

# REVIEW

by: **Prof. Dr. Kamen Dimitrov Petrov**

Scientific specialty:

Regional Development (Goeconomics and Regional Demography)

University of National and World Economy (UNSS)

**Subject:** Review of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" published in the Official Gazette. No. 39/02.05.2023 by scientific specialty 3.8 Economics (Goeconomics and Regional Economics)

## **1. Information about the contest**

By order of the Rector No. RD -21-1405 of 30.06.2023, I have been appointed to a scientific jury for a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in PN 3.8 Economics (Goeconomics and Regional Economics) at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences at the Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski University.

## **2. Brief information about the candidate in the competition**

The only candidate for the post of associate professor under the competition announced in SG no. 98/ 9.12.2022 on scientific direction 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty e ch. Assistant Dr. Delyan Angelov. He was born on 15.10.1969 in the city of Sofia. In the period 1991-1997, he graduated from SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Geology and Geography, Department of Socio-Economic Geography, specialty "Regional Economic and Political Geography of Countries". He holds a diploma and additional qualification in management from the same university. After 1997, he was successively a teacher at the Business College of Public Administration - Haskovo Branch and at the European College of Management and Administration. From 27.06.2002 until now, he is on a main employment contract at the Department of Economic Sciences at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. His employment at Plovdiv University amounted to 23 years, 5 months and 26 days at the end of July 2023. He successively climbed the ranks of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant. Since 2016, he has a PhD in Political Economy in the professional field 3.8 Economics, which is evident from the resume he submitted.

## **3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position**

Ch. assistant professor, Dr. Delyan Angelov, as the only candidate in practice meets the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor", according to ZRASRB art. 24, para. 1. He fulfills the minimum national requirements, according to Art. 2b and the regulations for its application (art. 1a, para. 1). Also ch. Associate Professor Delyan Angelov, Ph.D., meets the additional requirements for Paisii Hilendarski University of Applied Sciences, according to the RSARB (Article 2b, Paragraph 5) and the regulations for its application (Article 1a, Paragraphs 2-3). On the basis of the map for the fulfillment of requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisiy

Hilendarski", which presents the implementation of the various indicators and the evidence attached to them, it can be summarized that Ch. Assistant Professor Delyan Angelov, Ph.D., meets the requirements. The fact that Dr. Delyan Angelov has many years of experience as a teacher and researcher within the Geoeconomics Guild and Plovdiv University should be highly appreciated. The inquiry made reveals that Dr. Angelov's scientific output is on the subject of the competition and the presented works are sufficient to meet the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of Economics, scientific specialty Economics (Geoeconomics and regional economics). Based on the above, I confirm that Ch. Associate Professor Delyan Angelov, Ph.D., meets the required quantitative and qualitative indicators for the selection of the position for which he is applying in this competition.

#### **4. Evaluation of teaching and learning activity**

Ch. Assistant Professor Delyan Angelov, as a full-time teacher at the Department of Political Economy, has presented a report for the period 2018-2023, from which it is clear that there is a sufficient study load of 4049 hours in the "Bachelor's College" and in the "Bachelor's College" Master". He has taught classes in the disciplines: Geoeconomics, Regional Policy, Socio-Economic Geography of Countries, Countries, Public Geography of Bulgaria and others. Chairman of the KSK Commission on Geography of Bulgaria at the "Paisiy Hilendarski" PU (2008-2022). He developed the study programs at the "Paisii Hilendarski" Polytechnic for a study course in "Geoeconomics". Development of a detailed curriculum and a study course on "Regional Policy", adopted by the Faculty Council of the Department of "Economic Sciences". For the period 2018 - 2023, lectures and exercises have been prepared and delivered in the following disciplines: Geoeconomics, Regional Policy, Socio-Economic Geography of the Countries and Public Geography of Bulgaria. It can be summarized that Ch. Delyan Angelov, assistant professor, has extensive teaching experience and a high degree of preparation for the academic position of "associate professor". The analysis of the candidate's academic and teaching activities in the above disciplines shows his academic competence in the scientific specialty of the announced competition -3.8 Economics (Geoeconomics and Regional Economics). *In summary, the educational and teaching activities of the candidate are in full compliance with the requirements of the Regulations for the organization and holding of competitions for the acquisition of a scientific degree and for the occupation of academic positions at PU "P. Hilendarski" - city of Plovdiv.*

