

To:
The chairman of the scientific jury

Subject:

The presented scientific publications, the scientific and organizational and teaching activities of assoc.prof. DESISLAVA GEORGIEVA VARADZHAKOVA, participant in a competition announced by NIGGG - BAS in State Gazette, no. 104 of December 14, 2018 to occupy the academic position "associate professor" by professional field 4.4. Geoscience, scientific specialty "Economic and Social Geography" (Geography of Tourism) for the needs of the Department of Geography at NIGGG – BAS

OPINION

Of assoc. prof. Boyan Koulov

National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography - BAS,

Chairman of the Scientific Jury, under Order No. 01-32 / 18.02.2019 of the Director of
NIGGG - BAS

The submitted documentation of the applicant complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Regulations for the Application of the Law at NIGGG - BAS.

In 2010 DESISLAVA GEORGIEVA VARADZHAKOVA (PENKOVA) received the educational and scientific PhD degree in the specialty 05.02.18 "Economics and Management" (Diploma № 34313, edited by VAK) at the Department of Tourism at the University of National and World Economy. From 2016 until now she has been "associate professor" in the direction 3.9. "Tourism" at the Department of Tourism at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius ". She has an educational experience in the field of tourism, including from abroad (Savoy University in France, 2003-04) and practical experience as a tour operator in several Bulgarian companies. Her skills in working with Spanish, English, French, Russian, and Italian languages she has improved as a representative in tourism fairs, exhibitions and infotours in a number of European capitals.

The candidate meets the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" according to the Regulations for the conditions and order for acquiring academic degrees and for taking up academic positions at the Bulgarian

Academy of Sciences, respectively Art. 2b, para. 5 of the ZRASRB. The required number of points for the position is significantly exceeded.

Assoc. prof. Varadzhakova is the author of three monographs, a textbook, nine scientific papers and other publications. It makes a positive impression that both - monographs and all articles, are individual. It is also very promising that most of the articles are written in English, which undoubtedly greatly expands their potential audience. She has published scientific articles abroad: Canada, Germany, Russia and the Republic of Northern Macedonia. The total number of references quoted in the report is 29 - in Bulgarian and Russian scientific journals, which do not have an "impact" factor. It is noteworthy that, with two exceptions, the publications are written in Bulgarian.

The most obvious recommendation for the candidate is to seek the preparation of scientific publications that are referenced and indexed in the so-called "world-known" scientific information databases. Secondly, unfortunately, the documents submitted do not indicate the possible participation or leadership of the candidate in educational or scientific, Bulgarian or international projects. For several different reasons, this criterion should be fundamental to occupy such a position in any scientific organization, especially at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. At the very least, such is the world practice, not to mention only the European one, to the level of which Bulgaria claims to seek. However, given that the ZRASRB's Implementing Regulations did not consider it necessary to set any requirements in this respect for those who hold the "Associate professor" position, such criticism is unlikely to be addressed ...

Finally, I would like to state that the thorough acquaintance with the scientific production and teaching activities of associate professor DESISLAVA GEORGIEVA VARADZHAKOVA allows me to gladly give a positive opinion on the candidate's occupation of the academic position "associate professor" at the NIGGG of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences under the competition announced in State Gazette, no. 104 of 14.12.2018. In view of the fact that DESISLAVA VARADZHAKOVA possesses all the necessary, required by the legal regulations, conditions and qualities, and meets the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, I propose to the members of the honorable Scientific Jury to rank the candidate choice of this academic position.

05.04.2019

Prepared by:

Sofia

assoc. prof. B. Koulov