

OPINION

by Dr. Plamen D. Chipev,

Professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" and ERI at BAS

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"**

by: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field **3.8. "Economics"**, (*Geoeconomics and Regional Economics*)

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 39 of May 2, 2023 and on the website of Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Economic Sciences at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, as the **only** candidate participated Chief Assist. Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov from the Department of Economic Sciences at the Financial Sciences Department of Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski".

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order No RD-2145/30.06.2023 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury for the above competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor". The candidate Delyan Angelov has proposed a total of 14 texts, as well as references for participation in scientific projects, work experience, etc. The submitted materials and references for the competition are in accordance with the requirements of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University.

The candidate holds an MS Degree from the Sofia University "Kl. Ohridski" (spec. "Regional Economic and Political Geography of Countries") and has a PhD in Political Economy (Regional Economy) acquired in 2016 at the University of Plovdiv (Department of Economic Sciences (ES) at the FISN). The applicant has over 23 years of work experience as a lecturer in national economy / geoeconomics – assistant and chief assistant – mainly at the University of Plovdiv (departments of Marketing-MIO and ES), but also at the European College of Economics and Management, Plovdiv and the College of Business and Public Administration, Haskovo.

I have a direct personal impression of the candidate since 2013 when he started working on his doctoral thesis, which I have discussed and supported during the defense procedure. As colleagues in the same department with the candidate, I emphasize that he has a high academic capacity, a sense of responsibility and accuracy. And he is respected by the students.

2. General overview of the applicant's endeavors

2.1. Evaluation of educational and pedagogical activity

During the period 2018/2023 Dr. Angelov has an auditorium load of 2715 hours of lectures and practices, as well as 1334 hours of other academic and pedagogical employment (semester exams, consultations and verification of coursework). He lectures the following subjects at Bachelor's level: "Geoeconomics", "Regional Policy" "Economic Geography of Countries", "Public Geography of Bulgaria". Part of his school load is at the Faculty of Philosophy and History of the University of Plovdiv. He has conducted a course in a foreign language for Erasmus+ students in Geoeconomics.

Chief Assist. Dr. Angelov has also developed curricula in two disciplines (Geoeconomics and Regional Policy) and lectures on them. He has developed a text book "Geoeconomics", 2019 ac-

ording to the curricula for the bachelor's programs at the FISN of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The textbook offers a number of the latest statistical and graphical applications, historical references, quotes and it is richly illustrated. A special place is occupied by the changes of the last three decades in the structure of the population, migrations, urbanization, new industries, and the related change in their resource base, highlighting the role of human resources in the transition to dominance of the tertiary sector. The textbook contains a wide range of recommended literature sources; self-study questions; sample tests. He is Chairman of the Candidate-student Campaign Committee on *Geography of Bulgaria* in connection with which he participates in the preparation of the admission and competition test, check-up and evaluation of the prospective students.

The applicant's academic activity is complemented appropriately by his participation as an "academic mentor" in the project "Student Practices" under the Operative Program "Human Resources Development" of the University of Plovdiv.

The shown volume and types of educational and pedagogical activity of Chief Assist. Dr. Angelov **cover and surpass the additional requirements** for educational and pedagogical activity of Plovdiv University. My personal impressions and good feedback of students complement his image as a good and competent teacher.

2.2. Evaluation of the scientific and applied activities of the applicant

Apart from the dissertation and the book based on it, 12 scientific works are presented, classified as follows – 1 habilitation work and another 1 title of a monographic nature, 1 chapter of a collective monograph, 6 articles and reports, 2 studies, plus 1 teaching boo. Four of the publications are in English. The 6 citations in scientific journals reveal the candidate as a recognizable scientist. The total amount of points - **477,5** meets and exceeds the national minimum requirements.

With regard to the additional requirements of the FISN of Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski" – the applicant has submitted – two publications in journals **reviewed and indexed in WoS** (22.5 pts), one paper presented at a conference with international participation (15 pts) and participation in two scientific projects (15 pts), which fulfills and exceeds these requirements.

The examination of the applicant's materials did not reveal the presence of plagiarism.

2.3. Contributions

Several different groups of contributing moments could be identified in the presented publications, **especially in the socio-economic analysis** of the problems arising in cities and highly urbanized territories. These include:

- *Study of the social problems of the city in their interconnectedness in conditions of accumulated acute problems – chaotic migration and urban planning processes, subject to absurd market logic and visibly serving private interests.*
- *Outlining problems of the late-industrial city – carrying modernist ideas for automation, urban highways, towers in parks and spatial social engineering, but demographically, socially and economically unsustainable. The article reveals the stages of moving towards the "urban dead end" and sinking into spontaneous ghettoization.*
- *Revealing deficits in the policy for urban regeneration and development in Bulgaria, which is supposed to counter the problems generated in cities and urban areas such as unemployment, segregation, poverty and negative pressure on the environment.*
- *Study of the trends in the second demographic transition of developed countries and its economic impact, especially on the youngest part of the workforce. [They are revealed unexplored yet, but significant for Bulgarian demography trends in developed economies such as Japan and the Republic of Korea, which have the most pronounced demographic problems in the last three decades].*

- *Revealing the problems caused by the intensive movement of workforce, mainly from Bulgaria and Romania to the western part of the EU, before the accession of the two countries to the EU and the emerging legislative and economic inconsistencies.*
- *The role of education in developed economies (and Bulgaria) caused by the separation of the fourth sector of the business system (knowledge economy) and the subsequent trend towards re-urbanization of the urban economy.*

I would especially like to highlight Dr. Angelov's contribution to the publication of a comprehensive **dictionary** of terms in the field of urban studies and urban economy. This is the first attempt in the Bulgarian scientific literature to create such a tool aimed at the widest community of specialists working in the field of social sciences.

The publications and contributions are a his own of Dr. Delyan Angelov. Also, his participation in the collective monograph "European Integration Today" is duly acknowledged with a reference from the scientific reviewer of the publication, indicating that the chapter "Policy deficits for urban regeneration and development in Bulgaria" (pp. 191-213) is his own contribution and does not need a protocol for division. The structure of his scientific and applied activity shows that the candidate is far from focusing only on the development of publications related to teaching but has emphasized research interests and achievements in the field of competition. This is a good example of complementing teaching activity, and research results can be used in working with students.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no serious critical remarks about the scientific production and applied activities of the candidate. By now, his professional careers, publications and scientific recognition are largely concentrated at the University of Plovdiv. I recommend expanding academic and publication activities outside the university and especially to scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information.

CONCLUSION

Documents and materials submitted by Chief Assist. Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Rules for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Rules of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, adopted in connection with the Rules of the Plovdiv University for the application of the ZRASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientifically-applicable and applied contributions contained therein, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the honorable scientific jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of FISN for the selection of Chief Assist. Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov to the academic position of Associate Professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" on: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field **3.8. "Economics"**, (*Geoeconomics and Regional Economics*).

01 September 2023

Prepared the opinion:
(signature)

Prof. Dr. Plamen D. Tchipev