

ACADEMIC STATEMENT

By: Assoc. Prof. D. Sc. Krassimir Todorov Todorov, Dean of the Academic program of VUZF, member of the Marketing and Management Department in VUZF.

Member of the Scientific Jury in the competition for the occupation of the academic position of „Professor“ in the field of higher education 3. „Social, Economic and Legal Studies“, professional track 3.8 „Economics“, scientific specialty „Institutions and sustainable development, behavioral economics“ for the needs of VUZF, a competition announced in State Gazette no. 28 of April 6, 2021

By Order of the Rector of VUZF, № 108 of 18.06.2021 for approval of the Scientific Jury for selection of „Professor“ I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury, and by decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I am obliged to prepare a review of the competition.

1. General description of the available materials

The available materials are in the required volume and comply with the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Occupying Academic Positions at VUZF. The documentation is carefully prepared and presented, which significantly facilitates the work of the reviewers.

The one applicant for the competition is Assoc. Prof. PhD. Julia Georgieva Dobрева.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's education, scientific and pedagogical activity

From the detailed presented CV it becomes obvious that Assoc. Prof Dobрева successfully combines her professional carrier with her development in the academy. Doing this in is not only occupying any administrative positions, but senior management ones, simultaneously with leading ever impactful and eminent scientific projects. It is worth some of them to be outlined:

1. Team leader for the preparation of a multi-volume book - Volume I - A look at the economic development of Bulgaria - from post-socialism to EU integration (1990-2020) - submitted for publication to ed. St. Gregory the Theologian – 2021.

2. Head of a team for preparation of a Package of measures for overcoming the crisis from the spread of COVID-19 in Bulgaria, presented to the Council of Ministers - 2020.

3. Team leader for preparation of an opinion of LNPI at VUZF on a draft National Plan for Reconstruction and Sustainability of Bulgaria, presented to the Council of Ministers - 2020.

3. The applicant's teaching activities: lectures, textbooks and teaching aids, guidance for doctoral students and graduates

As a lecturer, Assoc. Prof. Julia Dobрева has covered a wide range of disciplines falling within the scope of her research interests. In the educational qualification degree (ACS) „Bachelor“ at VUZF Assoc. Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева leads classes in „Sustainable Economic Development“ (2012 – till date); in ACS „Master“ – in „Globalistics“ (2012-2017), „Banking Risk Management“ (2013-2017), „Management of bank payments“ (2013-2017), „Consumer Behavior“ and „Behavioral Finance“ (2014 – to date). Assoc. Prof. Julia Dobрева has been also a long-term lectures at the University of Sheffield and CITY College.

4. Comprehensive analysis of the applicant's scientific achievements

Assoc. Prof. PhD Julia Dobрева has presented 2 monographs (independent, one and one, whose topic was her doctoral dissertation), 1 textbook, 2 study papers and 26 scientific articles and research reports, most of half from them in English languages. I would review more comprehensively her main monograph „Institutions and Economic Development“ (2019). The topic of the monograph can definitely be characterized as original – furthermore, it is one of the first academic studies on this issue in Bulgaria. The aim of the author of the monograph is extremely ambitious, actually to bring the current problems to the forefront of the role of institutions for socio-economic development. The object of the research are the institutions in the triad society-economy-institutions (p. 23), and to it is added both as a constraint and as a borderline opportunity for

development, actually the natural system. The subject of the research are the key institutions and the interpretation of their various manifestations for development. The thesis in the monograph derives the model of interdependence - „development considers the way in which the institutions are created, which in turn are engaged in the process of its provision“ (pp. 23-24).

The monography is consisted of 10 chapters, which are consecutively interrelated, comprising the institutional economic development as a stand-alone product, as well as a function of the economy. A wide variety of classical and modern issues of institution development are addressed, as well as factors of economic development, theoretical aspects of institutions and economic development, manifestations of this institutional change, the Triple Helix model and the link between innovation, institutions and economic development.

The formulated contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dobрева in her monography I would accept in the following way, grouped in three main directions:

At a first place, I would outline the author's thesis that well-built relationships between institutions and economic agents would develop positive results and sustainability in the economic development. This can happen through determining the relationships among the institutions, business and society, as well as through stressing attention over the context of economic and noneconomic factors, as well as their contribution to the development. In this relationship, the role of institutions in terms of guarantying the economic development, as well as their contribution for building of social structures and for achievement of social development, has been researched. At the same time it is explained the essence of the institutions and how they affect the economic and social development – when their impact is positive and by which circumstances they respond in a negative way and not contribute to the development of the economy and the society at all.

At a second place, the institutional change in the economies in transition, in the economies in crisis, as well as in the economies in the process of integration have been studied. All the mechanisms of the institutional development, as well as the elements of the Triple Helix, as a model of the interrelation among the state, the business and the educational institutions have been researched, with the aim to prove that actually through it, it could be discovered a suitable formula for achieving the economic growth. The

appearance of the Triple Helix model for the transition economies and other economic systems is applied.

At a third place, it is analysed the importance and the contribution of the institutions, as well as it is underlined the function of the institutions for their implementation, correct and effective functioning. The role of the human factor is explained, its reasons and needs, and from there the impact of the behaviour economy over the institutional and economic development. It is researched the the interrelation between the behaviour economy and institutional development.

At the same time I do express my explicit opinion, that I do not undermine the remaining scientific researches and articles of Assoc. Prof. Dobрева, however for me they reflect either her transition throughout the own scientific evolution („Modeling of sustainable development in the economy“ (2019) – a book, based on a dissertation for the degree of „Doctor of Economics“ (the dissertation is entitled „Application of optimization problems in the study of sustainable development and its dimensions“), or they have contributed for her creation for clear scientific dedication and convincing argumentation („Behavioral Economics. Basic Principles of Behavior in Economics and Finance“, 2018), applied in the fundament of creating the monographic research, presented for the competition for the occupation of the academic position of „Professor“, according to the legal requirements. In this relationship, all the presented by Assoc. Prof. Dobрева scientific publications are well above the minimum requirement volume from quantative and qualitative indicators.

5. Personal impressions from the applicant and potential recommendation

As a colleague of her, I would like to outline her entire dedication to the teaching and research activity, constant availability to accommodate ever-new projects for research. Such a behaviour is an example to our new colleagues from the university, behaviour deserving respect. In this relationship, I am not feeling prepared to raise any negative remarks or recommendations for her future development.

FINAL CONCLUSION

Assoc. Prof. PhD. Julia Dobрева in her capacity as an applicant for the academic position „Professor“ meets in a full extent the accepted recommended scientific and scientometric formal minimum requirements. All the available publications and documents result in shaping her scientific-applied contributions. Assoc. Prof. Julia Dobрева is a recognized researcher and respected scientist in the field of development, economic development, institutional development and behavioral economics. Based on the above, I find enough reasons to propose Assoc. Prof. PhD. Julia Georgieva Dobрева to be awarded to the academic position of „professor“ in the field of higher education 3. „Social, economic and legal sciences“, professional field 3.8 „Economics“, scientific specialty „Institutions and sustainable development, behavioral economics“ for the needs of VUZF - Sofia.

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Assoc. Prof. D. Sc. Krassimir Todorov Todorov)

Sofia, 07.08. 2021