

## OPINION

By: Assoc. Prof. Eduard Vasilev Marinov, Ph.D., Department of Economics, New Bulgarian University, professional field "3.8. Economics"

on: scientific papers for participation in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in field of higher education "3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field "3.8. Economics(Finance, Taxes and Taxation)", announced in State Gazette 5/16.01.2024, with candidate Senior Assit. Prof. Emil Serafimov Kalchev, Ph.D.

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

The submitted evidentiary materials show compliance with the national minimum requirements and the NBU requirements for indicators A and B, and for the groups of indicators D they are over 30% more, while for the indicators mandatory for NBU, Emil Serafimov Kalchev collected 225 at the minimum 170, which is over 30% above the minimum requirements. The review of the evidence provided by the candidate convinces me that all the quantitative requirements of the ZRASRB and the New Bulgarian University for the academic position of Associate Professor have been met.

### **II. Research activity and results**

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author.

The presented monographic work - "Constructive Design of Taxes in the Economic Tradition" (2023) fully meets the requirements for a habilitation thesis in terms of volume and content, as well as topicality, scientific and applied contributions. The work is structured in a balanced way. Dr. Kalchev shows thoroughness in the study of the evolution, analysis and economic construction of the tax burden, tax theories and taxation of taxation in historical and contemporary perspective. The author demonstrates scientific maturity and ambition in the implementation of a complex economic-historical study, which allows to formulate important scientific results, ending with recommendations for the constructive design of taxes with a high degree of generalizability and applicability. The work is a unique for Bulgaria, and in the international context, comparative study of the emergence and evolution of taxes and their functions, as well as their effectiveness in terms of both economic efficiency and social justice with a thorough analysis and application of an integrated scientific approach. Accepting the author's contributions, the following can be highlighted as the main theoretical and practical-applied achievements of Dr. Kalchev's research:

*Firstly*, in terms of creating new knowledge, through in-depth interdisciplinary research and the multistep application of the analytical method, own and innovatively borrowed foreign definitions of basic concepts in the field of public sector economics of public finance - "tax" and "taxation" - have been derived, the concept of "levy", summarizing taxes and quasi-taxes, has been reasonably introduced and defined. A



comprehensive original scientific assessment of the flat tax is made, on the basis of which the study of taxes is argued through the prism of the "efficiency-equity" dichotomy, which is the basis for the author's other contributions commented in the following paragraphs.

*Second*, from the point of view of systematizing and enriching scientific knowledge, existing views and formulations of established key authors, building the origins and theoretical foundation of the polarized economic tradition, are summarized in order to project them onto private tax theories. On this basis, a comprehensive original scientific synthesis of the "basic tax theory", the "static tax construction" and the theories of tax efficiency and social justice of taxation is made, which also enables the author to derive his own assessment distinguishing between "good" and "bad" constructions of taxes and ultimately to select those elements of the theory that are suitable for organizing the construction of practically applicable cost-effective and fair taxes.

*Third*, from the point of view of the methodological and scientific-applied orientation of the research, an original in-depth author's typology of tax theories is derived on the basis of the comparative historical analysis and systematization of the main tax theories by using a specific research approach that integrates historical and theoretical knowledge into an original research methodology. This, together with a critical analysis of the economic efficiency and social justice of different taxes, enables their systematic evaluation so as to justify the recommendation to organize the constructive design of taxes to apply the principles, rules, and patterns that economic science offers, rather than "unsystematic elements" that lead to "compromise" efficiency and fairness of taxation.

Without exhausting all the contributions of Dr. Kalchev's monographic work, in conclusion, it contains contributions that can be characterized as creating new scientific knowledge, complementing existing knowledge, and having a seriously advocated scientific and applied character.

In accordance with the requirements of the NBU, the monographic work was presented in a public lecture on 4.07.2023.

## 2. Evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications made after the appointment of the academic position "Senior Assistant Professor".

In his document, the candidate has presented a small but sufficient part of his publications – a total of 25 articles published in peer-reviewed journals and edited collective volumes, 1 of which is in a publication refereed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.

In spite of the minimalistic presentation of the contributions in these publications by Dr. Kalchev, the issues he investigated are distinguished by a clearly formulated thesis, in-depth research and specific results achieved with useful for science and practice generalizations, conclusions and recommendations, and along with enriching the results already noted in connection with the monographic work, the candidate seriously broadens the field of his scientific interests in areas such as tax planning and non-institutional aspects of corporate finance, as well as research on fiscal The main scientific and applied contributions of Dr. Kalchev's articles and scientific papers can be summarized in the stimulation of economic thought in



Bulgaria towards the application of modern scientific concepts and the use of methodologies and tools for practical-applied research adapted to the Bulgarian context.

Of particular interest is the candidate's highly applied research in the field of indicators for assessing the performance and development of enterprises and the critical evaluation of monetary and fiscal sector and policy in Bulgaria.

### 3. Citation by other authors.

Despite the fact that in the procedure documents only a small part of the candidate's citations are indicated, it is indicative of the citation rate of Dr. Kalchev's publications that more than the required citations are indicated in the reference, as citations in publications in the most prestigious international scientific databases - Scopus and Web of Science, as well as those by Bulgarian authors in the topic of the candidate's research are presented.

Taking this into account, as well as the fact that citations take a technological time after publication, and part of the publications presented were made in the last few years, it can be assumed that Dr. Kalchev's citation index will continue to increase significantly in the coming years.

