

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

by **Stanislav Dimitrov Petkov,**

Professor, PhD, at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia, VUZF - Sofia

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of '**Associate Professor**'

of Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia, VUZF - Sofia

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

professional field 3.8. Economics (Budgetary management and innovative budget methods)

In the competition for 'Associate professor', announced in the State Gazette, issue 52 of 05.07.2022 and in the website of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia, as a candidate participates Dr. James Borislavov Jolovski, hon. lecturer at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order № 372 of 10.11.2022 of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia I was appointed a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics (Budgetary management and innovative budget methods), announced by the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

The only candidate for participation in the announced competition has submitted documents, namely Dr. James Borislavov Jolovski, hon. lecturer at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

Presented by Dr. James Borislavov Jolovski set of materials on paper and in electronic form is in full compliance with the Regulations on the terms and conditions for holding academic positions at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia, and includes the following documents :

- a monographic work with a summary, reviewed by two qualified persons;
- a published book based on a protected dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor"
- list of publications;
- summaries of publications;
- evidence of participation in scientific projects;
- reference on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor";
- a reference to the original scientific contributions in the works;
- a reference to the citations of the works;
- autobiography.

The documents presented by the candidate Dr. James Jolovski are characterized by order, completeness and integrity.

On the basis of the presented documents and in particular of the presented autobiography, it can be concluded that the candidate Dr. James Jolovski has significant experience in research and teaching.

I have no personal impressions of the candidate, apart from those acquired during the procedure of the current competition and discussion of his works in the Department of Finance and Insurance at VUZF and the Editorial Board of the Publishing House of VUZF.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

The scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate Dr. James Jolovski can be assessed as very good, fully corresponding to the requirements of the current competition. In the current procedure for the competition for "Associate professor", Dr. James Jolovski participates with the following works: one monograph - habilitation thesis, which is an independent development; a published book based on a defended dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor", ten articles, one study and three chapters of collective monographs.

The publications of the candidate Dr. James Jolovski have clear scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions.

A positive certificate of the author's qualities are the circumstances that some of the publications are in English and/or are co-authored. The candidate participated in the competition with a total of 16 publications. Three of them are co-authored. Two of them are in English.

From a content point of view, the monograph presented for the purposes of the competition is extremely interesting and up-to-date. The title of the monograph is "Modern trends in the budgetary management of public finances". The focus of the study is the emergence and development of modern budgeting methods and the influence of various factors on budgeting practices. The author analyzes modern methodologies, including green, programmatic, result-oriented and zero-based

budgeting. It is positive that the work contains a significant empirical part. In this part, the author analyzes the impact of unforeseen events on budgetary practices in Bulgaria. Examples include the COVID-19 pandemic, high levels of inflation, and the military conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Another positive aspect of the work is the comparative analysis of the macroeconomic forecasts of the Ministry of Finance and the BNB. The author considers the unforeseen events as a factor for changing the fiscal policy in Bulgaria. The monograph includes an analysis of a survey conducted with representatives of independent fiscal institutions in the EU. Within the framework of the study, the author analyzes the expert assessment of these financiers regarding the influence of various factors on budgetary practices. The work presents results regarding the spread of modern budgeting methods.

The monograph includes an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of figures and tables, a bibliography and an appendix. The form of the conducted survey is presented in the appendix.

I fully accept the author's five contributions. Among them are the study of modern trends in budget methods as a factor for expanding the functions of the budget, development of a model for consistent assessment of external factors that have the strongest impact on the budget process, study of the influence of the main factors of impact on the budget process for six-year period in Bulgaria, drawing important conclusions and guidelines in the analysis of the dynamics of budget parameters and conducting an empirical study with representatives from independent fiscal institutions from sixteen countries in the European Union.

Based on the submitted documentation on the procedure of this competition I can make a reasonable assessment of the presence of a clear personal contribution of the candidate Dr. James Jolovski in the relevant publications, and fully formulated contributions and results are his personal merit.

It should be noted that no separation protocols were presented for the co-authored publications.

Based on the submitted information on the implementation of national minimum requirements according to the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law, it can be concluded that the candidate Dr. James Jolovski meets the relevant criteria as follows: Group "A" - 50 points with a minimum of 50 points; group

"B" - 100 points with a minimum of 100 points; group „D“ – 232.5 points with a minimum of 200 points; group "E" - 95 points with a minimum of 50 points.

It should be noted here that due to the lack of separation protocols, it is difficult to judge whether the applicant's research is cited in the citations. In addition, in some citations, the same work is cited as more than one citation to the same publication by another author. Nevertheless, I accept that criterion D is met.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I do not have significant principled or formal critical remarks and recommendations to the scientific works and activities of the candidate Dr. James Jolovski.

I can recommend Dr. James Jolovski to have co-authored publications.

Another recommendation to the candidate is to develop more research in English to publish in reputable journals.

I can recommend Dr. James Jolovski to deepen his research in the field of issues related to the factors of economic growth, tax policy, the effects of high inflation on various aspects of economic life, including the state, companies and population. This is of course the applicant's judgment and decision. I am convinced that the author will contribute to the achievement of future scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the researched areas.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by the candidate **Dr. James Borislavov Jolovski** meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of

Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law and the respective Regulations on the terms and conditions for holding academic positions at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions. The theoretical developments presented by the candidate have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the academic work. The scientific and teaching qualification of the candidate Dr. James Jolovski is undoubted.

The results achieved by the candidate Dr. James Jolovski in teaching and research fully comply with the specific requirements of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for holding academic positions at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their importance and contained in them scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Academic Council of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia **for election of Dr. James Borislavov Jolovski to the academic position of 'Associate Professor'** at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance - Sofia in the field of research 3.8. Economics (Budgetary management and innovative budget methods).

22.11.2022

Reviewer:

(Professor, PhD Stanislav Dimitrov)