

REVIEW

by Dr. Iskra Bogdanova Christova-Balkanska - Professor at the Economic Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) (ERI BAS) on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University of Plovdiv (PA) "Paisii Hilendarski", in the field of higher education.3.Social economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8.Economics, political economy, - Macroeconomics, macroeconomic analysis and policies.

By order № P33-.3127 of 12.07. 2021 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University (PU)"Paisii Hilendarski" I have been appointed as a Member of the Scientific Jury for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in PU in the field of higher education 3. Social and legal sciences, professional field 3.8.Economics, political economy, - Macroeconomics, macroeconomic analysis and policies, announced for the needs of the Department of Economic Sciences at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences (FESS) at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

In the competition for 'Associate professor', announced in the State Journal, issue 40, from 14.05.2021 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", for the needs of the Department of Economic Sciences at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences (FESN), Chief Assistant Dr. **Dobrinka Ivanova Stoyanova**, as a candidate and participant in the competition from 28.06.2021

1. General presentation of the received documents

The set of documents on paper presented by Ch. Assistant Dr. Dobrinka Ivanova Stoyanova is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of PU, and includes the following documents:

- Application form for admission to participate in the competition;
- CV;
- Diploma of higher education;
- Diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor";
- Information on compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
- List of published scientific papers;
- Annotations of the materials under art. 65 of the Law, including self-assessment of the contributions .in Bulgarian and English languages;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- Certificate of work experience;
- Documents for educational work;
- .Documents for research work;
- Others.

The list of scientific works correctly presents the publications of Dr. Stoyanova for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor" and for Assistant professor. The dissertation is published as a book, which is not included in the evaluation of publications for this competition. The publications for the "Associate Professor" competition do not repeat the publications for the acquisition of the education and scientific degree "Doctor" and for the academic position of "Chief Assistant". These publications are not subject to the review.

For the purposes of this competition, Dr. Stoyanova has submitted a total of 15 scientific papers, of which 1 independent monograph, 3 monographs (co-authored), 11 scientific publications, and 2 textbooks.

Brief biographical data of the candidate

After completing the bachelor's program in International Economic Relations at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", Dr. Stoyanova obtained a master's degree in economics, and in July 2016 acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" under the doctoral program "Political Economy" for the PhD dissertation "Macroeconomic analysis of youth unemployment and policies to overcome it."

Dr. Stoyanova started her teaching activities as a part-time assistant, subsequently; she was hired on a basic employment contract as an Assistant. She conducts lecture courses on "Macroeconomics", "Macroeconomics second level" "Economics".

Dr. Stoyanova actively participates in scientific and applied research projects at national and international level.

She is a guest lecturer under the ERASMUS + program for teacher mobility at the University of Vienna, 2019.

Since October 2016 - until now she held the position of Scientific Secretary of the Department of Economic Sciences at the FESS, contributing significantly to the implementation of the tasks of the Department. She is German and English speaking.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

Under the map for the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements according to the Law on the Development of the Academic in the Republic of Bulgaria ((art. 26) and the Regulations for its application (art. 1a, section 1), Dr. Stoyanova realizes a total of 518.9 at the required 400 points. (Under section A - 50 points; under section B - 100 points, under section D - 303.9; under section E - 65.)

As a Lecturer at the Department of Economic Sciences, Chief Assistant, Dr. Stoyanova leads seminars in three university disciplines - "Macroeconomics", "Second Level Macroeconomics" and "Economics". The textbook "Textbook of Economics" (co-authored) (2018) reflects the maturity of Dr. Stoyanova as a competent teacher in the field of economic theory. The aspiration for professional improvement of the curricula, of the terminological apparatus and of the theoretical methodical preparation of the students is evident.

3. General characteristics of the presented scientific papers / publications

The thematic connection of the publications with the functional orientation of the competition, focused on macroeconomic analysis and policies, is evident.

In particular, the applicant's interests are in the following areas: macroeconomics, social cohesion, globalisation and the impact on employment, education, macroeconomic dimensions of the working poor, cross-sectoral analyzes at regional level, local lifelong learning networks at European level, fiscal efficiency policy of the EU member states, social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria, policies and innovations for economic growth and employment. Dr. Stoyanova's research activity is multidisciplinary.

