

Evaluation

By **Prof. Kristian Bankov**, PhD, NBU, 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences,

on scientific publication for participation in a contest for the occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (Management of Education and Culture), announced in State Gazette No. 83 / 22.10.2019, with candidate Chief Assist. Dr. Elena Atanasova Blagoeva

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

The evidence presented shows full compliance with the national requirements and the requirements of the NBU, with points on all indicators exceeding the minimum. Elena Blagoeva has a PhD with a decision of Supreme Attestation Commission (BAK) from 2009-05.08.33 "Theory and History of Culture". Since 2007, she is a PhD of NBU.

A monography „Internationalization of Higher Education in Europe. Development and Management of Internationalization processes in Europe as an Element of HE Management” is presented, approved by the Publishing Council of NBU and issued by NBU with reviewers Prof. Dr. A. Todorov-NBU, Assoc. Prof. Dr. R. Nikolova-NBU, Assoc. Prof. Dr. C. Alexandrova – UNWE.

By Indicators group Г – additional scientific publications, the sum of points is 265 in requirement 200; By Indicators group Д - citations in monographs and scientific peer-reviewed collective volumes and in non-referenced journals with scientific review, the sum of points is 70 under requirement 50. The Indicators group E is not required in a contest for an academic position Associate professor, but only for a Professor, nevertheless the candidate has submitted her activity through the evidences that correspond to 190 points. Under Indicators group Ж, evidences of 140 points are presented under requirement for 50 ; In the case of a Indicators group З evidences of 90 points are provided under requirement for 70; By Indicators group И evidences of 90 points are presented under requirement for 50.

II. Research Activities and Results

1. Evaluation of monographic work, creative appearances or other publications, corresponding in volume and wholeness of monographic work, including evaluation of the author's scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

Dr. Blagoeva has presented a habilitation work on „*Internationalization of Higher Education in Europe. Development and Management of Internationalization processes in Europe as an Element of HE Management*”, Sofia: Nbu, 2013, 160 p. She has applied a systematic approach which gives an accurate picture of the functioning of the modern university and the inherent need for internationalisation in the European academic space. The combination of the solid theoretical framework and the original proposals for possible internationalisation strategies of the university represent the essential part of the manuscript and meet the requirements for the academic position in question.

2. Evaluation of contributions in the other publications (creative performances) made after the appointment of the academic position "Ch. Assistant ".

The candidate has provided for the purposes of the contest a second monography as well, published in 2017 - *The European dimension in education and culture – policies and governance*. Sofia: Vanguard, 253 p.; two

articles in prestigious scientific journals, indexed in Web of Science (Emerging Sources Citation Index), as well as 13 other articles.

The monography develops a thematic field close to the habilitation work, but expands the context of the study towards the management of Culture in the European space and its intrinsic relationship with education. This study can also be used as a textbook, given the systematic exposition and the critical apparatus. It solidified the feeling of a solid professional experience of the author.

Published articles in prestigious referable editions reflect the same research interests and complement the content of the monographs. Under this criteria, as already noted, the candidate has correctly reflected the total amount of indicators from 265 p. under a requirement for 200.

3. Citation by other authors.

The self-assessment referred to six citations in monographs and scientific peer-reviewed volumes and 2 citations or reviews in non-referenced journals with scientific review, which are also correctly identified in the self-evaluation, again exceeding the requirements of NBU.

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

This indicator is not required in contests for Associate professor. The candidate participates mainly in the management of mostly international projects – 7 projects have been presented only in the last 5 years, which have attracted considerable resources. The most significant are the projects funded by the European Union under the Jean Monnet programmes and the 7 framework Programme for research. Under the Jean Monnet programme, the author has developed a certified course, textbook and open seminars for students and professionals on the topic "EU policy in education and culture". The course was introduced in two master's programs of NBU and the textbook is used for other courses of the candidate (EU policies in the field of education and culture, Sofia: NBU, 2012-207 p., ISBN: 978-954-535-716-9). The total of the points on this item is 190.

III. Teaching Activities

1. Lecture and training workload, use of the Electronic training module "MOODLE – NBU", providing student practices and internships, working with students and doctoral candidates.

Dr. Blagoeva is among the most active lecturers at NBU. She has developed over 20 courses for 5 undergraduate, 3 Masters, 1 PhD and 1 Miner programs. She has been an expert in the elaboration of joint programs and programs with a dual diploma, participated in the development of training schemes for 3 international joint Masters, etc. Her teaching activity exceeds the minimum requirements for the teaching category to which it belongs.

On the other main indicator for teaching activity – working with the Moodle – the implementation of the requirements for publications of teaching materials in the Electronic training module "Moodle NBU" (according to the Employment Ordinance of the Regular Teachers at NBU) during the period of the attestation exceeds 100%.

The candidate was an academic mentor of the internships of 21 students in the framework of the Student Practices project. She has worked directly with students in two projects-"Happy students of public administration" and "The Trace". Also, the candidate has numerous participations in state exam commissions, guidance and reviews of successfully defended graduates. Highly rated by students: 4,58/ out of 5

IV. Administrative and Public activities

1. Participation in collective bodies of NBU management.

The candidate in the contest has actively participated in various collective bodies of NBU. At various times she has been director of Program Council, Program director in the Department of Public Administration, rapporteur and member of the Commission for recognition of degrees abroad, member of

the Committee on Scholarships by HESP, member of the Commission for Erasmus Mobility, member of the Strategic Development Committee

2. Public activity

As director of the International Relations Office and expert the candidate has repeatedly been trainer in the Center for Training resources for training of teachers and students on European tendencies for development in the field of culture and higher education – "The European Higher Education Area – academic recognition of grades, periods of training and professional qualifications acquired abroad. The situation in Bulgaria "; "The cultural policy of the EU and the Bulgarian cultural sector – how to take advantage"; "The European Education Area – the internationalisation of higher education in Europe"; Opportunities under the teaching and student mobility programmes, the youth programme, the Grundtvig, etc.

In addition to educational and research activities, Dr. Blagoeva actively maintains his expertise as a professional consultant to various organizations – she has worked as an evaluation expert in the European Commission for the Erasmus-Mundus programme; as a consultant of MLSP and MRDPW for project management under PHARE Program etc. ; she managed or coordinated INTERNATIONAL projects of NBU and was an Institutional coordinator of the Erasmus programme.

V. Personal Impressions (if any)

I know Dr. Elena Atanasova Blagoeva for more than 20 years. We have participated in numerous seminars, workshops and other endeavors related to the international activities of NBU. The candidate has always distinguished himself with a high level of expertise, with clear ideas about the necessary actions for the implementation of the university's international policies and good theoretical training. She is an experienced lecturer and demonstrates good communication skills in all academic and administrative activities.

VI. Opinions, Recommendations and Notes regarding the activities and achievements of the candidate

I don't have ones.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is clear that the candidate satisfies the requirements for the holding of an academic position "Associate Professor" according to the Bulgarian Academic Staff Development Law, the Rules for its application, as well as the requirements of NBU set out in annex 2 of the University Ordinance for Academic Staff Development.

Without hesitation I propose the candidate Chief Assist. Dr. Elena Atanasova Blagoeva to be elected to the post of Associate Professor in the professional area 3.7 Administration and Management (Management in Education and Culture) at NBU.

Date 03.03.2020 G.

Signature.