

## HEER REVIEW

b) **Prof. Dr. Iskra Spasova Beleva**. Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Department "Macroeconomics", Professional Field 3.8 "Economics", Reviewer in the competition for academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR", under PF 3.8 "Economics (Political Economy - Microeconomics and Labor Market)" at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", approved by order of the Rector № P33-4132 on 25.08.2020, announced SG № 57 on 26.06.2020.

Candidate: **Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev**

### *1. Short biography of the candidate*

The only candidate in the competition Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev - was born in 1984. He graduated in 2009 with a degree in "Human Resources Management" from Plovdiv University (PTJ) "Paisii Hilendarski". In 2016, Stefan Atanasov Raychev was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

Since October 2017, Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev has been working at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" as a Chief Assistant in Political Economy - Public Sector Economics. As such, he reads lectures and exercises on: Labor Economics; Economics of the Public Sector; Economics.

### *1.1. General characteristics of the scientific and applied work of the candidate*

*1. General description of the submitted materials (monographs, textbooks, articles, reports, projects, etc.) by research fields*

For his participation in the competition, Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev presented 18 (eighteen) publications in a total volume of 781 standard pages, including individual research and collective works.

The publications of Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev are grouped as follows:

1. Habilitation work (equivalent publication) - two parts of a collective monograph (part two and part three), with author's text in a volume of 216 standard pages.
2. Published monographs that are not presented as a main habilitation thesis (equivalent publication) - 1 item with author's text in a volume of 214 standard pages.
3. Book published on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 1 item with author's text in a volume of 143 standard pages.
4. Articles and reports published in non-referenced scientific peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes - 12 items, of which 4 independent reports at international scientific conferences with author's text in volume, respectively of 5, 6, 8 and 4 standard pages, and 8 collective publications with author's text 1-3 of a total of 105 standard pages.
5. Studies published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information (SCOPUS and Web of Science) - 1 studies in co-authorship in volume of 28 standard pages, the volume and scientific contributions of the three authors being distributed evenly.
6. Published chapter of collective monograph - 1 chapter with author's text in volume of 1/3 of 39 standard pages.
7. Published university textbook in a collective - Stoyanova, D., Raychev, S. (2018). Handbook of Economics. University Publishing House "Paisii Hilendarski". Plovdiv. ISBN 978-619-202-3737. with

authorship in the volume of 155 pages (topics I -1 0).

Of the 18 publications of Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev submitted for participation in the competition. 6 publications are in English (one study in co-authorship, reports at international conferences and online magazines).

The presented publications of Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev for participation in the competition are not used for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

## *2 General characteristics of the candidate's scientific, applied and teaching activities*

The scientific activity of the candidate Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev is satisfactory, presented by individual and collective publications such as a monograph, chapters from collective monographs, study, reports, textbook.

As a content, the presented publications reflect the consistent scientific orientation of the author towards quantitative measurements and analyses of parameters, relations and interactions on the labor market, in the field of education and at the standard of living. This is also the main field in which the candidate's scientific activity' is realized with the main emphasis - application of various methods and tools for assessment of dynamics and interactions between main parameters in the field of labor, education and living standard and their comparison on a national and regional scale.

The scientific and applied activity of Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev is active and is represented by participations in 10 scientific projects implemented within the Research Fund of the Plovdiv University and projects funded by OPHRD. cross-border cooperation programs INTERREG. national program "Young scientists and postdoctorants 2019", Research Fund at the Ministry of Education and Science, etc. In some of these projects he is an expert from the research team, in others he is an academic mentor, he has also been the head on scheme "Qualification services and training of employees" under OPHRD.

The teaching activity of Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev relates to training of students in PU as an assistant in Economics (Labor Economics. Human Resources Management. Labor Market Policies. Economics. Globalization and Social Policies) and as a Chief Assistant in Labor Economics. Public Sector Economics and Economics.

