

Opinion

By Assoc. prof. Nadia Ivanova Marinova, Ph.D. NBU, Department of Administration and Management, P. 3.7 "Administration and Management",

Subject: Competition for Associate Professor position in Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management (Management and Regulation in the Energy Sector), announced in SG No. 22/18.03.2022, with candidate Dr. Viktor Stanislavov Avramov

Grounds for presenting the opinion: participation in the composition of the Scientific Jury of the competition according to Order № 3-PK-240 / 18.05.2022 of the Rector of NBU and decisions from the first meeting of the Scientific Jury of 26.05.2022.

The opinion was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementing Regulations (PPPRABR) and the Ordinance on the Development of Academic Staff in the National Academy of Students. Structurally, the opinion consists of VI parts and a conclusion according to a model for the preparation of an opinion on the holding of an academic position "Associate Professor" at the New Bulgarian University.

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

In the announced competition participates one candidate – Ass. Prof. Viktor Stanislavov Avramov, Ph.D. The documentation submitted under the competition meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Art. 2b) and its Implementing Regulations (Art. 1a, para.1), and the Ordinance on development of academic staff in the National Academy of Staff (Appendix 2, Edition 21/29.11.2021 in force from 23.12.2021).

From the information provided by the applicant, the self-assessment report shows that it meets the necessary minimum requirements for scientific, teaching and research activities for the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in accordance with the law, as follows:

- Group A (min. required 50 points) - materials for 50 points are presented;
- Group B (min. required 100 points) - a monograph corresponding to 100 points is presented;
- Group D (min. required 200 points) – materials are presented for a total of 293.3 points;
- Group D (min. required 50 t.) – a total of 105 points;
- Group E – not required for associate professor;
- Group G (min. required 50 t.) – a total of 85 points;
- Group H (min. required t 70 t.) – a total of 80 points;
- Group I (min. required 50 t.) – a total of 105 points.

The total number of points of the *applicant (818,3 p)* on the evaluation indicators exceeds the required minimum (570 p.).

II. Research activities and results

Dr. Viktor Avramov participates in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.7. Administration and management (management and regulation in the energy sector) in the National Academy of Education with:

- a monograph (habilitation work);
- a book published on the basis of a doctoral dissertation;
- 23 articles and reports, of which 21 are without coauthors in publications with scientific review and are different from those submitted for the acquisition of the doctoral research degree.

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

The competition's monograph is entitled "The Liberalized Electricity Market: Competition, Consumption and Market Structure." In it, the research focus is on the development of European and Bulgarian policy in the field of electricity markets, and on two specific issues: the cyclical variation of consumption at different time intervals and the market structure of one particular market.

The monograph was published in 2021 in the publishing house of the NBU, structurally there are five chapters, volume of 223 pp., almost 100 literary sources are quoted.

The following scientific results can be highlighted:

- analysis of the evolution of the European policy of liberalization of electricity markets and critical analysis of Bulgarian strategies and policies in the sector. This has been done with a focus on the results of these processes at EU and Bulgaria level, and for this purpose a comparison has been made with the US (for the EU) and the EU (for Bulgaria) respectively, in order to highlight on this basis the extent to which these policies are successful;
- research and forecasting of electricity demand, which reveals its characteristics and cyclical nature, and analysis and forecasting of electricity stock market prices, which also shows their specific characteristics of their dynamics;
- an analysis of the market structure, which includes a simulation model using cost estimates of a group of electricity producers. These estimates are made using real data from the accounts of companies – major electricity producers in Bulgaria;
- an assessment of the results achieved in the context of market specificities and the need for electricity markets to be regulated, which is due to their specific economic characteristics.

The monograph of Dr. Viktor Avramov is dedicated to an up-to-date topic and has a practical focus, especially in the field of regulation and analysis of electricity markets.

2. Evaluation of contributions to other attached publications (creative performances) made after the appointment of the academic position "Assistant Professor" or the academic position "Associate Professor" (in the case of candidates for professor).