I wrote a positive reference for the monograph "*Macroeconomics and the labor market in the conditions of a currency board*" and with this review, I confirm my positive attitude to the independent publication of the candidate. The monograph summarizes the concepts of the nature and the role of the currency board based on comparisons with other monetary systems. The interdependencies and the

factors characterizing the labor market in the conditions of a currency board are revealed. The peculiarities of the restructuring of the Bulgarian labor market have been clarified.

It was emphasized that despite the global financial crisis (GFC), Bulgaria has managed to maintain a relatively good economic stability and employment level due to the currency board. It was emphasized that the restructuring of the labor market is a process that will develop with the strengthening of Bulgaria's EU monetary and financial integration. It was underlined that digitalization and efforts towards an energy-saving economy will change the Bulgarian labor market. The connection between macroeconomic imbalances and economic growth in Bulgaria has been assessed, a difficult task, given the strong openness of the Bulgarian economy.

The following papers have been published in the field of **social cohesion** and convergence process. The collective monograph "*Social Cohesion (National, Regional and Structural Dimensions in the Context of Bulgaria-EU-Western Balkans)*" highlights the peculiarities of the concept of social cohesion, which is exacerbated by the growing challenges and emerging threats to values and norms in societies from the impact of globalization and the accelerated economic, political and demographic changes that increase the polarization between people, countries and regions. The processes of EU enlargement are revealed, following the example of the Western Balkans, which are experiencing the effects of European integration.

The candidate participates (in co-authorship) with a separate chapter "*Social Cohesion (National, regional and structural dimensions in the context of Bulgaria-EU-Western Balkans)*" in the collective monograph - "*European integration today some problems and opportunities*" The emphasis is on social cohesion on the convergence process in the EU in the context of economic and political turmoil, as well as the effects of globalization on European social policy. The dynamics of the economic and social convergence in Bulgaria is revealed, in comparison with the condition and the convergent readiness of the other countries from the Balkans and on average for the EU.

The article "*Social Cohesion (Bulgaria - EU - Western Balkans)*" looks for the features of social cohesion between the Western Balkans, Bulgaria and the EU as well as the effects on the labor market. Important reforms in national policies to strengthen social cohesion in the context of the labor market and the effects on social cohesion have been identified.

The effects of globalisation are discussed in the book "*The Impact of Globalization on the Nature of Jobs and Employment*", as well as the liberalisation of markets and information and communication technologies (ICT) through the impact of these factors on the labor market. It is emphasized that the varying degrees of economic and social development of countries are determined by their ability to benefit or not from the effects of globalization. The apparent polarization of regions and countries requires changes in the labor market due to innovation and the restructuring of industry.

The article "*Policies and innovations to promote economic growth and employment in the age of globalization*" highlights the effects of global change on the Bulgarian economy. Useful conclusions have been drawn regarding the need for new economic policies, attracting innovative industries to achieve sustainable economic growth.

The article "*Fiscal consolidation of the new EU member states*" reveals the effectiveness of fiscal policy for economic growth of EU member states at different stages of the economic cycle. The impact of public revenues and expenditures on GDP is analyzed.

A significant number of studies are devoted to *the working poor, the implementation of policies to improve the education and skills of young people and their successful inclusion in the labor market, the opportunities of social entrepreneurship*. In the article (co-authored) "*Macroeconomic measures on the*

phenomenon of working poverty. Cause - effect analysis. Innovativity in Modeling and Analytics emphasizes that the phenomenon of "working poor" reflects the inefficiency of the economy, low labor productivity and strong economic and social problems.

The study, "*Dimensions of young adult policies impact on a comparative principle at a European level*", reveals the benefits of lifelong learning for the active population according to European policies. Similar issues are addressed in the article (co-authored) "*LLL policies as an opportunity to promote growth and social inclusion*", with a focus on lifelong learning policies for young people, in relation to social expectations. Good employment and education policies have a positive impact on economic growth and social stability. The article (co-authored) "*Cross-case analysis of local / regional networks in LLL policy-making across Europe*."

The article "*Social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria as part of integration processes - problems and prospects for development*" clarifies the role of social enterprises and their effectiveness, as well as the problems and prospects for the development of social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria.

