

REVIEW

from prof. Eugenia Assenova Stoimenova, IMI-BAS

Professional direction 4.5 Математика (Speciality: Probability theory and mathematical statistics)

for competition of academic position of 'Associate Professor' for the needs of NBU in Professional direction 3.7. Administration and management (management and regulation in the energy sector), announced in SG No. 22/18.03.2022 г.,

with candidate **ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Victor Stanislavov Avramov**

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

For participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov presented documents that comply with the requirements of the Law Act for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant specific requirements of the NBU for this position. From the presented evidence it is clear that Dr. Victor Avramov has met the minimum national requirements for scientific, teaching and / or artistic or sports activities in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field: 3.7 Administration and management (Management and Regulation in the Energy Sector), defined by the The Statutes for application of LADAS, as well as the requirements of the Ordinance on Academic Staff Development of NBU (NRAS) and Annex 2. Minimum National and NBU Requirements, which must be met by candidates for obtaining a scientific degree and for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

The table shows the exact number of points according to the minimum requirements of ZRASRB and NRAS of NBU and the respective performance of the candidate.

Group of indicators		minimum requirements	Victor Avramov performance
A	Indicator 1	50	50
Б	Indicator 2	0	0
В	Indicator 3	100	100
Г	Sum of 4 до 10	200	293,3
Д	Сума от indicators 11 to 13	50	105
Е	Сума от indicators 14 to 21	0	0
Ж	Сума от indicators 22 to the end (mandatory for the NBU)	50	85
З		70	80
И		50	105

It can be seen that the points on all indicators exceed the minimum number of points, and on some groups of indicators they significantly exceed them.

Victor Avramov graduated in Public Administration (Bachelor and Master) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and has obtained an educational and scientific degree of Doctor of Political Science from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2012 with a defense dissertation on the topic: "**The process of developing the European Union's energy policy: actors, communication and interaction**". A book based on the dissertation with a volume of 204 pages has been published.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov has been a lecturer at NBU since 2012, holding the academic position of "Assistant" since November 2012, and "Chief Assistant" since July 2014. Pursuant to Art. 64, para. 3 of the NRAS of the NBU, on November 17, 2020, ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Victor Stanislavov Avramov on November 5, 2021 presented to the academic community of NBU his habilitation thesis on "**Liberalized electricity market: competition, consumption and market structure.**"

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov is the director of the research laboratory "Quantitative Methods". He was a chief expert at the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission and an expert at the Center for Risk Analysis and Management.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, creative performances or other publications, corresponding in volume and integrity of the monographic work, including evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author.

The monograph "**Liberalized Electricity Market: Competition, Consumption and Market Structure**" is an in-depth study of the electricity market in Bulgaria in the context of European market liberalization policy. The topic is modern and up-to-date and has been consistently and logically developed, in view of the growing importance of the management of electricity generation and consumption in Bulgaria and the EU. The monograph is 180 pages long, more than 90 sources are used, contains more than 50 figures and more than 50 tables. The content includes an introduction, five chapters of an exposition on the main theses of the research, a conclusion, a bibliography - logically structured and methodologically sound. Each chapter ends with correctly and clearly defined conclusions. It is clear from the exposition of the text that the author is a specialist with serious experience and substantial knowledge in the field of research.

Chapter One examines the economic specifics of increasing the possibility of using market power in the electricity markets. The lack of price elasticity, which is an essential feature of these markets, is noted, which means that any producer participating in the market

can exercise market power. The main result of this chapter is the argumentation of the central role of the variations of the demand in different intervals and of the market structure in the analyzes of the liberalized electricity markets. Chapter Two examines the policies for the liberalization of the electricity market in the European Union. The effects of the market structure policy on the EU and Bulgarian markets were assessed using the important documents of the European Commission in the field of electricity generation and consumption. Conclusions are made for the future development of the markets. The third chapter contains a critical analysis of the liberalization of the electricity market in Bulgaria. The policies of the last 20 years are reviewed, using all relevant documents for this period. The conclusions are well-founded and would be useful in developing future policies in this direction. In the fourth chapter analyzes of the development trends of three components of the electricity market are made - the monthly domestic consumption, the electricity load and the stock market. The analyzes were made using mathematical models developed by the author. Chapter Five presents mathematical models of market competition and market structure. The models are well justified with the necessary assumptions and are the work of the author. This is essential for formulating sound conclusions. The monograph concludes with a detailed summary of the conclusions of the analyzes presented in the five chapters.

In conclusion, I will note that the monograph is written in accurate and accessible language for both specialists in the field and for specialists in related fields. To understand the results and conclusions, it is not necessary for the reader to delve into mathematical models. At the same time, these models are extremely useful for researchers working in the field of mathematical modeling in economics.

2. Evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications (creative performances) made after the appointment of the academic position "Chief Assistant. It also includes an assessment of the peer review requirement.

Dr. Avramov's main research interests are in the field of industrial organization, analysis of energy markets and the process of their liberalization. He has presented 23 articles and reports in scientific journals or edited collective volumes, of which 21 are independent and two co-authored.

