

OPINION

by **Pelo Mihaylov Mihaylov, PhD – Associate Professor at the
Agricultural University – Plovdiv**

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for acquiring the Academic position of **Associate Professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski** in the field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional direction: 3.8. Economics (Goeconomics and Regional Economics).

The competition for an Associate Professor was announced in State Gazette, issue 39/02.05.2023 and on the website of Plovdiv University for the needs of Department of Economic Sciences to the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. There was only one applicant – Chief Assistant Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov from Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

A. Presentation of the submitted materials. By Order № RD-21-1405/30.06.2023 of the Rector of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski, I was appointed as an external member of the Academic Jury of the competition for acquiring the academic degree **Associate Professor at Plovdiv University** in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional direction: 3.8. Economics (Goeconomics and regional economics), announced for the needs of the Department of Economic Sciences to the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

Only one applicant – chief assistant Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov has submitted documents for participation in the competition. He is from Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

The presented by the applicant set of materials in paper and electronically is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University (RDASPU) and it includes the following documents:

1. Application form to the Rector for admission to participate in the competition;
2. Resume in European format;
3. Diploma of higher education with acquired educational and qualification Master degree – notarized copy;
4. Diploma for educational and academic degree "Doctor" – notarized copy;
5. List of academic works;
6. Academic works (copies of the publications);
 - 6.1. Separation protocol;
 - 6.2. List of citations;
7. Certificate of compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
8. Annotations of the materials under Art. 65. from RDASPU (in Bulgarian and English);

9. Self-assessment of contributions;
10. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
11. Certificate of work experience;
12. Documents for academic work;
13. Documents for scientific research work;
14. Documents according to the additional requirements of the relevant faculty;
15. Other documents.
16. Set of paper documents from p. 1 up to p. 17;
17. Set of documents on electronic media.

The applicant – chief associate Delyan Ivanov Angelov has attached a list of a total of 14 academic papers (see Document № 5) of which: one dissertation (№ 5.11.), two monographs (№ 5.1., № 5.2.), one published book based on a defended dissertation (№ 5.3.), one chapter of a collective monograph (№ 5.9.), eight articles and studies (№ 5.4., № 5.5., № 5.6., № 5.7., № 5.8., № 5.12., № 5.13. and № 5.14), one textbook (№ 5.10.) as well as an official notice from Scientific and Project Activity division for participation in 4 research projects. 11 academic papers beyond the topic of the dissertation have been accepted and reported in the final evaluation as well as 1 textbook. The dissertation work and the published book based on the defended dissertation work are not reviewed (№ 5.11. and № 5.3. but both carry points for meeting the minimum national and additional faculty requirements). The distribution of academic works according to publication in the country or abroad is as follows: two publications abroad and ten – in Bulgaria.

Concerning the public interest in other procedures for acquiring the academic degree Associate Professor, I would like to emphasize that the two monographs of the applicant in the current competition (№ 5.1. and № 5.2.) have been presented as printed books with ISBN. Both of them, together with the published book based on the defended dissertation (№ 5.3.) which is an electronic resource on disk are duly registered in the National Bibliography of Bulgaria (bg.cobiss.net/) and are available in the public domain for all interested parties in the fund of the National Library St. Cyril and Methodius in Sofia and the two books are available in Plovdiv University Library Paisii Hilendarski.

Chief assistant Dr. Delyan Angelov presented documents and materials that fully meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski. The publications, the reference for the noted citations and the claimed contributions allow to acquire an adequate and accurate assessment of the scientific interests, researches and the results obtained by the applicant.

B. Brief biographical data of the applicant. Delyan Angelov was born in 1969. He graduated from Master's degree in Geography at the Faculty of Geology and Geography in 1997, additional qualification in Management at the Free Faculty in 1997, both at Sofia University. St. Kliment Ohridski. In 2016 he defended the academic degree Doctor in professional direction 3.8. Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski.

From 1999 to 2001, Delyan Angelov worked as a teacher at the College of Business and Public Administration in Haskovo. From 2001 and currently 2023 – at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Department of Economic Sciences. At the same time, from 2001 to 2011, Delyan Angelov was also a teacher at the European College of Economics and Management – Plovdiv. On February 17, 2020, Delyan Angelov was elected for the academic position of chief assistant at Plovdiv University, field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional direction: 3.8. Economics (Political Economics – Geoeconomics).

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Educational and pedagogical activity. In the period 2018–2023 chief assistant Dr. Delyan Angelov conducts lectures and exercises in Plovdiv University on the following subjects: "Geoeconomics", "Regional Politics", "Economic Geography of Countries" and "Public Geography of Bulgaria". In relation to his teaching activity, the applicant Dr. Delyan Angelov has written and published the following textbooks and teaching handbooks:

1. Geoeconomics. Teaching handbook for self-training. Plovdiv: IMN, 2005;
 2. Geoeconomics. A textbook for self-preparation (co-author Cv. Markova). Plovdiv: IMN, 2007;
 3. Geoeconomics. An electronic resource for self-training. Part 1. Plovdiv, 2020;
 4. Geoeconomics. An electronic resource for self-training. Part 2. Plovdiv, 2023;
- of which the second and third are presented in the documents for the competition.

