

STATEMENT

by Georgi Marinov Georgiev, PhD,

Associate Professor at the University of Economics - Varna

about the materials presented for participation in a competition

for the tenure of "Professor"

at the VUZF University

in field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

professional division 3.8. Economics (Capital pensions and financial management)

In the "Professor" competition, which was advertised in Darjaven vestnik, issue 22 from 18.03.2022 and on the Internet page of the VUZF University, participates as a single candidate Associate Professor Stanislav Dimitrov Petkov, PhD., from the VUZF University.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

With Order Nr. 127 from 30.05.2022 of the Rector of the VUZF University I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition for the tenure of "Professor" in VUZF in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional division 3.8. Economics (Capital pensions and financial management), advertised for the needs of VUZF University.

For the participation in the advertised competition there is an application from a single candidate: Associate professor Stanislav Dimitrov Petkov, PhD, from VUZF University. The presented from Dr. Stanislav Dimitrov set of paper/electronic materials is in line with the Regulation of the development of the academic staff in VUZF, the Law for academic development in Bulgarian (ZRASRB) and the Regulation for applying the Law for academic development in Bulgaria (PPZRASRB), and it consists of 13 documents, including all required for the competition, described in a list, namely:

European CV; copy of PhD diploma; "associate professor" certificate; monograph with abstract; list of publications after "associate professor" or PhD; abstracts of publications after "associate professor" and PhD - in Bulgarian and English; health certificate; legal certificate; certificate for the labor experience; division protocols for joint authored publications; proofs of PhD students; proofs of participation in scientific projects; certificate for the fulfillment of the minimal national requirements for "professor"; certificate for original scientific contributions and for citations; private data consent form.

The candidate Dr. Stanislav Dimitrov has attached 27 scientific works, incl. 3 studies, 1 monograph, 20 scientific papers, 1 book (based on the doctoral thesis), and other publications. I accept for refereeing the writings, which are outside the ones related to the doctoral thesis and to the first habilitation. The distribution of the scientific works is, as national and international, as follows: 11 in Bulgarian, 16 - in English. Presented are the respective references and protocols and other documents. Presented are also certificates about the management of a research lab and of 4 scientific projects.

According to the presented CV and other documentation, the candidate has had a very impressive professional career, reflecting high professionalism and a direct deep understanding of the topic of the competition. In the last over 20 years, the candidate has worked besides as university lecturer, also on top positions in various insurance companies, he has acted also as a consultant for the national policy in the field, being a member of committees which include sectoral representatives.

I do not know the candidate personally, nor do I have any personal impressions from his actions outside the competition.

2. General characteristics of the activity of the candidate

Assessment of the teaching activity and abilities of the candidate

The candidate Dr. Stanislav Dimitrov has a full-fledged teaching activity, starting from 2004 at UNWE. By now he delivers courses in "Financial management", "Financial budgeting and planning" and "Financial risk management" and "Business processes management in insurance" at VUZF University, where he works from 2009 on and holds a tenure of "associate professor" from 2013.

The candidate also has multiple scientific publications on the topics of the courses, together with the vast experience in top management positions in various insurance companies, which gives ground for high rate assessment of his teaching activity.

Assessment of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

The candidate has authored over 40 scientific publications, of which he presents 27 for this competition. He is also scientific advisor of PhD students, incl. some with successful thesis defense and a granted scientific degree.

His main scientific research is in the framework of the topic of the competition - financial risk management, business process management in insurance, analysis of taxation aspects in life insurance etc.

Main publication for the competition is the presented monograph - Димитров, Ст., "Персоналното пенсионно осигуряване като източник за увеличаване на пенсионното благосъстояние на населението в България и Европейския съюз (финансови аспекти, проблеми и перспективи)", Издателство на ВУЗФ „Св. Григорий Богослов”, София, 2021, стр. 202, ISBN 978-954-8590-98-3 - PDF и ISBN 978-954-8590-99-0 - CD.

The remaining publications are studies, research papers and reports, the majority of them in English, published in refereed journals and similar publications. The monograph is the first attempt in its sphere in Bulgaria, it is based on the candidate's experience in the financial sector, mainly in the management of various retail products of life insurance, and is a demonstration of high professionalism of the author.

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied) and citations)

In the publications which were presented the candidate has embodied a multitude of scientific and practical contributions, among which I would emphasize mainly the joining in once place of theory and practice in organizing and governing of a pension fund through interdisciplinary analyses of the linkages of notions of personal pension plans and pension welfare, juxtaposing the insurance in a Voluntary pension fund with other forms of accumulations in personal pension plans, inclusion of the European aspect of the instruments, as well as formulation of measures for raising the pension income and of directions towards improvements of insurance in personal pension plans in Bulgaria.

The presented list of citations, as well as the output of citations in google scholar show a level of citing, which is comparable with the reigning practice in economic science in our country for what concerns a second habilitation.

I don't find plagiarism in the presented publications.

3. Critical notes and remarks

The overall review of the publications of the candidate on the main topic of the competition leaves me the impression that the influence of the development of equity markets remains somehow outside of the research, whereas at the same time the practice of other countries shows that it is precisely their development which shapes the current state of the supplementary pension insurance, and more precisely its social outcomes.

However, this remark should be regarded rather as a kind of a proposal for future research in the field.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials, presented from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Dimitrov are in line with all the requirements of the Law for development of academic staff in Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulation for its application (PPZRASRB) and the respective Regulation of VUZF University.

The candidate in the competition has presented a sufficient number of scientific works, published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD thesis and his first habilitation. In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have gained recognition in the scientific society. The theoretical works of the candidate have practical applicability, part of them are directly oriented towards the teaching activity. The scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Dimitrov is undoubtful. His results in the teaching and scientific activity fully comply with the specific requirements of VUZF University.

After reading the presented in the competition materials and scientific works, analyzing of their importance and the included in them scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I find for reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Academic council of VUZF University for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Dimitrov at the academic position (tenure) 'Professor' in VUZF University in professional field 3.8. Economics (Capital pensions and financial management).

09.06.2022

Varna

Referee: 

(Assoc. Prof. Georgi Marinov)