry, the documentation presented by senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD, meets fully the requirements for the type and content and he has collected 749.65 points by individual indicators.



### **3. Evaluation of the teaching / training activities of the applicant**

Candidate senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD has almost 20 years of work experience as a lecturer at University of Forestry and University of National and World Economy. Only over the past 5 years there has been a covering workload of more than 2 000 hours and has led classes and lectures on the following subjects: insurance; macroeconomics; Principles of Accounting; public finances; regional economy; regional management of grass-roots and architectural activities; statistics; accounting; corporate risk management.

The teaching activity of the candidate gives me reason to designate him as an excellently trained lecturer who can fully perform the teaching activities related to the academic position "associate professor" for which he is applying.

### **4. Assessment of the applicant's scientific, scientific applied and publishing activities**

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

According to the documentation for participation in the competition, the applicant participated in ten projects with scientific, scientific applied and practical applied research results. Projects can be grouped into two main groups:

1. Participation in international scientific projects, funded by a Bulgarian or foreign institution as a member of the working group - 6;

2. Participation in infrastructure projects funded by a Bulgarian institution as a member of the working team - 4 pieces.

#### **4.2. Characterization of published scientific results**

The applicant has a massive publishing activity with more than 116 publications in the course of his research work over the years. The papers presented for the competition are 9. The main publication, which is presented in the competition, is a monograph on Sustainable Development: Regional Disparities in Bulgaria. Other publications include 2 articles in Bulgarian and foreign specialized journals and 6 papers presented at international scientific conferences in Bulgaria and other countries. The publications are related to the theme of the competition.

The publications submitted by the applicant fully correspond to the subject of the competition.

The main areas of research and problem analysis by the applicant are structured as follows:

1. Sustainable and economic development of the regions through the prism of regional inequalities in Bulgaria;

2. Competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises through the prism of regional development;

3. Development of small and medium-sized enterprises, representatives of the wood processing industry and the production of furniture;

4. The development of the tourist and insurance markets.

In most of the publications, the focus is on studies related to the state of regional disparities in Bulgaria and their impact on the sustainable development of the regions; small and medium-sized enterprises in the woodworking and furniture industry.

Sustainable development is an increasingly pressing issue with regard to climate change and a greening policy for the development of the economies of the European Union. The author analyzes and compares, using the statistical methods, the areas and administrative



units in the Bulgarian country, identifying the key problems related to the inequalities and their overcoming. A model for assessing the sustainable development of individual administrative units (a comprehensive measure of 15 indicators) has been developed in the survey, which is applied for the period 2012-2017. The dynamics of important indicators for sustainable development of the Bulgarian country at the national level for the period 2006 - 2016 г.

Monograph is a serious study of the social and economic development of the regions in Bulgaria in the context of the EU Cohesion Policy providing. The author analyzes the key problems in the development of Bulgaria by offering solutions for their overcoming in the context of the future sustainable development of the Bulgarian state.

His scientific work is structured in several directions, which are interrelated and focus on the social and economic development of Bulgaria. In this regards the author explores and gives serious analyzes of the problematic areas in the field of alternative tourism management, the development of the regions through the prism of the dynamics of the woodworking and furniture enterprises in Bulgaria, the demographic factor in the development of the regions and the challenges facing the tourism sector in the Bulgarian state.

Various methods of research have been used to obtain a comprehensive analysis of the problems studied, including statistical and economic analyzes, by comparing the social and economic processes, relations and competitiveness factors of the regions and small and medium-sized enterprises in Bulgaria through the prism of regional disparities and sustainable development.

A positive element is the fact that all the materials in the competition as topics and problems are part of the disciplines within the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs at the University of Forestry and are offered to the students as a literature on the respective programs.

The presented papers reflect the current and significant problems of the small and medium enterprises in important branches of Bulgaria - woodworking and furniture production, analyzing their significance and role for the development of the regions in the Bulgarian country. The factors for the development of the insurance sector in Bulgaria are presented. The factors influencing the competitiveness of alternative tourism are clarified, offering an assessment of the tourism sector in the different regions of Bulgaria.