Publications outside the habilitation work include a book published based on dissertation and a total of 23 articles and reports published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. All publications are in connection with the field of the announced competition – 3.7. Administration and management (**management and regulation in the energy sector**).

The following research focuses can be highlighted in them:

- analysis of market structure, regulation and management risks in the energy sector;
- research on the role of education, institutions and innovation in the effectiveness of business organisations and those in the public sphere;

- application of quantitative methods for simulating and analysing market structure and competition in the energy sector.

The submitted publications and the expert activity of the applicant are also evaluated in practice and do not repeat the publications for the acquisition of the doctoral research degree and academic position "Chief Assistant Professor".

3. Citation by other authors.

Publications containing the required number of citations are provided in paper form and an electronically scanned copy. They establish 14 references to publications by the applicant. Three of the publications are also quoted in referenced and indexed in world-famous databases scientific publications. The applicant is eligible.

My overall assessment of the research of Viktor Avramov, Ph.D., is positive.

III. Academic and teaching activities

The candidate for the competition has been part of the teaching staff at the NBU for nearly 10 years. As chief assistant professor and director of the programming board in the Department of Administration and Management, Dr. Viktor Avramov participated in the creation of successfully launched new undergraduate and master's programs, among which is the largest program in the Department: Business Management and Entrepreneurship, regular form and distance learning form.

In the educational platform Moodle of the NBU, Dr. Viktor Avramov has published his own teaching materials on basic courses in the curricula, and also he teaches in courses in a foreign language.

For the analyzed period, it is clear from the submitted documentation that Dr. Viktor Avramov was the scientific advisor of 54 students, had 105 reviews and participated in 227 examination boards. For the last 5 years his students assessment score from is 4.61 out of a maximum of 5.

In his teaching activities, Dr. Viktor Avramov is involved in providing practical training to students, has given public lectures, participated in the training programs of the teaching and administrative staff of the NBU.

Based on the above, I evaluate the teaching and learning activities of Dr. Viktor Avramov high and I believe that he is fully prepared for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management.

IV. Administrative and public activity

Dr. Viktor Avramov has been a program consultant since 2012, i.e. from his employment at the NBU and is Director of the Programming Board of the Department of Administration and Management since 2019, as well as Director of the Laboratory of Quantitative Methods and Modeling. He is among the main actors in the student candidate campaigns for the Department's programs. He participates regularly in meetings of the department and the program board, he observes his consultation time as a lecturer and conducts his classes regularly. He has made a number of appearances in the media as an energy expert on behalf of the NBU.

The above gives reason for the conclusion that Dr. Viktor Avramov, contributes to the development and improvement of the learning process in various undergraduate and master's programs in the NBU.

V. Personal impressions of the applicant (if any)

My personal impressions of Viktor Avramov are that he is highly responsible, creative, precise and proactive in his work. In his teaching activity he widely uses interactive teaching aids, and in his research - the system-integrated approach. He enjoys undisputed authority among his colleagues and a good reputation among students, maintains intensive contacts with business experts.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the applicant's activities and achievements

My general impression of the qualities of the monographic work, the publications provided for evaluation, the citations on the one hand and the teaching and research activities of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Viktor Avramov on the other hand like a colleague, give me reason to conclude that the candidate has:

- ✓ very in-depth theoretical knowledge on the subject;
- ✓ demonstrates remarkable ability to conduct independent research research;
- ✓ possesses significant collegial and human qualities.

All this positive set allow him to take into account and interpret in an adequate way the obtained scientific data, to formulate the relevant scientific conclusions that will enable him to develop and acquire the necessary and sufficient qualities and skills for academic growth.

The following recommendations can be made to his future scientific and teaching activity:

- ✓ Continue to combine research and teaching.

Conclusion

The candidate in the competition, Dr. Viktor Avramov, meets the requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor", according to the law, its Implementing Regulations, as well as the Ordinance on the Development of Academic Staff in the NBU.

Therefore I ask the members of the Scientific Jury for the candidate in the competition, Dr. Viktor Stanislavov Avramov, to be elected to the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.7 Administration and management in the National University of Energy (management and regulation in the energy sector).

Date 22.06.2022

Signature