

REVIEW

from Prof. Karim Fahir Naama Dr.Ec.& P.Scs., professor at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius ”

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition to hold the academic position of **associate professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"** in the field of higher education 3. 8 Social, economic and legal sciences professional field 3.8. Economy (World Economy and International Economic Relations - International Finance).

In the competition for associate professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 40 of 14.05.2021 and in the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Marketing and International Economic Relations at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, as a candidate participates Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

1. General presentation of the received materials

By order № P33-3160 of 13.07.2021 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" I was appointed a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of 'associate professor' at the University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.8 Economics (World Economy and International Economic Relations - International Finance), announced for the needs of the Department of Marketing and International Economic Relations at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

Only a candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

Presented by Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" set of materials on paper and electronic media is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of PU, and includes the following documents:

1. Application
2. Autobiography
3. Diploma for Master's degree

4. Diploma for "Doctor" degree
5. List of scientific papers
6. Information on compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements
7. Reference 6a for compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements
8. Annotations of the materials under art. 65 of PRASPU, including self-assessment of contributions;
9. Annotations of the materials under art. 65 of PRASPU, including self-assessment of contributions in English;
10. Declaration of originality and authenticity
11. Certificate of work experience
12. Documents for educational work
13. Documents for research work
14. Statement of Contributions.

The candidate Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov has applied a total of 23 scientific papers, divided into sections as follows: monographs - 1, studies - 1, books - 1, textbooks - 1, textbooks - 2., articles - 13 (2 in co-authorship, 5 in English), and reports - 4 pcs. (2 in co-authorship, 2 in English). 18 scientific papers that are outside the dissertation are accepted for review.

2. Brief biographical data (of the applicant)

Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov graduated in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in finance, and in 2007 he graduated with a master's degree in finance from the University of National and World Economy - Sofia. Since 2013 he has been a Doctor of Economics and Management (Industry) at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. Fluent in English and Russian at business level - B1.

Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov's work experience and career development started in the financial sector. In the period 2005 - 2012 he successively held the positions of "Bank Asset Management Specialist", "Expert Asset Management" and "Expert NPL", respectively in the companies: Bulgarian Retail Services, Raiffeisen Leasing Bulgaria and EFG LEASING / Eurobank EFG. In 2012 he was appointed an assistant at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, and since 2017 he has been a chief assistant.

3. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity and preparation of the candidate (teaching aids, lecture courses, work with students, graduates and doctoral students)

Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov is distinguished by intensive teaching activities. Conducts lecture courses and exercises in the disciplines: "Public Finance", "Banking and Finance" and "International Finance".

The candidate's scientific interests allow him to create university training courses with modern scientific content. His lecture courses cover important areas of economics, in the focus of their modern development and contribute to adequate students' training, and teaching materials are published and available to students. Lecture courses have been developed in the Bachelor's Degree in Public Finance, Banking and Finance, International Finance and International Trade Financing, and in the Master's Degree in Business Finance. The evidence set includes a university textbook entitled "Banking and Forms of Financing" and two university research aids: "Student Guide (Syllabus) on the Academic Course in Banking and Finance" and "Student Guide (Syllabus) on the Academic Course in International Finance".

Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov grew up as an authoritative teacher, respected by students for his personal and professional qualities, accessible style of teaching. He provides competent assistance to students, supports the acquisition and understanding of economic issues.

Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

To the evidence for the scientific activity the candidate has presented an independent monograph, a book based on a defended dissertation - 1 piece, textbooks - 1 piece, textbooks - 2 pieces, studies - 1 piece, articles - 10 pieces. (1 in co-authorship, 4 in English) and documents - 2 pcs. (2 in co-authorship, 2 in English). It is necessary to note the existence of a publication in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - Scopus.

The presented scientific production contains:

№	Type of publications	Independent		In co-authorship		Total
		Bulgarian language	English language	Bulgarian language	English language.	
1	Monographs	1	-	-	-	1
2	Books	1	-	-	-	1
3.	Textbooks	1	-	-	-	1
4.	Teaching aids	2	-	-	-	2
5.	Articles	6	3	-	1	10

№	Type of publications	Independent		In co-authorship		Total
		Bulgarian language	English language	Bulgarian language	English language.	
6.	Studios	1	-	-	-	1
7.	Scientific documents	-	-	-	2	2
	Total:	12	3	-	3	18

Yields

I agree and accept the candidate's contributions prepared in the author's report, which can be found in the following main areas:

- **Application of specific (unconventional) forms of financing of innovative projects in the field of bioeconomy at the international level, in view of their future practical implementation in Bulgaria.**