#### **5. Brief description of the presented scientific works/publications**

On the competition for "associate professor", Ch. Delyan Angelov, assistant professor, presented 16 scientific papers, including 3 monographs, of which 3 are independent (one is related to the dissertation), 7 scientific articles (one article in print), 1 report, 2 studies, 1 (one) chapter of a scientific monograph, 1 textbook and 1 teaching aid. He took part in 5 projects, of which 1 national and 1 international. The developments of ch. assistant professor, Dr. Delyan Angelov, have not proven plagiarism according to the law. The main directions in the research activity of the candidate for associate professor are indicated in the attached reference for scientific contributions, and I accept them. My general characterization is positive, although briefly, I will focus on the main monographic works of Dr. Delyan Angelov. First of all, the monographic work "The Unknown City", published, UI "Paisiy Hilendarski" 2019. The topic of the monograph is current, and according to the author, it is dedicated to a problem area, almost completely ignored in the proposed broad context of analysis in our country. Dr. Angelov looks at the geo-urbanization processes in a multifaceted layer and thus a number of deficits of the environment are visible, but they are not always axiomatic. I believe that other

authors and analysts are also working on these problems and see certain weaknesses, but also suggest trends. But on the other hand, Dr. Angelov has his own handwriting, which is enough to be convincing in his theses and assumptions, which, however, can have a debatable side and another approach. I accept that the study of the social problems of the city in their interconnectedness, innovation is undeniable. The second monograph is equally interesting because it is practically an attempt to systematize geourbanist terms with an analysis approach. Thus, "Terminological dictionary of urban studies and urban economy", UI "Paisii Hilendarski", 2022, is a decent attempt to substantiate the geo-economic essence of the ongoing socio-economic processes and phenomenon. This attempt to arrange the concepts in the form of a dictionary is in practice an attempt to create greater interest among specialists in various fields related to urban studies and urban themes. I believe that this is a good attempt to bring out concepts and topics that will support the preparation process of students and specialists in the field of geo-urban studies. We can assume that the author's approach is adequate to understand the "big picture", i.e. to capture the multiple interrelationships between problems that often follow their own, endogenous evolution. A third monograph is dedicated to "Economic-geographic manifestations of spatial inequality", was published by UI "Paisii Hilendarski", in 2023. In this monograph, we notice that the author's approach is to try to present a qualitative emphasis on extracting the negative historical extract from urbanization development with an emphasis on Bulgarian urban development. The monograph is a response from his critical thinking on processes and phenomena related to the geo-urban approach to regional development, namely the management of the territory. Critical analysis is designed to provoke the search for new solutions and approaches. In general, the monograph is at a decent scientific level. His participation in a collective monograph: "Deficits in the policy for urban reconstruction and development in Bulgaria", in monograph (collective) "European integration today", FISN 2019, UI "Paisiy Hilendarski" 2019, pp. 191-213, is expressed in an attempt to consider cities as a spatially concentrated expression of socio-economic progress and problems. The author focuses on modern European cities in the transition to more sustainable economic development, the center of the European economy and providing jobs, and the urban environment becomes a catalyst for creative activity and innovation throughout the EU. The monographs are tied to the thematic directions, derived from the point of view of the developed problems and the obtained scientific and scientific-applied results and contributions. Dr. Angelov's approach to the electronic textbook on "Goeconomics", electronic textbook part 1 (136 pages), UI "Paisiy Hilendarski" 2020, is also of interest. This is a textbook that also has a paper counterpart, but it is intended for the students of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski". Its main merit to the learning process is defined as its availability online, as an electronic learning resource in the conditions of distance learning in the time of the pandemic situation of Covid-19. Another major mission of the textbook is to create the basis for a spatial approach to economic thinking in the context of contemporary national and global economic problems. The textbook is designed for a deeper familiarization of students with the general principles, main directions and methodological tools of goeconomics, as a science of sustainable development in the conditions of transition to a circular and green economy. We can also summarize that the 6 articles are about the problems of the competition and correspond to the theme. *In summary, it can be claimed that the scientific production in quantitative and qualitative terms is in full compliance with the minimum national requirements in area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", according to Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the ZRASRB and fully meets the conditions for occupying the academic position "associate professor", according to Art. 24, paragraph 1 of the ZRASRB, art. 53, para. 1 of the PPZRASRB and of the Additional requirements of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" - city of Plovdiv.*

