

## STATEMENT

**From: Associate Prof. Dr Todorka Ignatova Kostadinova**, director of *International Relations, Quality and Accreditation* at the *Medical University – Varna*, professor in the course of study *3.7. Administration and Management* within the *Faculty of Public Health*, 55 Marin Drinov str., 9002 Varna, telephone number: +359/52 677 010, mobile number: +359/889 588 408, e-mail: kostadinova@mu-varna.bg,

**Member of the Selection Committee in accordance with order** No. ПД-16-100/31.05.2021 by the Rector of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen

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**About: Selection process for the academic position** of “Associate Professor” in the higher education field of *3. Social, Economic and Legal Studies*, course of study *3.8. Economics (Finance)* at the *Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen*, announced in the State Gazette, issue 27 of April 2, 2021 for the purposes of the department of *Social Work* at the *Faculty of Education*

One sole candidate has applied and been admitted to the selection process – Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva. All necessary documents in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, its Application Terms, the Academic Staff Development Regulations of the University of Shumen, and the terms of this selection process have been duly submitted.

### **I. Brief biography of the candidate**

Analysis of the candidate’s biographical data shows excellent theoretical foundations which fit the purposes of the selection process: bachelor degree in *Economics and Business Administration* at the University of Economics in Varna (1999); master degree in *Finance* at the Burgas Free University and in *Accounting and Controlling* at the University of Veliko Tarnovo (2003).

Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva brings a good balance of theoretical knowledge and practical experience to the table. Her work as a finance expert at the Shumen town council and her professional experience throughout the years lay the solid foundations of her future progress in scientific research, in the field of education and her development as an expert. Assistant Prof. Dr Zagorcheva has accumulated 8 years of experience as a lecturer and consequently as an academic assistant (2013) and assistant professor at the University of Shumen. She defends her doctoral

thesis 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,” thus acquiring the title “Doctor” in the course of study 3.8. *Economics*. Along with this, Prof. Dr Zagorcheva has served as deputy head of accounting of the *Department of Information, Qualification and Postgraduate Education – Varna* since 2018.

Her active collaboration on applied scientific research projects (2 on an international, 4 on a national, and 9 on a university level), in the organising of events within her department and the university, as a member of a jury and in the editing of scientific publications with contributions by degree students, as well as her work in the development and optimisation of administrative documentation demonstrate a high level of expertise and a wide range of skills and competencies, and deep knowledge of her field of study. The former are solid proof of her qualification and her meeting the high demands placed on lecturers and researchers in modern higher education as well as the satisfaction of the requirements for the position in question.

## **II. Characteristics of the academic and scientific research activity of the candidate**

The set of academic works which Prof. Dr Denitsa Zagorcheva-Koycheva has submitted with her application for the position at hand corresponds to the scientific field and the terms and conditions of this selection process.

She has submitted 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*, in which the fulfilment of the quantifiable criteria is recorded as follows:

**A) National requirements in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (article 2b) and its Application Terms (article 1a, paragraph 1) – fulfilled with a total of 415 (four hundred and fifteen) points** made up of the following:

- **Doctoral thesis (dissertation)** 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”
- **Post-doctoral thesis (habilitation)** – a monograph on the topic “Planning and management of in-house revenue of municipalities through budget simulators”
- Articles and reports published in unreferenced scientific journals, or such published in edited collective works. The candidate has submitted **12 published titles** – 3 in English, 9

in Bulgarian, all independent works. The candidate has submitted one English-language publication.

- Citations in 11 unreferenced scientific journals

**B) Fulfilment of the additional requirements in accordance with article 57a, paragraph 2 of the Application Terms of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria:**

- Reference sheet on the participation in scientific research projects
- Reference sheet of 11 bachelor and 12 master degree courses lectured with an attachment on non-lecturing university activities
- List of alumni successfully defended a thesis under the supervision of Assistant Prof. Dr Zagorcheva and degree students under her supervision during collaboration on a scientific research project
- Information on 2 tested out scientific models:
  - Model for planning and management of the in-house revenue of municipalities through budget simulators
  - Model for research and evaluation of the tax and investment policy of municipalities

I highly value the continuous professional development and in-depth research of Assistant Prof. Dr Zagorcheva in the fields of budget management, financing, tax and investment policy.

I believe that the candidate fulfils the quantifiable scientific criteria for the position of “Associate Professor”. The results of her model development are accessible to a large number of experts and researchers in the field at hand and beyond.

**III. General academic contributions in the field of theoretical and applied science and lecturing activity of the candidate**

Similar to her publications, the scientific contributions of Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Zagorcheva-Koycheva are founded in her field of education, study and research, and practical experience. The latter can be summarised as follows:

- Development and testing of a model for planning and management of in-house revenue through budget simulators
- Systemisation of a general set of methods used in budget management on a municipal level and the stages of their implementation
- Development and testing of a theoretical model for evaluating local business environment based on the research and analysis of municipal tax and investment policy

#### IV. Critical remarks and suggestions

I have no questions or critical remarks. With regard to her future scientific research work, I recommend that Assistant Prof. Dr Zagorcheva systemise and summarise the results of her research projects in a collective publication in English, while complementing them with an argumentation on the role of digitalisation in the field of finance and budget management. This would contribute to the identification and finding solutions to problems in healthcare at regional level through European practices and projects.

#### V. Conclusion

Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva has taken part in the selection process for the position of Associate Professor with a selection of scientific publications in the necessary amount and with the required structure. She has presented academic contributions related to the improvement of existing theories and methodology in the field of finance and budget management as well as analysis and results from interdisciplinary research work.

The academic career of the candidate and the achieved results in her work as a lecturer and in applied scientific research are sufficient ground for my **positive evaluation** and my **recommendation of Assistant Prof. Dr Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva for the position of “Associate Professor”**. I recommend that the Selection Committee propose the sole candidate for this position to the Faculty Committee at the Faculty of Education of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen and urge them to endorse the decision on her promotion to “Associate Professor” in the higher education field of 3. *Social, Economic and Legal Studies*, course of study 3.8. *Economics (Finance)*.

July 27, 2021  
Varna

Reviewer:



Associate Prof. Dr T. Kostadinova