

Opinion

by Prof. Vanya Daneva, PhD, NBU

scientific direction 3.8. Economics, Department of Economics

member of the Scientific jury on the competition for academic position *Associate Professor* in Educational Field 5. Technical sciences, professional field 5.3 Communication and Computer Technology, announced in SG 54 / 16.06.2020 according to a decision of the AC of NBU

By Order of the Rector of NBU № 3-ПК- 260/ 21.07.2020 for approval of Scientific jury in a competition for academic position *Associate Professor*, issued pursuant to a decision of the AC № 11 /14.07.2020, I have been appointed member of the scientific jury on the competition procedure for academic position *Associate Professor* in professional field 5.3 Communication and Computer Technology. By force of Decision taken at the first meeting of the Jury of August 2020, it is my duty to prepare an opinion on the competition.

The form and contents of this Opinion are compliant with the requirements of the Act for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations on the application of the latter and with the Ordinance for the Development of the Academic Staff of NBU.

One candidate has applied for the competition and has submitted documents meeting the requirements of ADASRB and the Regulations on the application of the latter after the legal deadline, namely **Yosif Avramov Avramov, PhD** .

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of NBU for holding the academic position of *Associate Professor*

The submitted documentation meets the requirements of ADASRB and the Regulations for its application .

The submitted minimum score table under ADASRB evidences that **Assoc. Prof. Joseph Avramov Avramov, PhD** exceeds the required minimum (he scores 470 points with a required minimum of 400p). Groups of indicators from A to F have been taken into account here , as Group of indicators G to I are not required for the current competition, although information on some of them has been provided .

Upon completion of his doctoral studies and defense of dissertation on *Problems of budget control in the Republic of Bulgaria* the candidate has acquired Doctorate educational and scientific degree awarded by the Higher Attestation Commission, Diploma No 25445 / 08.01.1999.

Based on the above, it can be confirmed that Yosif Avramov meets the requirements of Art. 24, para 1, item 1 of ZRASRB and art. 53, para.1, item 1 of ADASRB for holding the academic position Associate Professor.

The academic career of Dr. Avramov in NBU includes : Associate professor in the period from 2006 to 2010 at the Department of Economics and Business Administration; part-time lecturer for the 2018/2019 academic year at the Department of Economics; Lecturer in spring semester of academic year 2019/2020 with the Department of Telecommunications.

The list of the works for the contest incorporates 20 titles which can be divided into the following scientific categories:

- habilitation monograph work ;
- published monographs, not submitted as a main habilitation work - 2 pcs;
- scientific publications in unrefereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes - 10 pcs:
- published chapter of a book or collective monograph - 1 pcs.

All *submitted peer-reviewed* scientific papers are independent publications in Bulgarian.

II. Research activity and results

The candidate's publications, peer or non peer-reviewed, outline his scientific interests, some of which are at the intersections of various scientific and practical fields. More specifically, a significant part of the research is on: banking control; reform of direct and indirect taxes; Bulgaria's accession to the EU - economic aspects including the use of EU funds for Bulgaria /utilization and control of funds/ and social aspects; financial engineering; electronic platforms for stock market trade of securities and innovative products ; fintech companies and blockchain technology .

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including evaluation of the scientific and applied science contribution of the author .

The candidate's habilitation thesis is entitled *Banking Control* (2002) and is 796 pages in volume. The title of the monograph presupposes a thorough study of the problem in theoretical , methodological and practical aspects.

The scientific- methodological and scientific- applied achievements of the candidate in the monographic research , some of which were topical at the time of writing the monographic work, are aimed at enriching existing knowledge and its practical application and can be summarized as

follows:

- Based on the theoretical and methodological assumption that the banking supervision and internal bank controls are two interrelated parts of banking supervision, an overview of banking supervision at home and abroad has been made, the latter including Germany France, USA, Russia, UK and the Netherlands. The evolution of international standards for bank risk management is typically reviewed in the context of the signed agreements of the Basel Committee, among which the monograph outlines the characteristics of Basel I , the first agreement of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision regulating the minimum requirements for capital adequacy of banks and other depository institutions , and some of the principles of the so-called BASEL II , which were current at the time of writing the monograph /BASEL II was approved in 2004 by the governors of the central banks and supervisory authorities of the G-10 countries, whereas in Bulgaria this capital framework came into force on 01.07.2007.
- The author demonstrates comprehensive knowledge on the activity of the International institutions with regard to banking supervision including those of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision/historically and in specific terms/, as well as the regulations of banking control.
- Special attention is paid to the objects and subjects of banking supervision and internal control in banks. Some trends in banking control are also reviewed, incl. its influence on the lending process and bank insolvency, as well as the possibilities for implementation of some control methods and forms of bank control through specialized financial software.

