

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

By Prof. Dr. Ivan Markov,

member of the scientific jury, according to order № RD-16-070 / 10.07.2020. of the Rector of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"

Scientific field 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, Professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences, Scientific specialty - Economic and Social Geography, for the needs of the Department of Geography, Regional Development and Tourism announced in SG no. 20 / 10.03.2020, with candidate:

Dr. VESELIN PENCHEV PETKOV

According to the announcement by Shumen University "Ep. Konstantin Preslavski ", competition for associate professor in scientific field - 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field - 4.4. Earth Sciences, scientific specialty Economic and Social Geography, announced in SG no. 20 / 10.03.2020, documents for participation were submitted by one candidate - Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov - Doctor of 3.4. Social activities.

The submitted documents for participation in the competition (inventory of 15 documents signed by the candidate) meet the requirements of Art. 52. (3) of the Regulations for application of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), University of Shumen "Ep. Konstantin Preslavski".

Information about the candidate.

Vesselin Penchev Petkov was born on March 6, 1990 in the town of Shumen. In 2014 he graduated from Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", Geography and Biology, Bachelor's degree. In 2015 he graduated from VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", "Cultural Tourism", Master's degree, and in 2016 he received a Master's degree in "Geography and Interactive Education" at Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". From 2014 to 2016 he was a teacher of geography. From 2016 to 2020 he was an assistant professor of economic geography at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". Since February 2020 he has been appointed to the academic position of "Lecturer" - he continues.

In 2019 he received ESD "Doctor" in Organization and Management outside the field of material production (social activities), with a defense dissertation on "Socio-cultural aspects of cultural tourism in the Shumen region", diploma № D-202 / 19.09.2019

Dr. Veselin Petkov conducts seminars and laboratory exercises in a bachelor's course (in "Geography and Biology", "History and Geography", "Geography and Regional Policy",

Economics) in 12 disciplines. In 2018 and 2019 he will give a course of lectures at the University of Porto, Portugal (under the Erasmus + program). Dr. Petkov has participated as a member of teams in the development of one international, seven national and 12 university projects. He has passed specializations, for which he has received 5 certificates.

For participation in the competition Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov presented 34 publications that do not replicate those submitted for acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". The collective publications of the candidate prevail - 26 / 76.4% /. Of these, the publications in a world database and other indexed platforms are a total of 12. Of the total number of publications 12 /35%/ are in Web & Science global database and other publications with Scientific Journal Impact Factor, Cosmos Impact Factor, Eurasian Scientific Journal Index, Scholar Article Impact Factor. The remaining 21 publications / 61.7% / are published in non-indexed editions, 10 of which are publications as a result of reports in national and international forums. A significant part of the scientific production of Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov - 35.3% is in English and other foreign languages, and 17 /50%/ of them are published abroad. Of all the submitted publications, 10 have been published in foreign editions.

General eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria according to Art. 24 of the Law on the Development of the AS in the Republic of Bulgaria and Shumen University "Konstantin Preslavski".

Candidates should have acquired ESD "Doctor"

The candidate admitted to participate in the competition has an ONS "Doctor" in "Organization and management outside the field of material production (social activities)". The defended doctorate is on the topic: "Socio-cultural aspects of cultural tourism in the Shumen region", diploma № D-202 / 19.09.2019, Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski".

Candidates must have held the academic position of "assistant professor" for at least two years or have been lecturers, including part-time at the same or another higher education institution or research organization.

From 2016 to 2020 Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov is an assistant professor of economic geography at the Department of Geography, Regional Development and Tourism at Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". Since February 2020 he has been appointed to the academic position of "Lecturer" in the same department - he continues.

Applicants must have published a monograph or equivalent publications (not less than 10) in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information that do not repeat those presented as acquired for ESD "Doctor".

Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov has presented a monograph:

Petkov. V., M. Penerliev, Geography of the population, settlements and regions in Bulgaria, ed. Incoma Shumen, 2020, ISBN: 978-954-452-060-1

Compliance with the mandatory minimum national requirements under Art. 26, para. 2 and 3, respectively under Art. 26, para. 5 of the LDASRB for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

To participate in the competition, the candidate has submitted a signed List of publications, List of citations signed by the candidate, as well as a Report on the implementation of the minimum requirements for the occupation of the academic position of "associate professor", according to the normative documents. The analysis of the mentioned documents established the following: According to the attached reference from the applicant for compliance with the minimum requirements, their implementation under indicators from group A and group B. The candidate has ESD "doctor" (**group A**), for which he is awarded 50 points. In **group B** the candidate presents - Habilitation work / monographic work / - 50 points. From group D item 6 is presented a monographic work: Petkov. V., Cultural Tourism, Tourists, Destinations in Bulgaria, ed. Incoma Shumen, 2020, ISBN: 978-954-452-061-8 - 30 points. Under item 7 the candidate has presented scientific publications in publications that are referenced in world-famous databases of scientific information, one publication co-authored - Penerliev, Milen and Petkov, Veselin. The Bulgarian Natural and Cultural Heritage under the aegis of UNESCO. Organization and functionality. Revista Inclusiones Vol: 6 num Especial (2019): 29-42. Santiago, Chile, ISSN 0719-4706, (indexing: Web of Science / - 20 points Under item 8 Scientific publication in unrefereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes are presented 21 publications - 376 points. For **group D** total - 426 points.

In group E under item 10 - Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes (x 5 points per citation). The candidate presents a citation of a publication: Penerliev, M. V. Petkov, The Bulgarian natural and cultural heritage under the aegis of UNESCO. Organization and functionality, Revista inclusiones, vol.6, num. Especial, 2019, p.29-42, Santiago, Chile, ISSN 0719-4706 - 5 t. Citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - four citations - 12 points. Under item 12. Citation or review in unrefereed journals with scientific review, the Candidate presents 21 citations of publications - 42 points.