The main scientific results are related to analysis and modeling in the energy sector (17 publications). These publications address issues related to the identification and analysis of risks to the electricity, fuel or natural gas markets. Measures are proposed to manage these identified risks using validated or established methodologies. The political decisions on the liberalization of the non-energy sector, the major energy projects, the renewable energy crisis and the problem of the independence of the energy regulator are analyzed. Two of the important topics in the monograph are also analyzed: the analysis of time series of prices

and quantities of stock exchange trading and modeling of competition on the stock exchange electricity markets.

Other publications are related to various management issues, including the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, alternative methods for assessing the type of behavior of employees, the role of outsourcing to improve the quality of public services, the role of incentives arising from a policy for accelerating technological change. The use of quantitative models is significantly represented in the attached publications. What motivates their implementation is always related to solving specific management problems. Models can be useful for researchers working in the field of mathematical modeling in economics.

All presented scientific materials (monograph, book and scientific articles) are in full accordance with the announced topic of the competition. Viktor Avramov has indisputable significant scientific results and, which is no less valuable, the indisputable applicability of his research for managerial decision-making in the field of energy sector and other fields.

3. Citation from other authors.

The presented list of 14 citations is in accordance with the minimum requirements of ZRASRB and NRAS of NBU.

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

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov is a project manager for consulting services with the client "MARKET LINKS" Ltd. and contractor UPIZ - Laboratory "Quantitative Methods and Modeling". The autobiography shows that Viktor Avramov has experience as a local assistant / analyst in the European Parliament, where he has participated in policy analysis, consulting, forecasting and more. As an expert, Dr. Avramov has participated in the development of economic expert analyzes and assessments for various governmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations. Here I will mention a project of the Center for Risk Analysis and Management at NBU, for which I have direct impressions, and in which Victor Avramov had a leading role. The results are analyzes of many models for forecasting electricity consumption. Victor Avramov presented these and other results of research projects to various expert councils for decision-making in the field of energy policy.

Participation in applications and dissemination of scientific results in practice is an important activity for every scientist and undoubtedly Victor has achieved significant public recognition in it.

III. Teaching and learning activities

The candidate Victor Avramov is a senior assistant in the Department of Administration and Management at NBU. His main commitments include: teaching, assessing, developing course content in Moodle; promoting curricula in and out of candidate - student campaigns. Basic courses include: Organization Theory, Industrial Organization, Principles of Management, Change Management, Design of Management Systems, The Art of Negotiation and others.

Evidence of new courses is attached to 8 programs (one of the courses is in a foreign language). Evidence of 3 author's materials in electronic form in the Moodle system is attached.

Victor Avramov is the initiator and participant in the creation of BP "Business Management and Entrepreneurship" - full-time and distance learning; initiator of the creation of the master's program "Sustainable Management and Development of the Energy Sector"; Initiator of the creation of the master's program "Business Development in Network Industries: Energy, Telecommunications, Transport".

In addition to teaching courses in curricula, Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov has so far provided scientific guidance to 54 students, he has written 105. reviews, has participated in 227 evaluation commissions. He has provided internships for students at Corporate Advisors Ltd.

The students' assessments of the teaching activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov is 4.61 out of a maximum of 5. This is an excellent indirect attestation of the teacher's teaching skills and responsibilities.

IV. Administrative and public activities.

1. Participation in collective governing bodies of NBU.

Dr. Victor Avramov is involved in several management activities at NBU. As the head of the Training and Practical Research Unit "Quantitative Methods and Modeling" (from October 2019 - until now) Dr. Avramov leads and participates directly in activities including: identification, analysis and risk management; analysis of macroeconomic processes; analysis of markets and market structures; optimization of business processes; creation of auxiliary tools for company management.

As a participant in the Program Council of the Department of Administration and Management (January 2019 - present) Dr. Avramov is engaged in the following activities: coordination and participation in the accreditation procedures of the curricula of the Department of Administration and Management; supporting the learning process; ensuring the quality of curricula, including adapting and modifying existing and creating new ones; coordinating and controlling the activities of program consultants (it consists mainly of

advising students on administrative and academic issues, creating individual curricula and supporting their orientation).

Other participations in governing bodies are:

- Member of the Accreditation Committee at the Bachelor's Faculty (October 2017 - April 2021)
- Program Consultant, Business Administration / Administration and Management Department (November 2012 - April 2018).
- Director of the Program Council, Administration and Management Department (February 2018 - present)

2. Public activity.

Victor Avramov actively participates in organizing and conducting scientific events, workshops, scientific seminars. He was a member and organizing committee of the Jubilee Practical Conference at NBU. He is active in public life, mainly in the field of energy policy. Evidence for two public lectures is attached. There is also evidence of a number of media appearances on energy policy topics.

All the evidence presented by the candidate confirms my personal impressions that Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov has a serious managerial, organizational and public activities, which contributes to the positive performance of the NBU in society.

Conclusion

The analysis of the submitted materials in the competition shows that Dr. Victor Avramov is a highly qualified researcher who has significant contributions in the field of management and regulation in the energy sector. I believe that the set of criteria and indicators for the acquisition of the title "Associate Professor" is satisfied in accordance with the LADAS.

I propose the Scientific Jury to vote in positive and recommend to the academic bodies of the NBU to award Dr. Victor Avramov the scientific title "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.7 Administration and management (management and regulation in the energy sector).

22.06.2020.

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