## *III. Quantitative characteristics of the candidate's scientific work*

The quantitative characteristics of the scientific work of the candidate Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev meet the minimum science-metric requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor", according to the Law on Development of Academic Staff in Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of PU.

## *IV. Evaluation of the results and scientific contribution of the candidate*

### *1. Scientific achievements of the candidate*

The scientific contributions of the candidate Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev can be characterized as enrichment of existing knowledge by diversifying the instruments for studying main parameters of the economic and social area, search for quantitative changes and measuring interactions and dependencies between indicators of labor market, education and living standard: analyzing the assessed interactions in a comparative plan and formulating conclusions about the convergence processes in the European Union and **at national and regional level**. The author uses the **conclusions from the assessments** of trends, interactions and dependencies to make assessments of implemented policies and to ground recommendations for improving the policies in the field of the labor market, education and poverty reduction in the country.

I evaluate the most significant scientific contributions of Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev, which are contained in the scientific publications presented in the competition, in several directions:

- Measuring the dynamics, the changes in the structures and interrelations of main parameters on the labor market, in the field of education and standard of living for comparative evaluations of the degree of integration between Bulgaria and the EU, between the regions in Bulgaria, in the Western Balkans region (Stoyanova, D., Raychev, S., Madzhurova, B. (2019). Social cohesion (National, regional and structural dimensions in the context of Bulgaria - EU - Western Balkans; Raychev, S., Madzhurova, B., Stoyanova, D. (2020). Impact of globalization on the nature of jobs and employment; Stoyanova, D., Madzhurova, B., Raychev, S. (2019). Cohesion in the field of education - level reached in Bulgaria, the EU and the Western Balkans. European integration today some problems and opportunities; Raychev, S. (2020). Effects of Public Policies on the Labor Market for Stimulating Economic Growth and Reducing Inequality; Raychev, S. (2015). Trends in labor market productivity and wage disparities; Raychev, S. (2015). Research of inactive young population and youth labor market policies in Bulgaria).
- Construction of a model for complex assessment, including different types of techniques (analyses graphical, descriptive, correlation, rank: correlation matrices and regressions), which study the dynamics and structural changes in key indicators: on the labor market (employment, unemployment rate, long-term unemployment, economic activity: inactive youth population); in the field of education rate of early school leavers and those outside the field of education and outside the labor market (so-called NEE'IS): in the field of standard of living - risk of poverty, of persons living in households with low intensity of economic activity, of the share of the population living in material deprivation.
- Evaluation of the interactions between general and long-term unemployment, employment and economic activity in the period 2008-2016 have been made using correlation-regression matrices (2019. Social cohesion, chapter 2: 2019, European integration today - some problems and opportunities): between the dynamics of labor productivity and wage disparities (2015, Trends in labor market productivity and wage disparities).
- Based on a generalizing rank analysis, conclusions are formulated for increasing the distance between Bulgaria and the EU, as the main factors are identified the level of economic activity, early school leavers, as well as the parameters of those living at risk of poverty and households with low intensity of economic activity (2019. Social cohesion.... p. 159). These conclusions draw attention to public policies and their contribution to Bulgaria's convergence with the EU (2019. social cohesion.... p. 163).
- Studies of the changes in the studied indicators and other profiles (gender, age, education) are made, analyzed through the prism of the structural changes in the economy; The generalized rank analysis at structural level highlights slow convergence rates for most of the studied profiles (2019, Social cohesion.... p. 255-261).
- To assess the impact of globalization on the nature of the jobs and the sectoral changes in the economy at the national level, studied are the changes in the work patterns (full-time and parttime) and the impact of independent variables such as R&D expenditure, lifelong learning, government balance and export (Raychev, S., Madzhurova, B., Stoyanova, D. (2020). Impact of globalization on the nature of jobs and employment. chapter 2 and 3).
- The described changes in the dynamics and structure of employment in comparison show the presence of statistically significant correlations between the studied macroeconomic parameters and the employment, based on which conclusions are made to reduce the direct participation of the state in the new global changes at sectoral level and its focus on regulations and policies for balanced development of employment and standard of living in these conditions (Impact of globalization on the nature of jobs and employment. ., p. 265).
- The economic efficiency of the public investments is evaluated in comparative terms; of the similarities and differences between the countries concerning the investments in public policies on the labor market and the assessments of the effects of the public policies on the labor market on growth and inequality in EU Member States (Raychev, S. (2019). Effects of Public Policies on the Labor Market for Stimulating Economic Growth and Reducing Inequality).