## **6. A synthesized evaluation of the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

The presented scientific production contains scientific and scientific-applied contributions. The essential contribution is that they complement the geoeconomic knowledge and on the other hand define new approaches for researching the geo-urban environment. In this direction, among the more significant ones, I can point out the following: First, the existing knowledge about the urbanistic development of European cities has been supplemented by defining several trends that are possible for the future economic, social and territorial development of the urbanistic territorial systems. The European Union, as well as the interaction between regions and urban development from a geo-economic and regional political point of view, are the main subject of Dr. Delyan Angelov's work. Second, key problems are defined in the process of development of cities and for the implementation and territorial approaches in the direction of the effects of regional policy on the ground and its importance for the spatial development of individual territories. Thirdly, a conceptual model of the behavior of urban economic subjects, including variability - in the imposed model of regional and spatial development, is proposed and substantiated. The author focuses on the increasingly clear many sectoral and profile challenges facing urban areas - economic, environmental, climate, social and demographic. These features and challenges necessitate the application of the model of an integrated approach, which the author strongly recommends. Fourthly, an original systematization of the main aspects of the organization and spatial development of urban areas and agglomerations was made, with a proprietary toolkit for monitoring, analysis and evaluation of the spatial organization and the functioning of the specified problems in geo-urban systems and areas. Fifth, the guidelines, trends and possible policies for regional development related to the development of geo-economic knowledge are presented. In addition, Dr. Angelov argues that measures for physical urban renewal should be combined with measures to promote education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection, the development of strong partnerships involving citizens, civil society, the local economy and the different levels of government. The model was tested through an empirical study of a qualitative analysis of the urban environment, as a result of which the main conclusions were drawn.

## **7. Personal impressions**

I don't know him well enough. assistant professor, Dr. Delyan Angelov, but over the years I have had satisfactory observations about his academic development, including my participation in his acquisition of the ONS "doctor". It can be seen that there is an academic growth, which is deserved, but it could have been more dynamic, on the other hand, we are different people and the goals and tasks are different. I admire his growth, and even more so that from the documents presented by the candidate for the academic position "docent" it is clear to me that Mr. Delyan Angelov is sufficiently motivated and works thoroughly on the issues of geoeconomics, regional politics and problems of geography. I must say that modern urbanism is actually "geo-urbanism" because it increasingly uses the interdisciplinary approach of the frontier sciences of geography, geopolitics, geoeconomics, as well as political science, sociology and psychology. In practice, I believe that this focus of research is also in the direction of Dr. Delyan Angelov's scientific research, who is sufficiently prepared to occupy the academic position of "associate professor".

## **8. Main critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no significant critical remarks to the teaching and research activities of Asst. Dr. Delyan Angelov. I would recommend Dr. Delyan Angelov to increase his publication activity in order to continue to enrich his scientific production in Bulgarian and international scientific journals and forums. I hope that he will also research topics of importance to science and practice and strive to publish them in reputable Scopus and Web of Science journals.

## **8. Conclusion**

Based on the assessment of the scientific output and the presented competencies of the candidate, as well as on the basis of the specified scientific and scientific-applied contributions, I believe that Ch. Assistant Professor Delyan Angelov, Ph.D., meets the requirements for holding the scientific position "Associate Professor", set out in the ZRASRB and the Regulations for its application of the PU "P. Hilendarski. In conclusion, based on the facts and evidence presented, related to the teaching and research activities and the results achieved. Thus, with complete conviction, I give my positive assessment and suggest to the members of the respected scientific jury to vote "FOR" the election of Ch. Assistant Professor Delyan Angelov, PhD, in the academic position of "Docent" in scientific specialty 3.8 Economics (Gеоeconomics and Regional Economics)

**28.07.2023**

**Gr. Sofia**

**Signature:**

**Prof. Dr. Kamen Petrov**