

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева

**of the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’
at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance**

by professional field 3.8 Economics “Money circulation and monetary systems (Development of monetary systems and coinage)”

In the competition for ‘associate professor’, announced in the State Gazette, issue 95 of 16.11.2021 and on the website of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, with Dr. Valentina Grigorova-Gencheva from the Higher School of Insurance and Finance as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

The set of materials on paper and in electronic form, presented by Valentina Grigorova-Gencheva is in accordance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of VUZF and includes all required documents in accordance with it and in accordance with the Law for development of academic staff in Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application.

The candidate for associate professor Valentina Grigorova has submitted a total of 19 scientific papers, including:

Monograph on the topic: "Monetary system and coinage of modern Bulgaria (1880-2021)" - 100 points.

- Second Monograph with the title "Modern opportunities for investment in precious metals"
- 13 articles and reports published in scientific peer-reviewed publications
- 3 studios, two of which are co-authored
- 1 chapter of a book, co-authored

(Total 245 points)

A reference for 7 proofs of citations is also presented, of which 3 in books (55 points in total)

Given the above, I believe that the candidate has met the requirements of LDASRB and fully meets the national minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the competition.

In addition, the candidate has presented the necessary information and documents required by the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of VUZF, incl. separation protocols for joint publications, references for participation in projects and certificate of work experience under Art. 20, item 2.

I believe that the documents presented in this way are comprehensive and contain the necessary completeness of the information for assessing compliance with regulatory requirements.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

The monographic study in the monograph "Monetary System and Coinage of Modern Bulgaria (1880-2021)" has fulfilled its main goal, namely, to present an objective picture of modern Bulgarian coinage, as well as to provide new scientific theses, supported by documents and photos for development of the monetary system in the country.

As a particularly valuable contribution I can highlight the author's approach in each of the parts of the book to analyse in detail the periods through which the Bulgarian financial system passes in historical terms: from the Principality and the Third Bulgarian Kingdom through socialism to the Republic. In the scientific work for the first time all coin images, personalities and heraldry are described, explained and accompanied by a historical reference.

The author of the monograph has paid special attention to the rare denominations, the text and the layout of the inscriptions on the coins and their spelling. The examples are richly illustrated, so the text is scientific, but also as clear as possible for both students and a wider range of readers.

Another significant contribution of the monograph is the fact that for the first time the monetary system and coinage of Bulgaria are considered in their entirety, in the context of political and economic history. The author makes interesting comments and conclusions about the foreign influences on the restored Bulgarian state, as well as examines in detail the iconographic compositions and legends presented on Bulgarian coins. Also, special attention is paid to the symbols used and their messages.

Another important scientific contribution is the detailed presentation of the characteristics and main specifics in the ruler's portraits and coats of arms from the time of the Principality of Bulgaria

and the Third Bulgarian Kingdom. Comparative analyzes have been made and many controversial issues related to rare specimens of missing emissions have been clarified.

In addition, the monograph publishes for the first time a number of valuable documents related to the monetary system and coinage by the Bulgarian state archives. The author highlights as an innovative contribution the study of coin-shaped monuments (medals, medallions, jewellery, etc.), directly related to the Bulgarian coinage and its state regulation.

The monograph is appropriately structured and includes an introduction, two chapters with a glossary and appendices.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no specific critical remarks or recommendations. I recommend to the candidate to continue her research work.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Valentina Grigorova-Gencheva meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of VUZF.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers/articles published after the materials used in the defence of the PhD degree. In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition as a representative part of them are published in journals and scientific journals published by international academic publishers. Her theoretical analyses have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. Valentina Grigorova-Gencheva's scientific and teaching qualification is unquestionable.

The results in teaching and research activities achieved by Valentina Grigorova-Gencheva fully comply with the Regulations of VUZF for application of the LDASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, after analysing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Academic Council for election of Valentina Grigorova-Gencheva to the academic

position 'Associate Professor' at VUZF in the professional field 3.8 Economics "Money circulation and monetary systems (Development of monetary systems and coinage)"

20.03.2022

Prepared the opinion:

Prof. Dr. Julia Dobрева