- The in-depth analysis of the nature and evolution of the scientific thinking about the role of the free market and the state intervention, the opportunities to influence economic growth and reduce income inequality through public policies on the labor market, enrich the available knowledge on the possibilities through a balanced government intervention on the labor market with public policies on employment to stimulate growth and help reduce income inequality (ibid.).
- A critical review of different models for evaluation of the public policies in the field of labor market (2015, Evaluation of public sector efficiency, collection of reports, PU) is made with conclusions about opportunities to increase the effectiveness of the latter in the application of the appropriate evaluation instruments.
- The impact of the technological progress and the investment activity on the labor market in the period 2010-2018 in Bulgaria and the EL is assessed. Tracing the relation between structural changes in employment by sectors and R&D expenditures outlines the conclusions that running technological changes and structural product restructurings accelerate the closure of traditional jobs, stimulate the creation of new ones with different requirements for the competencies and professional skills of the employees (Raychev. S. Stoyanova. D., Madzhurova B. (2020). The impact of innovation and technological progress on the labor market, shared co-authorship).
- The study of the social entrepreneurship as part of the integration processes, of lifelong learning as the main lever for maintaining the quality of the labor force in the conditions of dynamic technological changes expand the scope of the author's research in search of rational suggestions for balanced and stable social development (reports at international conference, 2020, Economic and social integration, PU, co-authored).

## *2. Coverage of the scientific publications of the candidate in our and foreign literature*

The scientific publications of Chief Assistant Doctor Stelian Atanasov Raychev are covered in the national and international literature through 6 citations, 2 of them in referenced and indexed databases, and 4 - in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

## *5. Significance of the contributions to science and practice*

The contributions in the works of Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev have their scientific significance mainly through the development and application of a rich instruments for measuring and comparing the trends and structural changes in indicators from main socio-economic areas (labor market, education and standard of living). In practical terms, the contributing points are the evaluations and re-evaluations of acting policies in the mentioned three areas.

## ***K Assessment of the originality of the presented works and the reliability of the presented scientific data***

The scientific works submitted by Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev for participation in the competition for academic position "Associate Professor", in my opinion, are his personal works and do not contain plagiarism.

### **J 7. Critical notes and recommendations**

My critical notes on the works presented by Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev have the character of recommendations and they are of content and formal nature.

The recommendations of a content nature aim to deep the analytical part of the obtained results and to reveal those specific interactions and factors that determine the quantitative changes in the studied indicators, as well as the specific variables forming the regional and national specifics of the socio-economic development.

The formal recommendations aim at more precision in the preparation and presentation of the documents for the competition in terms of the author's participation in the collective works, the arrangement of the publications, the presentation of the citations, etc.

I would recommend the author to keep his activity for participations in scientific forums, but also to focus on independent scientific publications in scientific journals in the country and abroad.

I know the candidate in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" from his scientific works and above all as a member of the scientific jury for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor". I know his dissertation, as well as his scientific development since 2016 and I can express my satisfaction with his active teaching and scientific activities.

### **17/. Conclusion**

The achieved scientific results and the scientific contributions contained in the presented works, their originality and the reliability of the provided scientific data, give me reason for a categorical **positive** assessment that Chief Assistant Doctor Stefan Atanasov Raychev fully **meets the requirements** for academic position "**Associate Professor**", arranged in the normative order and the Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Reviewer.

(Prof. Dr. Iskra Beleva)