

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

by

Prof. Dr. Boris Todorov Kolev – National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography –
BAS (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

On the research publications and contributions of Assistant VESELIN PENCHEV PETKOV, PhD, a participant in a competition announced by Shumen University “Episkop Konstantin Preslavki” in State Gazette No 20 of March 10-th, 2020, for occupation of the academic position “ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR” in the Field of Higher Education 4, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Informatics, Professional Strand 4.4 Earth Sciences, (economic and social geography)

Sole participant in the announced competition is Assistant VESELIN PENCHEV PETKOV, PhD, from the Department “Geography, Regional Development and Tourism” at Shumen University “Episkop Konstantin Preslavki” (ShU).

I. Biographical data:

Assistant VESELIN PENCHEV PETKOV, PhD was born on March 6, 1990. In 2014 graduated his higher education in “Geography and Biology” at ShU and acquires a Bachelor’s Degree, and the next year 2015 he was conferred a Master’s Degree in “Cultural Tourism” as well as a Master’s Degree in “Geography and Interactive Training”. In 2019 he was conferred the postgraduate academic degree Doctor of Philosophy. He has a command of English, Russian, and Turkish language at different levels. He possesses technical skills (capable to work with MS Office, etc.). He has teaching and designing experience.

II. Research publications presented for the participation in the competition

The research interests of Dr. V. Petkov are in various fields of Economics and Social Geography (Regional Development, Social Geography, Population and Urban Geography, etc.) as well as in tourism (Cultural Tourism, Cultural Heritage, Tourist Sites, etc.). The territorial Issues and some essential aspects of Social Geography are additional trends in his research activity.

The participant in the announced competition has presented 34 research publications (16 in English language, 12 of them are included in international databases) in the following categories:

II.1. Monographs:

Titles of 2 monographs, one of them as a single author and one with the leading co-authorship of Dr. Petkov.

II.2. Research articles and studies:

The participant in the competition is a single author in 8 research publications. The candidate is a leading author in six co-authored publications. All the articles competently treat

various geographical and socio-economic issues, as well as important aspects and sites of cultural tourism.

III. Participation in development of applied science projects:

The participant in the competition has participated in the team work on 18 research projects (1 international, 6 national and 11 academic). As the attached reference list indicates, these are basically projects regarding training in business and entrepreneurship, as well as such focused on stimulating the research activity and the artistic creativity of Shumen University.

The candidate has the eligible teaching background as required by ADASRB (Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria). He has delivered lectures and seminar courses on an array of disciplines, like World Geography of Countries, Electoral Geography, Bases of Geography and PUG (Population and Urban Geography), Geo-economics, Cultural Geography, Political Geography and Geo-politics, etc.

IV. Research contributions:

Eight research contributions are presented. I have remarks on some of them:

1. The first contribution regards "study" and "monitoring and analysis" and so on. This is not a proper formulation. It lacks specificity, how via this study, monitoring and analysis are obtained results referred to as research contributions.
2. Research Contribution No5 (here is to be noted that this numeration is mine, because the presented reference list lacks it) reads that "Comparison was made between the tourists' profile in Bulgaria and the tourists' profile in the county of Shumen, concerning cultural tourism", but the per se comparison is absent, and it would have been a contribution.

I do not have remarks on the other research contributions and I approve them.

With his thorough research and teaching activity, Dr Veselin Petkov meets the eligibility criteria for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", which is represented in the enclosed, as per ADASRB, reference list.

V. Discovered citation of the works of Dr. Veselin Petkov:

25 citations of Dr. Veselin Petkov as a single author or as a co-author, excluding self-citations, have been found.

VI. Critical remarks:

In his future work the participant in the announced competition is advised to attach clearer specificity to the obtained research results;

To afford more publications as a single author of his own works.

Conclusion:

All regulatory requirements regarding the procedure of the competition, in accordance to ADASRB and other regulatory legislation, are fulfilled.


The presented critical remarks are intended to be recommendatory.

After all said, I take the liberty to propose the following:

The respectable members of the Scientific Jury to vote for a Proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Science at Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavki" to take a decision that will allow Assistant Veselin Petkov, PhD, to occupy the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in Professional Strand 4.4. Earth Sciences, scientific subject "Economic and Social Geography".

July 27, 2020
Sofia

Signature:


(Prof. Dr. Boris T. Kolev)