

## **STATEMENT**

From: **Commissioner Prof. Dr. Ilin Savov, PhD, ScD.** - Deputy Rector of the Academy of the  
Ministry of Interior

Field of higher education: 9. "Security and Defense" Professional direction: - 9.1. "National  
Security"

**Subject:** materials submitted for competition  
for the academic post of 'Associate Professor'

in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.8.  
Economics (Auditing, Accounting and Counteracting Economic Crime) at the Higher School of  
Insurance and Finance (VUZF) – Sofia

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant**

The competition was advertised in the Official Gazette, no. 93 of 22.11.2022 for the needs of VUZF - Sofia. I participate in the composition of the scientific jury according to the Order No. 120/13.03.2023 of the Rector of the VUZF.

Diana Bankova Nedelcheva was born on 22. 09. 1992 in the town of Dobrich. She graduated in English from the school Vasil Levski. She also obtained a bachelor's degree in "Accounting and Control" and a master's degree in "Audit and Risk Management" at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance. In 2018, she defended her dissertation on "Methodological issues of public supervision over registered auditors" at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance. At the present moment he is a lecturer at the Higher School of Insurance and Finance (HSIF) - Sofia, Sofia, University of National and World Economy (UNWE) - Sofia, and at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior.

Over the years, expertise based on the candidate's professional experience is observed. She has held the following positions: assistant auditor, accountant, senior inspector at the Commission for Public Supervision of Registered Auditors, expert witness at Sofia City Court, and independent expert at the Executive Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The scientific and pedagogical activity of Diana Bankova Nedelcheva, PhD is characterized by its thoroughness and precision.

The candidate for the competition has enclosed a total of 19 publications: 1 monograph - habilitation thesis, 1 book based defended dissertation, 1 study and 16 publications (3 of which are co-authored, justified by separation protocols), with a total volume of 547 pages. All have been published in Bulgarian and foreign specialized publishers, including SCOPUS.

Diana Bankova is a member of scientific organizations - the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, as well as the international organization WoodEma, i.a. She also participates in the

Scientific Board of the Scientific Research Fund project, funded by the Ministry of Education and Science.

## **2. General description of the applicant's activities**

In the monographic work "The Control in the Management of the Insurance Companies", Sofia, Avangard Prima, ISBN 978-619-239-584-1 is made an analysis and assessment of the importance of the control function in the management of the insurance companies in the Republic of Bulgaria. Bulgaria. The aim of the study is qualitatively defined and fulfilled by identifying the main weaknesses in the control function related to the digitalization in the management of insurance companies, also ways to improve the internal-control environment, including the external institutional control performed by the supervisory and law enforcement bodies are proposed. The good foreign practices are specified, from which experience can be drawn and implemented.

The scientific monograph presented for review has a complete appearance, its content shows an enviable degree of academic erudition.

With the remaining publications, which are 18 in number, the author shows us his affinity for pressing issues in the field of audit (financial audit and audit and control functions), financial accounting and counteracting economic crime.

Nedelcheva uses intelligent means and approaches to justify her ideas. The author's views are original.

In this context, on the basis of Art. 2b of the RIDA and Art. 1a para. Dr. Diana Bankova exceeds the requirements and has 545 points.

They are summarized in the following order:

Section A - 50 points, out of the minimum required 50 points;

Section C - 100 points, out of a minimum of 100 points;

Section D - 245 points out of a minimum of 200 points;

Section E - 150 points out of the minimum required 50 points.

Total: 545 points out of a minimum of 400 points.

Accordingly Diyana Bankova, PhD has fulfilled the requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor under Article 29 of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA).

## **3. Synthesized evaluation of the main scientific and applied contributions**

The scientific and applied contributions in the candidate's publications are expressed in the following:

- The regulatory challenges facing the auditing profession are analyzed and assessed and recommendations for improvements are systematized;

- Guidelines for minimizing financial malpractices in order to increase the reliability of financial and accounting information to ensure the security and safety of the control environment are outlined;

- Decomposed and evaluated the need to introduce cyber audit and criminal audit;

- Analysed and assessed the inter-relationships and dependencies between digitalisation of processes, cyber-security and the potential risks posed by weaknesses in the control environment;

- Systematized the role and importance of internal control, supervision and audit in the direction of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the management of insurance companies, etc.;

From the in-depth analysis of the publications presented, the candidate makes a pleasing impression of demonstrating a wealth of professional and academic experience in presenting and deriving his research theses.

The evaluation of the scientific results and contributions of Nedelcheva's work shows that they have scientific and applied significance and relate to the enrichment of existing knowledge and further development of theory in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics.

#### **4. Critical comments and recommendations**

The publications of Diyana Bankova Nedelcheva, PhD are written competently in a highly professional language and it can only be recommended to make efforts to popularize the results of our scientific research among the wider audience of experts and specialists in national and international aspects.

Recommendations can also be made for future improvement of research work such as participation in scientific projects and international scientific forums.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The documents and materials presented by Diana Bankova Nedelcheva, PhD meet all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDA and the Regulations of the VUSF.

The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defence of the PhD. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, some of them being directly oriented to teaching work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Diana Bankova Nedelcheva, PhD is unquestionable.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it justified to give my **POSITIVE** evaluation and to

recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Academic Council for the election of Diana Bankova Nedelcheva, PhD to the academic position of Associate Professor at the VUZF in professional field 3.8. Economics (Auditing, Accounting and Counteracting Economic Oppression).

17.04.2023 г.

Sofia

Prepared by: .....

Commissioner Prof. Dr. Ilin Savov, PhD, ScD