

REVIEW

Of the selection process for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the higher education field of 3. *Social, Economic and Legal Studies*, in the course of study 3.8. *Economics (Finance)*, opening at the *Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen*, announced in the State Gazette, issue 27 of April 2, 2021 for the department of *Social Work* at the *Faculty of Education*, with sole candidate Assistant Professor Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva.

REVIEWER: Associate Professor Dr Korneliya Tsoneva Todorova – lecturer at the *Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science*, department of *Economics and Modelling*.

Appointed to the position of Reviewer for the Selection Committee through Order No. ПД-16-100/31.05.2021 by the Rector of the University of Shumen.

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I. Background information on the selection process

The position was announced by the University of Shumen in issue 27 of the State Gazette of April 2, 2021. The lecturing position of Associate Professor is opening for bachelor and master degree programmes within the department of *Social Work* at the Faculty of Education.

The set of documents in paper and digital form presented by Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva is in compliance with the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and its Application Terms as well as with the Academic Staff Development Regulations of the University of Shumen. The set of documents consists of the following:

1. Application form to the Rector of the University of Shumen for entry into the selection process
2. Curriculum vitae in accordance with the EU format
3. Master degree certificate – 2 documents
4. Doctorate degree certificate
5. Reference sheet with the national requirements for the position of Associate Professor under article 2b, paragraph 2 and 3 of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria
6. Reference sheet with a list of citations
7. Statement of authorship

8. Statement of authenticity
9. Reference sheet on the authenticity of academic achievements
10. Reference sheet with the additional requirements under article 57a, paragraph 2 of the Application Terms of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria
11. Catalogue of professional publications
12. CD of the required set of documents and publications

II. Personal and professional data of the applicant

Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva was born in 1976.

In 1999, she graduated from the University of Economics in Varna with a bachelor degree in *Economics and Business Administration*.

In 2003, she completed a master degree in *Finances* at the Burgas Free University and in *Accounting and Controlling* at the University of Veliko Tarnovo.

In 2017, she defended her doctoral thesis in front of a jury at the *Angel Kanchev* University of Ruse, thus obtaining the academic title “Doctor” in the higher education field of 3. *Social, Economic and Legal Studies*, in the course of study 3.8. *Economics*, doctoral degree programme *Economics and Management*, on the topic “Research and evaluation of the tax and investment policy of municipalities as a manageable factor of the business environment for industrial companies.”

The candidate’s work experience begins in 2000 with the position of accountant for the municipality of Shumen. Her good performance grants her a promotion to head of accounting in 2003, and in 2006, head of the department “Unified Budget Accounting”.

On October 1, 2013, she begins her academic career at the University of Shumen as an assistant in the department of *Economics and Modelling*. After obtaining the academic title “Doctor of Economics”, she is promoted to assistant professor on January 2, 2018.

Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva has collaborated on several applied research projects: 2 international projects, 4 on a national level, and 9 on a university level.

The candidate has co-organised multiple events within the university and her department. She takes part in the optimisation of administrative documentation. She has served as a technical editor of scientific publications with contributions by degree students.

The above-listed experience brings forward the candidate’s qualities as a mentor and lecturer, academic assistant, professional, and administrator.

III. Scientific indices and fulfilment of the national requirements

Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva entered the position selection process with a postdoctoral thesis on the topic “Planning and management of in-house revenue of municipalities through budget simulators.”

A Reference sheet on the fulfilment of the national requirements for the position of Associate Professor under article 2b, paragraph 2 and 3 of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria in the higher education field of 3. *Social, Economic and Legal Studies* has been presented to the committee as part of the application process. The reference sheet includes the following:

1. **Dissertation** – a defended doctoral thesis for the acquisition of the academic title “Doctor” on the topic “Research and evaluation of the tax and investment policy of municipalities as a manageable factor of the business environment for industrial companies”
2. **Monographs and publications**
 - Postdoctoral thesis on the topic “Planning and management of in-house revenue of municipalities through budget simulators”
 - Publication of the doctoral thesis in book form: “Evaluation of the tax and investment policy of municipalities by use of a model for evaluating local business environment”
3. **Scientific articles and reports**
 - Article for a scientific publication referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases – in English, in co-authorship
 - The candidate presents 12 independent articles and reports published in unreferenced scientific magazines or in edited collective works, 4 of which have been presented at academic forums.
4. **Citations** – 11 citations of articles by Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva in unreferenced scientific publications

The candidate Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva has presented a *Reference sheet on the fulfilment of the additional requirements under article 57a, paragraph 2 of the Application Terms of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria*. The reference sheet includes the following:

- Reference sheet of degree courses lectured – 11 bachelor degree courses and 12 master degree courses
- Reference sheet on non-lecturing activities
- List of alumni successfully defended a thesis under the supervision of the candidate
- List of degree students under the candidate’s supervision during collaboration on a scientific research project

- Reference sheet indicating the candidate's collaboration in scientific publications as an editor
- Reference sheet on administrative and organisational work
- List of conducted scientific research projects
- Information on two tested out models: Model for planning and management of in-house revenue of municipalities through budget simulators; Model for research and evaluation of the tax and investment policy of municipalities

The reference sheets presented by Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva on the fulfilment of scientific indices are in compliance with the requirements.