Representatives of this type of publications include the works indicated in the list of annotations, namely: monographic research and scientific papers in which the results of it are tested. They are numbered (1), (3), (8), (9), (11) and (13). In these publications, original and significant for practice solutions to issues related to:

- detailed analysis of the specific features and forms of financing of innovative bio-based projects, including venture capital from specialized funds and individual investors - business angels, SWORD companies (Stock and Warrant Off-Balance R&D) and all potential institutional investors in them;
- parallel between debt and equity financing, which differ on the basis of features such as purpose, conditions, purpose, risk sharing, etc.
- comparative analysis of the conditions for financial provision of innovations in the field of biotechnology in the USA and Europe, in the context of the different conditions of the economic environment;
- review of successful practices for the development of biotechnological innovations in leading European economies, such as Germany, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy and others.
- **Research aimed at solving significant problems related to the assessment of economic risk and the qualitative improvement of the economic environment in the country.**

Representatives of this group of publications include a book based on a defended dissertation with a fully updated study, as well as listed in the list of annotations works with numbers (2), (4), (5), (6), 7), (10) and (12). The results of the conducted studies lead to:

- an original methodology has been created, which has been tested in real conditions (for example, in development 3 the practical suitability and benefits related to the applicability of the model for risk assessment, present the results of an investment project in the field of drone production);
- Specific recommendations for quality improvement of the economic environment in the country are presented, which is of key importance for the overall increase of the economic potential of Bulgarian enterprises, attracting quality foreign investments aimed at various spheres of production and services, reducing regional social imbalances. economic attitude, etc .;
- The dynamics in the change of the international investment position of the Bulgarian economy for a ten-year period of time is studied. On this basis, conclusions are made about the reasons that underlie the change of assets and liabilities of citizens, companies and the state with non-residents;
- An analysis of the current state of the international foreign exchange reserves of the Bulgarian National Bank is presented, which shows that there should be no concerns about the stability of the monetary system in the country before the expected full membership in the euro area.

In some places in scientific research, the descriptive character prevails over the research one. In this sense, I allow myself to recommend to the candidate, in his future work, to critically analyze the existing author's theses and opinions and refracting his research through the prism of the practice to make more reasoned conclusions and recommendations.

Summarizing the specific assessments of the works, I believe that Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov is aware of the established criteria in science for the presence of scientific utility in them.

I highly appreciate the scientific and applied activity of the candidate. The presented scientific production is logically connected, scientifically substantiated and empirically confirmed.

Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov shows high scientific expertise and knowledge on the issues under consideration.

Citation

According to the reference provided to me, 7 citations of 7 author's publications have been noticed. Of the citations of scientific publications, mostly all are by Bulgarian authors.

The applicant does not have an account in Google Scholar or other scientific networks, with an affiliation to the PU, the profile in ORCID lacks information, except for a link to the account in ResearchGate, which makes it difficult to better visibility and citation.

4. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate

From the analysis of the presented evidence for the scientific production of the candidate I conclude that there is no plagiarism and they are original work of the author. I believe that the contributions mentioned above are the work of the candidate and his personal merit.

5. Contributions of the author in the collective publications

From the submitted publications for participation in the competition, there are separation protocols for the co-authored publications.

I have no doubt about the personal contribution of the candidate in the peer-reviewed publications, which is expressed in in-depth research, creative thinking and further development of the theory and methodology in the areas he works. I evaluate the derived scientific and applied contributions in the presented scientific production as personal contributions in the modern science.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I do not report significant errors and inaccuracies in the publications submitted for review, but I can note the following recommendations for improving future work:

1. The author's scientific research to continue in the future on the researched issues and their results to be published in international publications with IF / IR, for which the candidate has extensive practical experience and scientific potential.

2. Participation in international conferences, and preferential publication in English, in order to increase visibility in the scientific community and promote research.

3. Creating a Google Scholar account with a specified affiliation to the PU, supplementing the ORCID account with information and publications, which presupposes better visibility and citation.

7. Personal impressions

I do not know the candidate personally, we do not have joint publications and developments.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of ONS 'Doctor' and the academic position of "Senior Lecturer". In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition as a representative part of them are published in journals and scientific journals published by international academic publishers. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov is undoubted.

Achieved by Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov results in teaching and research fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the application of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and contained in them scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, 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 Economics and Social Sciences for election of Senior Lecturer PhD. Trayan Pavlov Yosifov to the academic position of 'Associate Professor' at the University of Plovdiv "P. Hilendarski" in professional field 3.8 Economics (World Economy and International Economic Relations - International Finance.

09. 08. 2021.

Reviewer:

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