#### **4.3. Impact of the applicant's scientific activity in the literature (citation)**

The scientific output of the candidate senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD is visible both in the national and the European scientific space. Six publications, which are quoted 12 times, are presented. His works are quoted in Yearbooks and Conference books of the University of Forestry, as well as in publications abroad, which undoubtedly proves the high scientific value and results of his research activities.

#### **4.4. Contributions to applicant's works (scientific, scientific applied and practical applied)**

In my opinion, the papers of senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD have a high scientific level. They are based on in-depth analyzes of a wide range of literary sources in several languages. They investigate significant and insufficiently developed research related to the development of the social and economic problems of the regions, the competitiveness of the regions, tourism, small and medium-sized enterprises.



In the works of senior assistant Ivaylo Hristov Ivanov, PhD, a number of contributions, which are the result of many years of scientific research work, can be highlighted. For clarity, they can be structured into three main groups:

#### **4.4.1 Scientific contributions**

This group includes contributions related to the monitoring of regional development in the context of large urban centers and social and economic disparities, the dynamics of the insurance industry and the tourist profile of the regions. The candidate identifies the trends in insurance marketing, structure and leaders of the insurance market in Bulgaria for the period 2002-2003. The problems of the big cities in Bulgaria related to internal and external migration and the problems of the rural areas in the North Central region with demographic indicators. Trends and problems in the forestry and agriculture sector have been identified through a survey of the wood market in Bulgaria for the period 1990-2002.

#### **4.4.2. Scientific-applied contributions**

Development of methodologies and tools for assessing the company competitiveness of enterprises from the logging, wood processing and furniture industries by examining the macroeconomic indicators and examining the location of the sectors in the country's economy.

A methodology for assessing the competitiveness of the regions in Bulgaria was developed, tested and corrected by applying the Regional Competitiveness Index, a measure instrument, based on 10 indicators.

A methodology for assessing the sustainable development of administrative-territorial units at NUTS 3 level has been developed, according to the legislation of the European Union, by ranking the districts in Bulgaria for the period 2012-2017 according to the established complex indicator based on 25 indicators, called Regional Sustainable Development Index.

#### **4.4.3. Practical-applied contributions**

Bulgaria's position has been established in global reports and charts. The advantages of the country have been identified through a comparative analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. Scenarios for an integrated and future-oriented forest landfill management have been developed in two key municipalities - Velingrad and Teteven.

The development of Bulgaria for the period 2006-2016 has been established on the key indicators for monitoring the sustainable development of the country and the most adequate regression model and direction of development for each of them is defined.

### **5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution**

My understanding of the presented publications gives me reason to state that the scientific achievements of senior assistant Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD enrich the existing knowledge and have applicability in science and practice. The resulting scientific and scientific applied research results and achievements have been published and shown according to the competition documentation. The research, teaching and scientific applied achievements of senior assistant Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD have made a significant contribution to the development of science.

## **6. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks about senior assistant Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD, with regard to his production, presented in the competition for Associate Professor.

“ In view of the experience gained in teaching and gained authority I recommend to senior assistant Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD, to continue and increase his activity as a lecturer, to support the research and to participate in projects.

## **7. Personal impressions**

I know the candidate senior assistant Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD from our work in the Department of Public Administration and Regional Development of the University of National and World Economy until 2013. I believe that over the years he has proved his competence and potential for scientific development which is undoubtedly reflected in his scientific activities and publications in authoritative national and international journals, as well as the monographs and publications presented in the Associate Professor competition.

## **8. Conclusion**

The candidate in the competition fully complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation, as well as the Regulations of Development of Academic staff at University of Forestry for taking the academic position "Associate Professor" at the University of Forestry.

The research, teaching and scientific applied results achieved, the topicality, the volume and the quality of the publications, the scientific level, the teaching practice, the high professional and business qualities give me grounds for high assessment and convinced I offer the candidate SENIOR ASSISTANT IVAYLO HRISTOV IVANOV, PhD to take the academic position "Associate Professor" in the discipline "Macroeconomics" of the PF 3.7. Administration and Management.

Opinion prepared:

/Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Ivanov Tsonkov, PhD/

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