The candidate fulfils all national requirements under article 2b, paragraph 2 and 3 of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and article 1a, paragraph 1 of the Application Terms of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria as well as all additional requirements in accordance with article 57a, paragraph 2 of the Application Terms of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria.

IV. Research work

Denitsa Zagorcheva-Koycheva defended her doctoral thesis in 2017, thus obtaining the title "Doctor of Economics".

Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva has presented to the selection committee a rich academic publication history including monographs, books, articles and reports. From her published works, adequate references to leading academics back home and abroad, firm positions as well as a clear style of argumentation, and a good understanding of area-specific terminology and are evident. Denitsa Zagorcheva-Koycheva displays broad knowledge in her field of work as well as competence in the analysis of empirical data from conducted research. Her experience grants her the necessary expertise in research development and publication. An objective analytical approach toward various scientific problems is characteristic of her publications (monographs, books, articles, reports).

She has taken part in two international, four national and nine university-level scientific and academic projects.

There is no indication of plagiarism in the works of the candidate. All quoted sources have been indicated in a proper manner.

V. Lecturing activity

Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva currently fulfils a mainly educational function. Her work consists of the development of educational programmes, which she then personally puts into practice in her role as a lecturer.

Her workload as a lecturer is significant and includes the supervision of lecturing courses, seminar exercises for bachelor (11 courses) and master degree courses (12 courses).

The accumulated lecturing and academic experience of the candidate is **sufficient ground for her promotion to “Associate Professor” at the University of Shumen** in the higher education field of *3. Social, Economic and Legal Studies*, in the course of study *3.8. Economics (Finance)*.

VI. Academic contributions

The scientific works presented by Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva can be attributed to applied theoretics.

I acknowledge the academic contributions listed in the scientific works the candidate has submitted for this selection process. Said achievements have been properly indexed and are founded on factual material from and findings of her scientific research projects.

Her academic contributions can be summarised in the following subject categories:

- ✓ Development and testing of a new model for planning and management of in-house revenue of municipalities through budget simulators
- ✓ Development of a toolset of simulators for analysing information and generating planning solutions
- ✓ Development of a methodological apparatus for the argumentation of budget planning decisions
- ✓ Development and testing of a methodology for testing the interdependence of the tax and investment policy of municipalities and their dependence on the level of advancement of the local industry
- ✓ Development and testing of an evaluation model for evaluating local business environment based on the research and analysis of municipal tax and investment policy

Denitsa Zagorcheva-Koycheva has been cited in 11 unreferenced scientific publications.

VII. Critical remarks and suggestions

I have no critical remarks towards Dr Denitsa Zagorcheva-Koycheva. For future reference, I would suggest that she set her aim at publishing her research activity in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the candidate exhibits significant experience in the work with degree students and workload as a lecturer, considerable academic research activity and published work, which are solid indicators that **Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva fulfils the requirements for the obtainment of the title “Associate Professor”**.

From the requirements table and the information at hand about the candidate's academic work, experience in applied research and lecturing, it is evident that Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva Koycheva fulfils the requirements in the scientific indices and all additional criteria – 415 points.

The submitted curriculum vitae and the analysis of her academic contributions are proof of the candidate's accumulated professional competence in the field of economics and finance.

On account of the aforementioned, I conclude that the sole candidate for the position of “Associate Professor” **Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva Koycheva fully fulfils the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Application Terms of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Academic Staff Development Regulations of the University of Shumen.**

The result of my analysis regarding the promotion of Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva Koycheva to “Associate Professor” is POSITIVE.

The candidate's scientific, research and academic achievements provide sufficient proof of her suitability for the position of “Associate Professor”. On account of that, I urge the Selection Committee to grant Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva Koycheva the position of “Associate Professor”, and **the Faculty Committee at the Faculty of Education of the University of Shumen to endorse this decision and to promote the candidate to “Associate Professor”** for the purposes of the department of *Social Work* within the *Faculty of Education* in the higher education field of 3. *Social, Economic and Legal Studies*, in the course of study 3.8 *Economics (Finance)*.

July 30, 2021
Shumen

Reviewer: 
Associate Prof. Dr Korneliya Todorova