

OPINION

Prof. Dr.Sc.(Econ.) Dr. Pobeda Vasileva Loukanova

Institute of Economic Research at BAS

member of a scientific jury of a competition for the academic position
'Associate Professor' according to order No P33-3127 of 12.07.2021 of the
Rector of the Plovdiv University (PU) "Paisii Hilendarski"

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

The competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" of the University of Plovdiv (PU) "Paisii Hilendarski" is in the field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction: 3.8. Economics (Macroeconomics, Macroeconomic Analysis and Policies). It was announced in the State Gazette, issue 40/14. 05. 2021 and on the website of the University for the needs of the Department of Economic Sciences at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences (FESS). The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Dobrinka Ivanova Stoyanova from the Department of Economic Sciences at the same faculty.

Dr. Stoyanova was born on August 30, 1986 in the town of Plovdiv. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Economic Relations and a master's degree in International Trade at PU. In 2016 she successfully completed her PhD (3.8. Economics; Doctoral Program "Political Economy") at this University. In 2014 she started working as an assistant professor in the Department of Economic Sciences at FESS and in 2017 was appointed as a Chief Assistant to this Department. Since October 2016 and until now, Dr. Stoyanova has been scientific secretary in the Department of Economic Sciences at FESS.

The biographical reference of Dr. Stoyanova unambiguously presents her already accumulated academic experience, career development research competences according to the professional direction of the open competition

procedure. The submitted documents and the deposited scientific production have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) for the holding of the academic position "Associate Professor" and its Implementing Regulations Rules for Development of the Academic Staff at this University.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

2.1. Assessment of educational and pedagogical activities and research of the applicant

The educational and pedagogical activities of Dr. Stoyanova include conducting lectures and exercises on subjects "Macroeconomics", "Macroeconomics second level" and "Economic mix", which fully fit into the thematic area of the competition. She has prepared and adapted a macroeconomics course for Erasmus+ students and is a lecturer of this programme. She participates in preparation of reviews, conference reports and as their moderator. Also she has experience of participating in various research and applied projects of national and international importance, as well as experience as an academic mentor.

The activities carried out by Dr. Stoyanova are sufficient grounds for a general positive assessment of her educational activities and suggest her successful future development in an academic position "associate professor".

2.2. Completion of the minimum national requirements under Art. 26 of the LDASRB and its Implementing Regulations (Art. 1 a, para 1) for PU

According to the report on the implementation of the minimum national requirements under Art. 26 of the LDASRB for the academic position "associate professor" the candidate Dr. Stoyanova has accumulated 795.7 points, in total of at a minimum required 500 points. These points shall be allocated as 518.9 points to meet the minimum national requirements, at the required minimum of 400 and 276.8 points to meet additional requirements.

The national requirements include assessment by group A indicators: dissertation work for the award of PhD (Economics) - 50 points; Group C: independent monograph as habilitation work - 100 points; Group D: monograph, book based on dissertation work and publications (articles, reports, etc.) - 303.9 points; Group E: citations and reviews in scientific publications - 65 points. Since the implementation of the additional indicators for evaluation of the candidate, 276.8 points have been accumulated, reflecting her participation in projects, the developed lecture courses and issued teaching aids, Erasmus+ mobility and membership in professional organizations.

With the accumulated number of points, Dr. Stoyanova fully fulfills the requirements under Art. 26 of the LDASRB and its Implementing Regulations (Art. 1 a, para 1) for PU to hold academic position of "Associate Professor".

2.3. General assessment of the applicant's scientific and applied activities

The candidate Dr. Dobinka Ivanova Stoyanova has applied a total of 17 scientific papers to participate in the competition for "associate professor", including independent monograph, co-authorship in two monographs, co-authorship in chapter in collective monograph, co-authorship in 7 articles and 4 published reports at conferences, educational tools and a book. Two articles are published in Web of Science-indexed editions and one in such of Scopus. Seven publications are in English. With the exception of monograph – habilitation work, all other publications are co-authored with one and the same two authors. Dividing protocols have been applied to specify the participation of Dr. Stoyanova in the joint publications and in this way the assessments of her contributions are alleviated.

The subject of the applicant's research activities is fully consistent with the professional direction on which the competition was announced. It was realized in the period after the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and according to the requirements of the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv. With the presentation of habilitation

work (independent monograph) on the topic: "Macroeconomics and labour market in the conditions of currency board" Publishing House "Paisii Hilendarski" Plovdiv, 2020, Dr. Stoyanova fulfills the requirement of Art. 24, para. 1, item 3 of the ERASRB.

