

REVIEW

From

Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Pancheva Georgieva Ph.D, New Bulgarian University, Sofia Sofia, Department of Economics, professional field 3.8. "Economy", scientific specialty "Accounting, Control and Analysis of Economic Activity (Accounting)".

Subject: Competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.8. Economics (Accounting, Controlling and Auditing), announced in the State Gazette No. 94/10.11.2023, with the sole candidate Chief Assist. Plamen Kimonov Iliev Ph.D, full-time lecturer at the Department of Economics, Faculty Distance Electronic Continuous Learning, NBU.

Reason for presenting the review: Participation in the composition of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.8. "Economy", according to Order Z-RK-77/21.12.2023 of the Rector of NBU.

The review was developed in compliance with the requirements of the existing Law on the Development of Academic Staff, the Regulations for its application and the Ordinance on the Development of Academic Staff at NBU. Structurally, the review consists of VI parts and a conclusion according to a template for preparing a review for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" at NBU.

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

In the announced competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.8. "Economy" involves one candidate – Ch. Assistant P. Iliev Ph.D. He shall submit documentation on the competition meeting the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Article 2b) and the Regulations for its application (Article 1a, paragraph 1). The documents are also in accordance with the Ordinance on the Development of Academic Staff at NBU (Appendix 2).

The self-assessment information provided by the applicant shows that the candidate in the competition meets the necessary minimum requirements for scientific, teaching and research activities to occupy the academic position of Associate Professor, accordance with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as follows:

Part I: Minimum requirements for the scientific, teaching and/or artistic and creative activities of candidates for academic positions in professional fields, , accordance with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law



on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (groups of indicators A-E) and the corresponding number of points above the required minimum: A 50 from 50 points, B 100 from 100 points, Г 390 from 200 points, Д 87.5 from 50 points and E 40 from 0 points.

Part II: Fulfillment of criteria and indicators in long-term attestation for announcing a competition for a higher academic position, according to the current NBU Ordinance – academic work, organizational and public work (groups of indicators Ж-И): Ж 95 from 50 points, З 70 from 70 points and И 65 from 50 points.

Data by groups of indicators can also be traced in the attached table.

Group of indicators	Minimum requirements	From the applicant's report	
A	50	50	
Б	0	0	
B	100	100	
Г	200	390	
Д	50	87.5	
E	0	40	
Ж	50	95	230
З	70	70	
И	50	65	

The conclusion is that the total number of points of the candidate for associate professor on the assessment indicators (897.5 points) is significantly higher than the required minimum (570 points).

II. Research (creative) activity and results

For participation in the announced competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D presents 31 publications that do not repeat the scientific works for acquiring the NSA "Doctor" of the candidate.

The scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition are divided into two categories:

1. Independent monographic work – 2 pcs., of which one is a major habilitation work ("Modern Control in the Age of Digitalization", Ed. Bolid Ins, 299 p.) , and the other is not presented as the main habilitation work ("Financial Control, Audit and Supervision", Ed. Ochi Advertising Agency, 159 p.).
1. Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 29 issues.

The analysis of the declared publications shows that the relative share of each of these two categories in the



total number of scientific papers submitted for review is as follows: 6% are monographs and 94% are articles and reports. All of them are self-developed. 23 publications or 74% of the total have been published in Bulgarian. The remaining 8 publications or 26% of the total are in English.

The results of the analysis of the papers submitted for review also show that Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D has a sufficient number of publications that fully comply with the requirements of the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at PF 3.8 "Economics".

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

The monographic work of Chief Assist. Plamen K. Iliev Ph.D is dedicated to topical, significant and still poorly researched issues. It concerns the specifics of control and accounting in particular in the era of digitalization. It makes a comprehensive study of a theoretical and scientifically applied nature, based on a large number of sources and normative acts, which presents and systematizes the leading ideas, views and concepts in the field of control, its nature and characteristic, its emergence and development through the focus of the peculiarities of digitalization and digital transformation of business and economy. Special attention in the development deserves the proposed author's views on the manifestations and specifics of financial control, external financial control, as well as audit, based on the study of the accounting process in the digital environment.

The analysis of the monographic work shows that in its development the author skillfully uses different methods of scientific research, including analysis, induction, deduction, analogy, comparison, modeling, etc. It achieves its goal and tasks by making a thorough study of the place of accounting and control in the economy and the economy, of their current state and of the need to implement them in digital conditions.