Some of the publications are in the field of the effects of technological innovations. The article "***The impact of innovation and technological progress on the labor market***" reveals the impact of ICT on the labor market, as well as evidence of the need for changes in the labor market and jobs due to the application of new technologies. The article "***Innovations as a Factor for Economic Growth and Labor Market Development***" highlights the effects of investment in research and development on the main components of economic development.

Based on a comparison of R&D expenditures in Bulgaria and the EU, it has been proven that the labor market is changing and this requires a rethinking of university curricula.

A scientifically applied publication is also the article "*Promoting cooperation between universities and business*", which proves that the application of innovative approaches in education has a positive impact on the macroeconomic development of the country.

4. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

Scientific contributions

In the previous sections of the review", I have expressed a number of positive evaluation elements, so here I will summarize the main contributions contained in the works of Dr. Stoyanova.

- The contribution of the independent monograph is in the systematic and detailed study of the concepts of social cohesion and the tools for its study. An in-depth assessment of social cohesion was made and the bipolar function of social cohesion was revealed - as an independent and effective variable. The importance of conducting an effective social policy for the achievement of social cohesion is confirmed. Evidence has been sought that the currency board contributes to the stability of the economy and the labor market, as opposed to the concept and practice that the currency board is a rigid currency regime.

- The research interests of the candidate are in the field of social policy, the macroeconomic development of Bulgaria and the EU member states, as well as the effects of globalization on the economic and social policy in the post-crisis period. The independent monograph, the participation in the collective monographs and the published articles and reports are based on a multidisciplinary approach, which allows the in-depth clarification of the economic and social problems.

- The publications comprehensively reveal the importance of education, the professional level of the workforce, the example of Bulgaria and of the Western Balkans and EU countries. It is argued that macroeconomic policy should be supported by effective and efficient public funding and social policy. The

issue of the working poor as an emanation of the inefficient use of resources and the wrong economic and social policy draws attention to the need to stimulate economic growth through the improvement of the education and skills policies of the workforce.

- Publications focused on the effects of globalization on EU member states and growing external and internal challenges call for new economic and social policies. It is underlined that the driving force for the long-term economic growth achievement and the labor market restructuring must be developed on the basis of an educated and skilled active workforce.

- The peculiarities of the convergence of the educational systems are analyzed on the basis of basic indicators at the example of Bulgaria and the EU member states. Cohesion of education systems and EU cohesion policy has been shown to be important in promoting social cohesion. The importance of social entrepreneurship is emphasized and conclusions are drawn for overcoming the lag in the field of education and professional qualification on the example of Bulgaria in comparison with other EU member states.

- The combination of social, economic and political factors in the scientific research of Dr. Stoyanova is an undoubted contribution of her work so far.

7. Critical remarks and recommendations

I recommend Dr. Stoyanova to continue her research and teaching activities in the field of economic and social theory.

I recommend Dr. Stoyanova to focus on independent research and publications in the future, although this does not exclude co-authored publications, which shows good cooperation and teamwork.

In the context of the role of innovation in restructuring the Bulgarian economy, I would like to ask the candidate the following question:

What examples can be given for Bulgaria of good manufacturing innovative practices that have a positive impact on the Bulgarian labor market?

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity

Dr. Stoyanova is constantly improving the scientific and educational pedagogical activity, which is evident from the participation in projects aimed at working with students, improving the lecture courses, expanding the theoretical training.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Dr. Dobrinka Ivanova Stoyanova meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRB and the relevant Rules of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". The candidate in the competition has submitted the required number of scientific papers published after the publications for the presented for the education and scientific degree (ESD) 'Doctor' and in the competition for Chief Assistant.

The research activity of the candidate is in-depth; there are scientific and applied contributions, which are published in the form of individual and collective monographs, co-authored articles and reports. The scientific and teaching qualification of the candidate is unquestionable.

The results achieved by Dr. Dobrinka Ivanova Stoyanova in teaching and research fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences (FESS), adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv (PU) for the application of DASRB.

After getting acquainted with the scientific papers and teaching materials presented for this competition and the scientific, scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences for the election of **Dr. Dobrinka Ivanova Stoyanova** to the academic position of 'Associate Professor' at the University of Plovdiv "P. Hilendarski" in professional field 3.8.Economics, political economy, - Macroeconomics, macroeconomic analysis and policies

03.09.2021

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Iskra B. Cristova-Balkanska