

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

BY PROF. DR. SLAVI PETROV DIMITROV

Member of the Scientific Jury in a competition

for holding the academic position „ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR“ in scientific field:

4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field:

4.4. Earth Sciences (Social and Economic Geography),

Announced in the State Gazette, issue 20 / 10.03.2020 for the needs of the department „Geography, regional development and tourism“, Faculty of Nature Sciences, University of Shumen „Bishop Konstantin Preslavski“

1. Information about the competition:

The competition for „associate professor“ has been announced in SG, issue 20 / 10.03.2020, proposed by the Department of Geography, Regional Development and Tourism and passed through all levels of approval within the University of Sofia „Bishop Konstantin Preslavski“.

One candidate has submitted documents for the announced competition: Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov.

No violations were found in accordance with the legal state and internal university regulations.

In the announced procedure for "associate professor" and according to order № RD-16-070 / 10.07.2020 I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury. By decision of the same with protocol 1 / 23.07.2020 I was appointed to prepare a review.

2. 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 degree, and in 2016 he received a Master's degree in „Geography and Interactive Education“ at the Shumen University „Bishop Konstantin Preslavski“. In 2019 he received the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ in Organization and Management outside the field of material production (social activities), with a dissertation on „Socio-cultural aspects of cultural tourism in the Shumen region“, diploma № D-202 / 19.09.2019 г.

He has been a geography teacher since 2014. Since 2016 he has been an assistant professor of economic geography at the University of Shumen „Bishop Konstantin Preslavski”.

He speaks Russian, Turkish and English.

3. Description of the scientific works.

The candidate participated in the announced competition with 34 publications. All of them are in the professional field and the scientific specialty. Of these, monographs are - 2 pieces; articles in scientific journals - 22, reports at scientific conferences - 10. Over 37% of them are published in refereed editions in Bulgaria and abroad. 12 of them are in a foreign language, and the publications abroad are 10. The candidate is known in the scientific circles in Brazil, Greece, India, North Macedonia, Romania, Portugal, Croatia, Chile and other countries. Of all the proposed publications, 8 are independent, which represents 24% of their total number. In 6 other publications Veselin Petkov is the first co-author, i.e. he is the leading author in over 41% of the publications.

The thematic profile of the publications fully corresponds to the scientific specialty in the announced competition and includes the following more important characteristics:

- Publications dealing with the problems of the geography of tourism - 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 31;
- Publications related to the study of the population and settlements - 2, 9, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32, 34;
- Publications in the thematic scope of the cultural geography and the socio-economic problems of Bulgaria, the Balkans and the EU, planning and conducting field geographical practices in public geography, medical geography, etc. - 18, 26, 28, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 21, 27, 33.

The monograph "Cultural tourism, tourists, destinations in Bulgaria" fully explores the problems of the tourism sector. They are considered through the prism of the space-time vectors of its functioning. The use of typical geographical methods, approaches and techniques (in particular cultural geography) in the tourism industry give more grounds for success in the 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 theoretical part gives 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 some popular and not so popular destinations in Bulgaria.

The monograph "Geography of the population, settlements and regions in Bulgaria" 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 deals with the processes of zoning and the categories of regions in the geographical space of the country. Third part - analysis of some problems in the regions and approaches to solving them (depopulation, redevelopment, economic decline).

In the field of geography of the population and settlements, emphasis is placed on the study of rural areas in Bulgaria. On a regional basis, those in the region of Shumen, Dobrudja, Belasitsa mountain, the Kamchia river valley and others are studied. 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.

Other territories subject to study in the proposed publications are also subjected to spatial analysis. Both the spatial concentration and localization of the accommodation base and of the main tourist resources are studied. Other publications based on used indicators (such as the assessment of the accommodation base, etc.) make an attempt to zoning some types of tourism, mostly in the gravity of the alternative one. The general tendencies in the development of separate types of alternative tourism (rural, cultural, festival, culinary, golf, etc.) are also studied.

Cultural geography, etc. The thematic distribution includes publications, geography of consumption, geography of conflicts, geography of mass culture, etc. Another part of the publications examines the theoretical formulations of the "substrate" (cultural landscape) and images as a socio-cultural phenomenon in the determination of tourist ideas, location and development. Some of the publications in the third group deal with general scientific problems of social and cultural geography.

Dr. Veselin Petkov has participated in 10 scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, as well as in 18 scientific projects.

4. Scientific contributions.

The summarized contributions in the scientific publications of Dr. Veselin Petkov can be synthesized in the following more important directions:

- In-depth research on the spatial organization of tourism in Bulgaria, taking into account the territorial disparities;
- After a survey and application of the segmentation method, the socio-cultural profile is determined and a comparison is made between the Bulgarian and foreign tourist practicing cultural tourism in Shumen district;
- By using the regional analysis the problems in the rural territories of Bulgaria are brought out and possible alternatives for their development are given;
- Study of the main problems in the rural areas of Bulgaria. In-depth settlement and demographic surveys on the territory of Dobrogea;
- Most of the settlements in the studied territories are ranked according to the degree of depopulation and the scheme for assigning the settlements to different quality groups according to their degree of depopulation has been approved.

There are 25 citations of Veselin Petkov, i.e. he is a well-known author.

5. Teaching work.

There are a significant number of seminars and laboratory exercises in 12, and in some years in even more subjects for bachelors in „Geography and Biology“, „History and Geography“, „Geography and Regional Policy“, „Economics“, which are in accordance with the professional field and scientific specialty of the announced competition. He has participated in the management of field practices, and performs significant expert, editorial and review activities. He has lectured at foreign universities, is a member of a number of scientific organizations, is engaged in organizational and managerial activities.

6. Critical notes

In separate publications the descriptive exposition of the connections and relations between the elements of the object of research prevails.

A relatively small part of these publications are independent, so we recommend to strengthen the independent element in the research of Dr. Veselin Petkov.

7. Conclusion.

In summary, it is important whether the candidate meets all the minimum requirements of the LDASRB (and its Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and for holding academic positions).

Group of indicators	Content	Associate professor	Total points
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100
Г	Sum of indicators 9 to 10	200	421
Д	Sum of indocator	50	59


A minimum of 400 points is required, the candidate has a total of 630 points.

The attached table shows that Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov fully meets the minimum scientific criteria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Taking into account the observance of all the requirements of the procedure, the research achievements, the convincing teaching activity and the competence of the candidate, as well as on the basis of my immediate personal impressions, I give my positive assessment and recommend to the esteemed scientific jury and its members to vote positively the awarding of the academic title "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" to Dr. Veselin Penchev Petkov in the scientific field 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Social and Economic Geography).

04.08.2020

Veliko Tarnovo

Review written by:.....

/Prof. Dr. Slavi Petrov Dimitrov/