

OPINION

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Regarding: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in 3.8 Economics (Political economy - microeconomics and labor markets) in Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

Information about the competition and the candidate

The formal competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in 3.8. Economics (Political economy - microeconomics and labor markets) was announced in State Gazette, 57 / 26.06.2020, for the department "Economics of Science" at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski". For participation in the competition documents were received by Dr. Stefan Atanasov Raichev. Submitted documents follow the legal and normative guidelines. Dr. Stefan Raichev holds a bachelor's degree from Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" in Political Science and a master's degree in "Human Resource Management". In 2016 he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Effectiveness of public policy in labor markets for incentives for economic waste and diminishing of inequality (with time measurements on the basis of economical choice between state intervention and a free market)". The candidate is conducting lectures and exercises on various economic disciplines - Economics, Economics of Labor, Economics of the public sector, etc., which will enter into the thematic area of the competition. He has experience from various research projects as academic mentor and member of the research teams. Additionally, he participated in scientific seminars and conferences of national and international importance, as well as in academic mobility.

The candidate covers the minimum of the nationally set requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" - of required 400 points he has 463.9, including indicators from:

- group A - dissertation - 50 points;
- group B - habilitation work: monograph - 100 points;
- group G - a monograph, a book based on dissertation and publications (articles, reports, etc.) in different rank and type - 263.9 points;
- from group D, citations and reviews in scientific publications - 50 points.

From additional indicators for the assessment of the candidate he has gathered additional 223.8 points on the basis of participation in projects, development of lecture courses and publication of textbooks, academic mobility and membership in professional organizations. The presented monograph is co-authored, and the authors contributions are not unambiguous. It is necessary for the candidate to delimit his contributions in the monograph, so the fulfillment of the criterion of group B can be viewed as certain.

General evaluation of candidate's research

The list of all publications provided by Dr. Stefan Raichev includes 23 texts. The narrower list of publications specifically submitted for the competition includes 18 titles: 2 collective

monographs; 1 chapter from a collective monograph; 12 articles and reports, from which 9 co-authored, 1 co-authored study guide and 1 book based on the dissertation. 10 of these publications are co-authored with the same team of researchers (D. Stoyanova, B. Madzhurova and S. Raichev), and in another 2 of them the candidate worked again with one of the above co-authors (D. Stoyanova).

The single authored publications of the candidate are on topics rather tangential to the actual area of the competition: they are related to the assessment of the efficiency of the public sector, the populism and Euroscepticism, or are based on his dissertation. This is also true for the research directly submitted for participation in the competition, which includes rather little microeconomics, and the emphasis is mostly placed on social cohesion and social entrepreneurship, also on the problem of fiscal consolidation with accent on the West Balkans and the European Union. The two single authored publications of the candidate tackle the topics of competition, labor markets from the perspective of the inactive population and the disproportion between productivity and labor wages.

It is difficult to obtain more detailed information about the volume and other specific measurements of the authored parts in publications submitted for the competition as the boundaries of authors' contributions in collective research are not delineated properly. In the future, Dr. Raichev could direct his attention to narrower research topics, which will enable him to attain deeper going results. Dr. Raichev has the potential to publish in international indexed and referenced scientific journals, as he participates in international academic mobility. It will increase the scientific recognition of the institution, which it represents. In this respect, the publication of materials in English (over half of the list of publications for the competition) will allow widespread dissemination of his scientific results and open opportunities for widespread international cooperation for him.

Assessment of the scientific contributions by the candidate

In the submitted documents Dr. Raichev did not specifically define his theoretical and applied contributions, but rather supplied resumes of his publications' content. In the monographs he is demonstrating again his interest in public politics, the effects of globalization on labor markets and their adaptation to new circumstances, including the proliferation of Industry 4.0, in topics related to the Western Balkans and multi-speed Europe. The research by Dr. Raichev puts more emphasis on social and political characteristics of economic development in the context of respective policies in the European Union, unemployment and inactive youth. It focuses on the efficiency of public policy on the labor market, not only in relation to economic activity, but also on the basis of recognizing the labor market as an important social institution with the aim of minimizing socializing and economic inequality.

Conclusion

Dr. Stefan Raichev covers the minimum of national standard requirements for the academic title "Associate Professor". It is difficult to get an assessment of some of the candidate's

contributions in collective research as authors' input is not clearly delineated. The topic of microeconomics as part of the formal competition is rather underrepresented in the submitted publications. As a whole though teaching mobility, participation in research projects, the development of textbook and teaching materials give ground for a positive assessment of the candidate Dr. STEFAN ATANASOV RAYCHEV for the academician position of "Associate Professor" in the department "Economic Sciences" at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

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