The qualitative aspects on the content part of the monograph are indicative of the applicant's complex knowledge on the legal basis and other types of regulations in force at the time of writing the monograph.

2. Evaluation of the contributions in the presented publications outside the habilitation work

A careful look at the publications of the candidate outside the habilitation work presented for review, as well as at those not presented for participation in the present competition, clearly outlines the expansion of Dr. Avramov's scientific and applied interests in the direction of topical problems in the practice of modern economy, which justifies the definition of his research as interdisciplinary. The contribution of these publications is largely focused on the application of information and communication technologies and systems for solving practical business problems in the field of finance and achieving economic effect. They can be grouped in several **research areas** :

First, problem areas resulting from Bulgaria's accession to the EU and e-government.

In a detailed review of the practice in the utilization of funds under European programs, Dr. Avramov finds inefficiency or shortage of efficiency and consequently makes suggestions to overcome the problem. The analysis of existing operational programs shows unfavorable opportunities for small and medium enterprises. With regard to the importance of e-government for the rational and efficient management of EU projects an inventory and information system for management and monitoring of structural instruments of the EU in Bulgaria (MIS) has been described. The role of small and medium-sized enterprises in the process of digital technologies entering the economy and its digitalization is emphasized.

The idea of the indisputable advantages of the introduction of the euro in economic and institutional perspective (public administration, banking and non-banking financial institutions) has been laid out; some disadvantages have been described as well. The security mechanisms of the euro banknotes undertaken by the European Central Bank are the subject of thorough analysis.

The need of concurrence in conducting tax reform and raising the performance of the electronic system in tax and customs administration has been justified, together with a number of concrete proposals to improve the tax system in Bulgaria.

Second, defined is the functional specification for E-platform Innovation Exchange that creates the necessary preconditions for effective communication among the various parties in the innovation process: the ones offering new products and technologies, the ones seeking innovative developments and the funding ones.

Third, some applied problems of corporate management are considered, namely practical aspects of financial engineering in public-private projects and in small and medium enterprises, incl. start-up companies.

3. Citation of the candidate by other authors

To participate in the competition, Dr. Avramov has chosen to present citations by Bulgarian and foreign authors on 9 of his publications. There are a total of 17 citations divided as follows, according to the type of work: in referenced and indexed world databases - 2; nerefirani in journals and scientific retsenzirane- 15. All citations are in specialized scientific literature made by Bulgarian scientists.

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the obtained results in practice.

Three applied research projects have been developed or are currently being developed under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Yosif Avramov, PhD.

III. Teaching activities

The report on the results of student satisfaction polls on the level of teaching shows an average score for the candidate of 4.57 /out of maximum score 5.00/.

IV. Administrative and public activities

Yosif Avramov, PhD is a member of the Board of BCCI since June 2009, co-chairman of the Council for Innovation to BCCI and since 11.05.2011 he has been member of the section "Economy" of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria .

Assoc. Prof. Avramov participates in updating the bachelor's and master's programs at the Department of Telecommunications in the area of innovation and entrepreneurship.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Dr. Avramov for a long time, but I have never worked directly with him. My personal my impressions are that he is an initiative workwise and focused on the applicability of scientific knowledge .

VI . Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

I would recommend that Dr. Avramov should target publications that are more oriented towards fundamental problems, whereas the accumulated practical and applied experience could be presented at renowned international forums .

Conclusion

The overall research, teaching activities, scientific and applied science contributions and the response they have found in the scientific literature gives me every reason to believe that Assoc. Prof. Avramov, PhD meets the requirements of Art. 24 and Art. 27 of ADASRB and Art. 53 and Art. 57a of the Regulations for the Application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as of the Ordinance for development of the academic staff of the New Bulgarian University required for academic position *Associate Professor*.

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Opinion authored by:


/ Prof. Ivanka Daneva, PhD /