## **III. Teaching and learning activities**

### 1. In-class and extracurricular activity, work in the electronic training module "MOODLE – NBU", providing student internships, work with students and PhD students.

The presented information on the in-class and non-classroom activity shows a significant workload in the teaching process, which corresponds to and even exceeds significantly the NBU requirements for full-time lecturers, according to the NBU Regulation on the Employment of Full-time Lecturers.

Dr. Kalchev has developed four chapters of the collective textbook "Introduction to Finance", used in the NBU programs, and in the NBU Moodle system have been published author materials for 4 undergraduate and graduate courses at NBU, covering the broad focus of the candidate's scientific and applied interests.

For the period 2012-2021, Dr. Kalchev has supervised 32 graduate students (Bachelor and Master) and has reviewed over 45 theses in Bachelor and Master programs. He has participated in a huge number of state examination committees - over 200.

### 2. Working with Erasmus students and teaching a foreign language

Dr Kalchev teaches four courses in English in the NBU joint programmes with the University of Sheffield (York).

### 3. Grades from student surveys.

Along with the numerous graduate guides (32), which show that Dr. Kalchev is a well-liked and preferred lecturer by students, the quality of his work with students is evidenced by the high average score of the student satisfaction surveys for course and lecturer - 4.16 out of a maximum of 5.00.



#### **IV. Administrative and public activities**

##### 1. Participation in collective governing bodies of NBU.

Dr. Kalchev regularly and actively participates in the meetings of the Departmental Council of the Department of Economics. For nine years he was the Director of the Bachelor's Program "Finance", for two years - of the Master's Program "Accounting and Auditing", for more than 5 years he was a member of the Program Council of the Department and the Council of the Undergraduate Faculty of the NBU. He participated in the creation of the Master's Program "Financial and Accounting Management" (in Bulgarian language), together with the Institute of Mathematics of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, as well as in the development and improvement of new courses (7 pcs.). He is also actively involved in joint programmes with the University of York.

##### 2. Public activity.

Dr. Kalchev's public activity is also active - from 2014 to 2022 he was Chief Economist of Raiffeisenbank (Bulgaria) EAD, member of Raiffeisen Research Vienna in the same period. He participates in organizing and conducting conferences of the Department of Economics and Business Administration, Department of Economics, and other departments of New Bulgarian University, including as a member of the organizing committee, compiler of the proceedings, moderator of sections.

##### 3. Attracting students to the program.

With his high professionalism and good teaching style, as well as his participation in various initiatives to attract prospective students, Dr. Kalchev contributes to the communication activities of the Department of Economics and the attraction of students, and it should be mentioned his frequent active participation in the presentation of the programs of the Department of Economics outside the NBU.

#### **V. Personal impression of the candidate**

Dr. Kalchev is an ambitious scientist and a great lecturer who strictly observes professional scientific ethics and standards, shows an extremely collegial attitude and interest in the work of his colleagues and the development of the Department of Economics. Dr. Kalchev possesses scientific intuition to transfer important topics to the Bulgarian academic environment, to form innovative methodologies and reach significant convertible results in practice.

#### **VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activities and achievements of the candidate**

Assessing the overall activities of Dr. Kalchev and especially with the attached publications allows a well-founded positive picture of his characterization as a candidate for associate professor at NBU. Without in any way diminishing the importance of the candidate's contributions and strengths, there are prerequisites for some recommendations for his future work as a researcher and teacher:



1. After successful habilitation, the candidate should direct his/her academic attention to deepening, summarizing and systematizing the theoretical and especially scientific and applied results achieved in order to search for ways to apply them in practice, which they definitely deserve. The deepening and concretization of the research will lead to greater popularity of Dr. Kalchev in our country as a worker on the very topical subject of tax planning and taxation and monetary policy, but also as an expert in scientific and public institutions and organizations, including in advisory and/or decision-making bodies, when discussing these issues.

2. The opportunities for the use of the scientific and applied contributions presented by the candidate are very wide and I recommend Dr. Kalchev to make efforts for their wider dissemination among the academic community by presenting them at scientific forums (especially abroad) and publishing studies with extended and further in-depth analyses on individual issues of the researched topic in scientific journals, especially refereed in world-renowned scientific databases.

3. For the purpose of further academic development as well as practical application of scientific results, more active participation of Dr. Kalchev in scientific research and applied projects would be beneficial, with the ambition that it would contribute to the successful involvement of the Department of Economics in such projects.

### **Conclusion**

Senior Assistant Professor Emil Kalchev, Ph.D. presents scientific works with clearly expressed scientific contributions, combining successfully the scientific research, teaching and scientific and applied activities on the defined issues, which allows him to usefully link theory with practice and full training of students. Together with the teaching work he carries out, he can be defined as a specialist fully meeting the notions and standards for the academic post of Associate Professor for which he is applying. Based on this, as well as the active participation of the candidate in the academic life of the New Bulgarian University **I categorically declare my positive assessment of the overall academic activity of the candidate and recommend to the esteemed Academic Council of the Hon. Dr. Emil Serafimov Kalchev to be elected Associate Professor in the field of higher education "3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field "3.8. Economics (Finance, Taxes and Taxation)".**

Sofia  
April 22, 2024

Signature .....  
/Assoc. Prof. E. Marinov, Ph.D./