3. Evaluation of research results and scientific contributions

3.1. Evaluation of research results

Dr. Stoyanova demonstrates a good research style and chooses as the subject of her research up-to-date, provocative and as yet unambiguously clarified macroeconomic topics. Her study of the specific features of the currency board in Bulgaria and its impact on macroeconomic development deserves particular attention. She proves quite well the ability of the labour market to absorb external shocks and function under extreme economic conditions related to post-crisis Bulgarian economy (habilitation work). To demonstrate the role of the Currency Board in Bulgaria in stabilizing the economy and functioning the labour market, the development of the macro-framework of the economy and the labour market in Bulgaria and the EU has been examined for a sufficiently long period from 2000 to 2019. Dr. Stoyanova successfully applied a single statistical toolkit and graphical methods; comparisons of Bulgaria's position with general trends in the European Union (EU) and global trends. Her studies of particular interest include these on changes in the nature of workplaces; the development of modern education in connection with the formation of social capital and the expansion of social cohesion; the characterization of national, regional and structural dimensions of social cohesion in the context of Bulgaria-EU-Western Balkans; study of social cohesion and anti-poverty policies.

3.2. Contributions and citations

The scientific and applied contributions contained in the works presented by the participant are characterised as ‘contributions to enriching existing knowledge and proving with new means of already existing scientific fields and

problems'. On the basis of the submitted Report on scientific contributions, the following summary conclusions can be drawn on the scientific and applied value of the contributions of Dr. Stoyanova:

- Modern knowledge, concepts, approaches and methodology are studied, systematized, further developed and enriched;
- Specific influence of the currency board on the macroeconomic development of Bulgaria has been revealed and its positive impact on the macroeconomy has been proven. However, it is specified that the growth of Bulgarian economy is subject to large macroeconomic imbalances.
- The bipolar function of social cohesion as an independent and results-based variable in relation to social inclusion is characterized, together with social capital, public institutions and their policies. Social cohesion is presented by its national, regional and structural dimensions in the context of Bulgaria- EU- Western Balkans;
- The relationship of globalisation/innovation and employment is outlined and a toolkit for assessing of innovations is proposed;
- A multifaceted analysis of the labour market has been carried out in relation to the impact of globalisation on the nature of jobs and employment;
- Current problems of cohesion policy in the field of education and lifelong learning are also outlined;
- Fiscal consolidation and its economic dimensions and social cost have been analysed during the different phases of the economic cycle in the EU Member States.
- Graphic, tabular, dynamic, rank and correlation analysis is fully applied.

The submitted habilitating work, scientific publications and outlined contributions I accept as a personal achievement and product of the candidate and in accordance with the norm of scientific ethics and plagiarism under the procedure laid down in the LDASRB and its Implementing Regulations (Art. 1 a, para 1) for the University of Plovdiv..

Dr. Stoyanova is a regular member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria. Its collective publications have been quoted a total of 6 times, including: two times in indexed and referenced scientific publications and three times in peer-reviewed monographs. In this regard, I recognize the contributions of Dr. Stoyanova in the works of other authors .

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

There are some weaknesses in the scientific and applied works presented, but they do not affect my final positive assessment in this Opinion.

Recommendations

- Continue the study of changes in macroeconomic indicators through the application of a variety of statistical methods tailored to the specifics of the objects of the analyses.

- To deepen research into the influence of the currency board on the labour market, and it is these links that are at the heart of the study. It is of interest to study the "devaluation" of the Bulgarian labour market, consisting in lower wages and the buffer role of this market in the conditions of a currency board.

CONCLUSION

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the protection of doctor's degree. In the work of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received national and international recognition as a representative part of them are published in journals and scientific collections and international academic publishing houses. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Dr. Stoyanova is undoubted and cannot be questioned.

The educational and research activities fully comply with the LDASRB and Rules for Development of the Academic Staff of PU.

After becoming accustomed with the scientific production presented for the competition, after analysis of their significance and the scientific and applied contributions in them, I find it reasonable to give my *positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences the selection of Dr. Dobrinka Stoyanova for the academic position 'Associate Professor' in professional field 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional direction: 3.8. Economics (Macroeconomics, Macroeconomic Analysis and Policies).*

01.09. 2021

Drafted the opinion:

Prof. Pobeda Loukanova, PhD

ysis.