Total for group E 59 points

Table. 1 Ratio between the required and fulfilled by the candidate points by groups of indicators

Group of indicators	Content	Required points	Fulfilled by the candidate
A	Indicator 1	50	50
C	Indicators 3 and 4	100	100
D	Sum total of indicators 5 to 9	200	426
E	Sum total of indicators 10 до 12	50	59
Total		400	635

The analysis shows that Dr. Petkov has met the minimum requirements for all indicators. In group D there are nine points above the minimum required and in indicator D reaches / 213% / and 63% as a whole.

Scientific contributions of the candidate

The analysis of the publishing activity and the reference for the scientific contributions of Dr. Petkov gives us a reason to systematize them in three thematic directions.

- Geography of the population and settlements - publications 2, 9, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32, 34 according to the attached list;
- Geography of Tourism - 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 31;
- Cultural geography, etc. 18, 26, 28, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 21, 27, 33;

In our opinion, the monographic study "Geography of the population, settlements and regions in Bulgaria" has the highest scientific and applied value. The study is complex and consists of three parts. In separate sections in the first part problems of the population and the settlements in Bulgaria are considered. The second part, in chronological terms, examines the development of theoretical formulations in regional formation and different types of models of regions in the geographical space of the country. In the third part the author focuses on some problems such as (depopulation, overconstruction, economic decline) in certain regions and offers approaches to solving them.

In the field of geography of the population and settlements, emphasis is placed on the study of a debatable problem such as the rural areas in Bulgaria. On a regional basis, those in the region of Shumen, Dobrudzha, Belasitsa mountain, the Kamchia river valley and others are studied. territory. The process of depopulation is analyzed using mainly the depopulation index. The social infrastructure (health, educational institutions) and their influence from the depopulation processes are studied. Some of the publications analyze ethno-religious processes in specific territories (Dobrudzha, Shumen region, etc.). Although not in this group, certain publications provide specific guidelines for conducting field research in the country's settlements. One of the publications, after a long review process, was published in the prestigious GEO magazine.

The second direction Geography of tourism. The main tourist resources are studied, as well as the spatial location and concentration of the accommodation base. In separate publications using economic indicators of the accommodation base, an attempt is made to reveal territorial combinations, mostly of alternative types of tourism. Some of the publications in this area study general trends in the development of certain types of tourism (rural, cultural, festival, culinary, etc.).

The monograph "Cultural tourism, tourists, destinations in Bulgaria" fully explores the problems of tourism. The problems of this economic sector are considered through the prism of the space - time vectors of its functioning. According to the author, the use of typical geographical methods, approaches and techniques (in particular cultural geography) in the tourism industry give more grounds for success in planning, management and forecasting of

tourist places. Trends influencing the behavior of tourists are studied, a socio-cultural profile of tourists is made). The first part systematizes basic concepts and definitions related to cultural tourism. The second part shows the general profile of tourists and also the socio-cultural profile of tourists practicing cultural tourism in Shumen district. The third part deals with tourist destinations in Bulgaria.

The third direction Cultural Geography, etc. The thematic distribution includes publications related to the geography of consumption, the geography of conflicts, the geography of mass culture, etc. In separate publications the theoretical formulations of the cultural landscape are studied, as a socio-cultural phenomenon in the determination of the tourist ideas, location and development. Some of the publications in the third group deal with general scientific problems of social and cultural geography. The article Current Scientific and Educational Problems of Social Geography in Bulgaria (published in India) gives generalized interpretations of social geography and its vector development in scientific and methodological aspect.

In a synthesized form, the contributions of Dr. Petkov in the presented publications can be formulated as follows:

- The problems in the rural areas of Bulgaria are presented by applying the regional analysis. Possible alternatives for their development are given;
 - In-depth settlement and demographic surveys have been conducted on the rural areas of Dobrudja;
 - By using appropriate methods, most of the settlements in the studied areas are ranked according to the degree of depopulation and the scheme for correlation of the settlements in different quality groups according to their degree of depopulation has been upgraded;
 - The spatial organization of tourism in separate parts of the territory of Bulgaria is studied. Territorial differences and non-equilibrium are revealed through a system of methods.
 - Using the questionnaire method and the segmentation method, the socio-cultural profile of the tourist practicing cultural tourism in Shumen district was determined.
 - Through the method of the survey a profile of the Bulgarian and foreign tourist practicing cultural tourism in Shumen district has been built.
 - A comparative analysis was performed between the profile of the cultural tourist in Bulgaria and the profile of the cultural tourist in the district of Shumen, and the results were provided to tour operators from the town of Shumen.

The candidate shows very good theoretical competence in the field of modern research in economic and social geography and regional development, in particular, the problems of rural areas of the spatial organization of tourism and developing a profile of the tourist practicing cultural tourism.

Recommendations


- In the future, Dr. Petkov should direct efforts to systematize his research and present them in the form of textbooks and teaching aids through which they become available to the wider academic community and students, as well as in practice;

- To change the ratio of collective / individual publications in favor of independent ones.

Conclusion

The analysis from the review of the documents on the competition, the references for fulfillment of the minimum requirements and for the original scientific contributions gives me grounds to express a completely positive attitude (YES) on the candidacy of Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov for the academic position "Associate Professor" in Science. 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, Professional field - 4.4. Earth sciences, Scientific specialty - Economic and social geography.

**10.08. 2020
Veliko Tarnovo**

Reviewer: 
(Prof. Dr. Ivan Markov)