

STATEMENT

on: competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.9. Tourism (Geography of Tourism, Regional Economics and Development) for the needs of the Department of Biology - Faculty of Natural Sciences at Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen, announced in State Gazette No. 49 of 06.06.2023.
with the only candidate Assist. Prof. Sevjan Fikri Sabrieva PhD

prepared by: **Prof. Vera Nikolova PhD**

The opinion was prepared on the basis of the order RD-16-101/28.08.2023 of the Rector of Shumen University, in accordance with Article 69, paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Art. 57 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Article 4, paragraph (5) and Article 25 and Article 26 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as according to the decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury on September, 20th, 2023.

The applicant's documentation for the competition is in full compliance with the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as with the Regulations of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen for the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor".

Biographical details of the applicant

Sevdjan Fikri Sabrieva holds a Master's degree in Geography and Biology from Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen. In 2018 she received her PhD in professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty National Economy (Regional Economics and Administration) - UNWE - Sofia. PhD.

Sevjan Sabrieva's professional career began in 2003 and is entirely related to the field of education. She has worked as a teacher of Geography and Biology in "Dimitar Minchev" Primary School in the village of Paskalevo. She was a teacher at the school of Prof. Dimitar Minchev, Paskalevo, Municipality of Dobrich. Since 2006 she has been a lecturer at Konstantin Preslavski

University of Shumen. She has successively held the positions of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant.

Her research interests are confirmed by the implementation of activities under the Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows Programmes - 2 in the period 2022 - 2023. She has participated twice in Erasmus+ trainings - in 2018 at the University of Gdansk. In 2018 and in 2022 at the University of Klaipeda in Lithuania. In 2018 and in 2022 in Nevsehir, Turkey.

Scientific and applied research and publications

The active research activity of the candidate started after 2007. The total number of publications submitted for the competition is 36, of which 10 are independent and 26 are co-authored; in 8 of them she is the first author. Declarations of co-authorship are attached. 33% (12 publications) are in English. One monograph (B.3.1.) and 35 studies, articles and reports, of which 1 in refereed and indexed journals (Г.6.1.) and 34 in non-refereed journals (Г.7.1. - Г.7.34.) are included in the competition for Associate Professor.

The scientific and research activities of Sevjan Sabrieva are in the following five directions:

- 1) Tourism Infrastructure and Superstructure, in which direction the monograph and 5 other publications (7.13, 7.14, 7.16, 7.17 and 7.18) are presented. The focus of the studies is to examine the tourism superstructure and infrastructure in the planning areas from the perspective and tourism policy of the country.
- 2) Specialized types of tourism. The publications in this field are again focused on the study of the regional and local level, with an analysis of the characteristics, problems and prospects for development (7.3., 7.10., 7.21., 7.23., 7.25., 7.32.).
- 3) Tourism resources. Both natural and anthropogenic tourist resources, their peculiarities and territorial specificities in the different tourist regions of Bulgaria have been studied (6.1., 7.5., 7.9., 7.15., 7.20.).
- 4) Territorial specificities in tourism development at national, regional and local level. A large part of the applicant's publications is included in this area (7.2., 7.7., 7.8., 7.9., 7.11., 7.15., 7.24.). It analyses the state and problems of tourism development in some of the country's planning regions.

- 5) Hospitality and catering. It is presented with two publications which again focus on the development and current issues of the hotel and restaurant industry in the planning areas (7.27., 7.28.).

The candidate includes a list of citations, which are only in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes (Д.12.). As required by the Individual Science Metrics criteria for the Associate Professor position of 50 points, the citations here add up to 70 points.

The project activity of Assist. Prof., PhD. Sabrieva's research activity includes participation in a total of 15 scientific research projects - 1 national and 14 intra-university. She was the head of one of the university projects - "Effective Educational Technologies", which is implemented in two parts (2022 and 2023). The projects' research has resulted in some of the publications submitted to the competition.

In the period from 2007 to 2023, the candidate took part in 31 scientific forums - conferences, congresses, round tables, 11 (35.5%) of which were international.

Sevjan Sabrieva is a member of BGD.

Teaching

Sevjan Sabrieva has extensive teaching experience, mainly at Shumen University, where she has been working for 17 years - from 2006 until today. In compliance with the Reference of Additional Indicators Applicable to the Relevant Field under Article 57, paragraph 2 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Annex 10), in this period she taught in 7 specialties of the University, mainly in seminar and practical classes. She lectured in several geographical disciplines. She developed curricula in Natural Resource Studies, Modern Tourism, Micro and Macro Economics, and Hospitality and Catering. She has also developed 16 digital courses in the university platform of the SHU for learning in electronic environment.

She is co-author of two published textbooks. She is a supervisor and reviewer of defended graduates in the specialty "Tourism", Bachelor's degree.

References

In spite of the merits of the candidate mentioned so far, my recommendation is to intensify her publication activities and participation in scientific forums abroad, moreover because of her versatile language skills and experience in tourism research at different territorial levels.

Conclusion

From the review of the presented documentation and the opinion made in the statement so far about the overall professional, scientific and research and teaching activities of the Chief Assist. Prof. Sevjan Sabrieva PhD, it can be confirmed that the only candidate in this competition for "Associate Professor", meets the requirements for this scientific position. The grounds for this are:

1. For the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for scientific area 3.9. Tourism (Geography of Tourism, Regional Economics and Development) 400 points are required, distributed in the different indicators. On the basis of Annex 5, it is confirmed that in all indicators the requirements are met and even exceeded. With the requirement of 400 points, the total number of points that Sevjan Sabrieva collected was 444,98.
2. The candidate has many years of teaching experience and actively works with students from several specialties of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen. She has developed independent study programs and lecture courses.
3. She is active in educational and research projects and participates in scientific forums mainly at national level. The presented publications and co-authorships confirm her teamwork skills.

On the basis of this, I declare and propose the scientific jury to award the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Assist. Prof. Sevjan Sabrieva PhD in scientific field 3.9. Tourism (Geography of Tourism, Regional Economics and Development).

October, 24th, 2023

Sofia

Signed

/Prof. Vera Nikolova PhD/