Academic and scientific-applied activity. From the presented academic works by the applicant, one study (№ 5.5.) was published in a scientific journal, referenced and indexed in international databases with scientific information. Four of the articles are published in English (№ 5.4., № 5.5., № 5.8. and № 5.12.), the remaining materials are in Bulgarian. Two of the scientific works on the competition were written in a team (№ 5.5. and № 5.9.), the rest are written only by the applicant in the current competition.

Contributions (academic, scientific-applied, applied) and citations. The main contributions to science of the only applicant in the current competition chief assistant Dr. Delyan Angelov concentrate in the field of urban studies (also urbanism, geography and city economics). The indisputable bearers of the scientific contribution are the two monographs of the applicant – the monograph issued as a (main) habilitation thesis in 2018 "The Unknown City" (№ 5.1.) and the monograph published four years later which is not presented as a main habilitation thesis "Glossary of terms in urban studies. People under the line" (2022) (№ 5.2.). Separate problems from urban studies are also found in the studies and articles of D. Angelov (№ 5.4., № 5.6., № 5.7., № 5.8., № 5.9., № 5.13. and № 5.14.). The topic is also covered in the "Geoeconomics" textbook presented for the competition, part 1 (2020) (№ 5.10.) and the topic "Urbanization and urbanization processes" is presented in a language easy to be understood by students (p. 125–135).

According to the applicant himself "*urban planning is a complex academic field that includes both architecture and urban planning as well as geography, economics, demography, sociology, history, etc.*" This is probably where Delyan Angelov's strength in **urban studies** comes from – due to his interdisciplinary approach and his broad view on the topic. The width of perception is due to his education as a *geographer* ("Master degree"), his formation as an *economist* (the defended dissertation in professional field 3.8. Economics), his daily occupations with *demography* and *sociology* during the training of students to reach to the strictly professional entry into the debris of *architecture* and *urban planning* during his scientific pursuits and the creation of his articles and books.

The applicant's academic contributions are registered through the main monograph "The Unknown City" (№ 5.1.). The City has been written about in many different scientific disciplines but not in such completeness. In practice I am not aware of any other attempt for an interdisciplinary synthesis. If we add the fact that the focus of this monographic work is the examination of the social problems of the city in their interconnection, the contribution of the applicant Delyan Angelov is indisputable.

The scientific and applied contributions are noted in the second monograph "Glossary of terms in urban studies. People under the line" (2022) (№ 5.2.) where there are presented the most important and well-established but also a number of new terms for the Bulgarian academic literature in the field of urban studies and urban economics. The dictionary tries to create greater interest in the urban theme among specialists in various fields related to urban studies.

Applied contributions are expressed in the establishment of the authorship of some of the terms because often more than one author argues about the "paternity" of a given concept such as the one named by the applicant chief assistant Dr. Delyan Angelov. "*Marconi-Popov case*" (regarding the first place in the invention of the radio).

I believe that namely in the field of (*geo*) *urban studies* lie the prospects for the future academic development of chief assistant Dr. Delyan Angelov.

The applicant in the competition chief assistant Dr. Delyan Angelov presented a list of 6 citations of his publications (see Document № 6.2.). According to the criteria for the minimum national requirements in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, this is absolutely sufficient to reach the minimum number of 50 points for the group of indicators D "Citations".

3. Critical notes and recommendations

I have a **remark** about the monograph "Glossary of terms in urban studies" (2022), (№ 5.2.). The applicant's decision in the second part "People under the line" (*Fathers of the terms*) to write for the authors who are still alive: bracket, name in Latin, year of birth, dash and bracket, for example: (Thomas Lemke, 1963 –) gives the impression that the researcher in question has died and the author of the dictionary has not discovered the year of his death. I would simply put the second parenthesis after the year of birth, eg: (Franko Moretti, 1950).

I also have a **recommendation** related again to the mentioned monograph. The applicant should be more persistent in seeking out the birth years of the still alive and young *Fathers* and *Mothers of the terms*. With the help of the National Bibliography (plus.cobiss.net/cobiss/bg/bg/conor) and a little research on the web, I supplemented his dictionary with the year of birth of: Alexander Vezenkov (1971), Boyan Ventsislavov Zahariev (1971), Chavdar Milchev Mladenov (1950), Diane Perrons (1950) and Elitsa Stanoeva (1979). I make the remark and the recommendation only because of my deep conviction that the applicant Dr. Delyan Angelov will continue his academic development in the field of *(Geo)urban studies* and this first edition of the dictionary will not be the last.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by the applicant chief assistant Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov meets all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv Univeristy Paisii Hilendarski.

The applicant in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of academic works outside the materials used in the defense of the Doctor degree (2016) and the competition for "Chief Assistant" (2020). The applicant's works contain original scientific and applied contributions. His theoretical developments have practical applicability. Some of them are directly oriented to the academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of chief assistant Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov is undeniable.

The presented results by chief assistant Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov in the academic and research activities fully correspond to the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, adopted in relation to the Regulations of Plovdiv University for application of LDASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and academic works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the contained academic and scientific - applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give **my positive assessment** and to recommend that the Academic Jury prepares a Report proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences for the election of chief assistant Dr. Delyan Ivanov Angelov for the Academic position of an Associate Professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski in the field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional direction: 3.8. Economics (Goeconomics and Regional Economics).

8.09.2023

Opinion prepared by:

(Ass. Prof. Pelo Mihaylov, PhD)