In terms of content, theoretical and practical part of the scientific development stands out. In theoretical terms, the study is aimed at studying the financial control applied in the country and its varieties, in accordance with the current regulatory requirements. The author's view on the current state of internal and external control and audit, as well as on the evaluation control, is justified. In practical terms, the research focuses on new technologies, digitalization and digital transformation in business, and in particular in the field of accounting and control. In this regard, studies have been carried out, on the basis of which the need for digital transformation in the field of accounting and control has been demonstrated. Models for digitization of the accounting process, internal control and audit, financial and tax control and independent audit are also proposed.

In the monographic work of Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D highlights contributions divided into two directions:

First. Contributions of theoretical-methodological nature: 1. Ideas and theories of control and its relationship with accounting have been studied and systematized on the basis of certain criteria, and on this basis its distinctive features have been outlined. 2. The need for the preparation and presentation of accounting information specific to the needs of management and control in the conditions of digitalization shall be justified and justified. 3. The



Industrial Revolution is analyzed, incl. the penetration of new technologies in business and society and on this basis the implications for accounting and control are outlined.

Second. Contributions of a practical nature: 1. Existing models for organizing accounting and control, including their positive and negative sides, are analyzed and on this basis their renewal is proposed in line with the changing environment. The aim is to turn the control from a registrar of errors and deviations into a generator of ideas and suggestions for the management, projected future results. 2. The impact of digitalization and digital transformation on professions related to accounting and control is studied.

The importance of the monographic study is also underlined by the fact that it addresses important issues related to the provision of funds for investment in new technologies in the field of accounting and control; protecting information from hacker attacks; improving the competence and qualifications of accountants and auditors; the preservation and development of the professions of "accountant" and "auditor", etc.

In summary, it can be concluded that the monographic work of Ch. Assistant Plamen K. Iliev Ph.D is a complete comprehensive study containing original contributions to the theory and practice in the field of accounting and control carried out in the digital environment. It clearly shows the position of the author and his academic approach to the problems raised. The statement is logically arranged and properly structured. There are precisely formulated object, subject, purpose and tasks. The style is scientific, clear and understandable, and the proposed ideas are substantiated and confirmed by opinions from the scientific literature on the topic.

2. Evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications made after the appointment to the academic position "Ch. assistant". It also includes an assessment of the requirement for review of publications.

According to the presentation of Ch. Assistant Plamen K. Iliev Ph.D reference for original scientific contributions of publications other than monographic work, incl. and self-assessment reference I can highlight the following scientific-theoretical and scientific-methodological contributions:

- *Scientific and theoretical contributions:* ideas and concepts on the role of internal control and internal audit in risk management, as well as in the prevention of fraud and irregularities are systematized (publication 14, 18, 26 in Indicator 7); the need to apply ethical standards for audit behaviour in the public sector is justified and challenges for this audit are outlined (publication 5, 1 in Indicator 7); Requirements and conditions for the application of fiscal control on high-risk goods by the Fiscal Control Directorate at the NRA are systematized (publication 9 in Indicator 7); new points and requirements concerning the implementation of joint financial audit and supervision of independent auditors are summarized and analyzed (publication 7 in Indicator 7); challenges to financial audit in public interest organisations are outlined (publication 10 in Indicator 7); Opportunities for management, control and audit of funds under European programs and funds are summarized and analyzed (publication 8, 19 in Indicator 7); Rules and requirements for e-commerce are outlined, incl. in COVID conditions (publication 5, 23 in Indicator 7); methodological features of accounting in the tourism sector are studied, and on this basis are outlined peculiarities in the VAT taxation of activities - accommodation, meals, transport and tour operator activities (publication 2 in



Indicator 7); guidelines for the implementation of audit and control in the selection, training and management of personnel in organizations through the prism of the FSCS control environment are outlined (publication 15 in Indicator 7); Theoretical opportunities for providing funds for investment in new technologies in the field of accounting and control, as well as in a system guaranteeing their security are analyzed. (Self-assessment reference in Indicator 3).

- *Scientific and methodological contributions*: concepts for the application of control in marketing activities were analysed (publication 13, 21 in Indicator 7); the applicability of the Controlling concept in the management of enterprises in the conditions of financial and economic crisis, which appeared during the Pandemic (publication 25, 29 in Indicator 7) has been studied; the consequences of the Covid infection for the economy are analyzed, incl. and on public control (publication 24 in Indicator 7); Changes in the regulatory framework regarding digitalization in the field of accounting and control have been proposed (Self-assessment reference in Indicator 3).

These contributions are in accordance with the professional field of the competition and the teaching activity of Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D. They concern topical and significant for science and practice discussion issues. The articles and papers in which they are presented are published in non-refereed journals, but with scientific review. This gives rise to a high appreciation of the research work and publications of the candidate, with which he participates in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

3.Citations from other authors.

Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D has submitted for participation in the competition a reference "Analysis of citations and publications" from the NBU library. According to her, the candidate for associate professor has a total of 16 citations, which are predominantly from Bulgarian authors. Of these, 1 is in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases (Group Д, Indicator 11), 5 are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (Group Д, Indicator 12) and 10 are in non-refereed journals with scientific review (Group Д, Indicator 13).

The citability of scientific publications of Ch. Assistant P. Iliev Ph.D shows that he is an established author-researcher in his scientific field. This is confirmed by the fact that with a required minimum of 50 points, he has 87.5 points (Group Д, Indicators 11-13)

III. Teaching and teaching activities

1. Auditorium and extracurricular activities, work in the e-learning module "MOODLE – NBU", provision of student internships and internships, work with students and PhD students.

Ch. Assistant Plamen K. Iliev Ph.D lectures in courses in the Bachelor's Degree and the Master's Degree, Full-time education and distance learning. He was the supervisor of 35 graduates who successfully defended theses. He has reviewed 93 thesis papers of students and has participated in 229 examination committees. Its average annual auditorium and extracurricular activity significantly exceeds the minimum required for NBU.

Ch. Assistant P. Iliev Ph.D participated in the establishment of Bachelor's programme "Accounting and



Controlling" as well as the new Master's program "Management in Accounting and Finance". Updates and improves annually the materials in the training module "MOODLE – NBU" to the courses conducted by him. (Self-assessment reference in Indicator 31) To ensure the academic activity it also develops new teaching materials (e-textbook on forensic expertise and book textbook on internal control and audit). There are also 2 joint scientific developments with students.

Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D is a co-organizer and co-moderator of the Interdepartmental Webinar "The Future of the Euro Given the Volatility of the Banking System", with guest lecturer the investment banker from London Gordon Kerr in 2022. Every year he organizes and conducts open lectures for students with the participation of guest lecturers from the practice. Thus, using their personal contacts supports the provision of student internships and internships.

1. Work with Erasmus students.

Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D has not worked with Erasmus students.

2. Student survey estimates.

The candidate for associate professor receives a high score from the students - an excellent 4.60 out of a maximum of 5 (according to a Reference from the Center for Quality and Assessment). It shows his enviable competence, high professionalism and academic approach.

From the facts stated, it may be inferred that Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D actively participates in the academic and teaching activities of the Department of Economics and NBU. He is a responsible academic lecturer with extensive teaching experience and fully meets the requirements for the position of "Associate Professor".

IV. Administrative and public activities

Since joining the job as a full-time lecturer at NBU Ch. Assistant Plamen Iliev Ph.D is a member of the Council of the Department of Economics and is actively involved in the work of the team. In the academic year 2020/2021 to 2022/2023 he is also a member of the program board of the apartment. Proves his professional skills in practice, where he is:

- licensed valuer/expert of financial receivables, entire enterprises and agricultural land, Member of the CIAB. /Chamber of Independent Appraisers in Bulgaria/;
- expert at the Registry Agency and Liquidator;
- expert in the Sofia City Court and the SCC on judicial, economic and forensic accounting expertise;
- Manager of Kaviplas Consult Commerce Ltd. in the field of accounting, taxes and law.

He also works actively on attracting students to the department's programs.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known the candidate for associate professor since his job at NBU in 2015, when he was invited as a part-time lecturer at the Department of Economics and was assigned classes at Bachelor's programme "Accounting and Auditing", "Finance" and Master's program "Accounting and Auditing" and "Financial and Accounting



Management and Insurance". He also has bachelor's courses at the Department of Administration and Management.

My direct impressions of the candidate for associate professor are that he is responsible and dedicated in his work, including teaching, administrative, scientific and academic work. He has an enviable academic approach and professional competence in the field of control, audit and accounting. That is why I believe that he fully meets the requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Department of Economics at NBU.

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

Recommendation to the future work of Ch. Assistant Plamen K. Iliev Ph.D is to strengthen the academic relations with fellow lecturers in terms of conducting large-scale interdisciplinary scientific and practical research, incl. the field of controlling. It would also be appropriate to develop and promote joint developments with students.

CONCLUSION

The candidate in the competition Ch. Assistant Plamen Kimonov Iliev Ph.D meets the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor, according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, in accordance with its application (Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria), as well as the Ordinance on the Development of Academic Staff at NBU. The scientific publications of the candidate in the competition contain important theoretical, methodological and practical and applied contributions. They were the result of his personal scientific quests and further developed economic science. They are also widely applicable to practice. All this gives me grounds to categorically propose to the members of the Scientific Jury to choose the candidate in the competition Ch. Assistant Plamen Kimonov Iliev Ph.D for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 3.8. Economics (Accounting, Controlling and Auditing).

Date: 12.02.2024

Signature.....

/ Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Georgieva Ph.D/