

OPINION

BY PROF. Dr. SLAVI PETROV DIMITROV

Member of the Scientific Jury in the competition

for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Area of higher education

4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; professional field: 4.4. Earth Sciences (Social and Economic Geography),

announced in the State Gazette, issue 51 / 28 June 2019 for the needs of the Economic and Social Geography Division of the Department of Geography of the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS).

1. Competition data.

The competition for "associate professor" was announced in issue 51 of the State Gazette from 28 June 2019. The competition was proposed by the Economic and Social Geography Division of the Department of Geography of the National Institute of Geography at the BAS and has passed all levels of approval within the BAS.

One candidate has submitted application documents for the announced competition: Assistant Prof. Dr. Poli Nikolova Roukova. No violations of the legislative state requirements have been observed.

In the announced procedure for "associate professor" and according to the order No. 01-276 / 27 Aug. 2019, I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury. By resolution of the latter, Minutes No. 1 / 03 Sep. 2019, I was appointed to prepare an opinion.

2. Applicant data.

Poli Nikolova Roukova was born on 7 Dec. 1957 in Sofia. In 1981 she graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " with a Master's Degree in Economic Geography. In 1983 she was employed by the Institute of Geography at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a geographer, and since 1991 - as a research associate (third, second and first degree respectively). Since 2011 the applicant has been working at the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography - BAS as an Assist. Professor. In 2019 the applicant obtained the academic and educational degree of "doctor" (PhD) in Economic and Social Geography, professional field 4.4. - Earth Sciences. The applicant speaks English, German and Russian and has computer skills.

3. Description of the scientific works.

The applicant has submitted 29 publications to the announced competition. All of the publications are in the applicant's professional field and academic discipline. A considerable part of the papers have been published in peer-reviewed editions in Bulgaria and abroad. Thirteen of the papers are in English, proving that the applicant is well known among the scientific community both in Bulgaria and abroad. In 8 of the submitted publications, Poli Roukova is the sole-author, while in two other papers she is the first author.

The thematic profile of the publications fully corresponds to the scientific field of the announced competition and includes the following important features:

The first group of ten publications are registered in SCOPUS and Webb of Science. The papers discuss two current trends in academic economic and social geography: 1. Socio-economic geographical aspects of regional development and 2. Social geography - social geography of health:

- Publications in the field of social and economic geography with applied innovative research approaches and methods (No.4, No.5, No.6, No.8, No.9);
- Publications analyzing the process of restructuring of industries and assessing its effect on regional development in post-socialist countries (No.6, No.8, No.9);
- Publications related to the opportunities for industrial development in the clothing industry in Bulgaria under the conditions of international competitive pressure and the variety of adaptation practices of local companies (No.5, No.6, No.8, No.9);
- Publications on the impact which cross-border clothing production networks have on the competitiveness of regions (No.6, No.9);
- Publications related to the competitive positions of European countries and regions in the context of the international division of labor (No.5, No.8);
- Publications analyzing and assessing the impact of social environment resources (apart from health services) on the ability of chronically ill people to manage their long-term lifestyle in Bulgaria (No.1, No.2, No.3, No.4, No. 7, No. 10).

The presented scientific papers are the result of the participation of Poli Roukova in the development of three research projects. Along with the above-mentioned ones, another 23 publications have been submitted, which are not taken into consideration with regard to this competition.

The second group of 19 publications are in the area of socio-economic geographical aspects of regional development and are divided into the following groups:

- Publications dealing with regional changes in the economic activity of the population (No.3, No.4, No.7, No.8, No.13);
- Publications dealing with the problems of socio-economic restructuring and regional development (No.2, No.5, No.9, No.11, No.12, No.15, No.16, No.17, No.19);
- Publications on the socio-economic effects of environmental pollution (No.6, No.7, No.10, No.14, No.18).

4. Scientific contributions.

A summary of the scientific contributions of Dr. Poli Roukova's scientific publications can be synthesized in the following main directions:

- The global commodity chains, the global value chains and the global production networks approach has been applied in order to assess the impact of restructuring of industries and regions in Bulgaria, and the impact of globalization on the competitiveness of European countries and regions;

- New to Bulgaria research methodologies, such as self-assessment of personal health status (SF-12), physical activity (RAPA), diet and smoking (SDCSCA) and EUGENI (EU Generating and Engagement Networking Inclusion) intervention methods - Personal Community Mapping and Analysis, etc., have been adapted and implemented.
- The process of industrial restructuring has been analyzed and its effect on regional development in post-socialist countries has been evaluated;
- The possibilities for industrial improvement of the production of clothing in Bulgaria under the conditions of international competitive pressure have been examined, as well as the influence which the cross-border clothing production networks have on the competitiveness of the countries and regions of Europe;
- An evaluation of the impact of social environment resources (apart from health services) on the ability of chronically ill people to manage their long-term lifestyle in Bulgaria has been made;
- The regional changes in the economic activity of the population at national and regional level have been tracked;
- A critical analysis of the national policies and legislation on regional development of Bulgaria has been made in the context of spatial development and policy integration in South-East Europe;
- The socio-economic effects of environmental pollution in the region of Burgas have been examined.

The applicant has 16 publications in SCOPUS database with a total of over 190 citations. The 24 citations mentioned are part of a total of 107 citations of the selected 3 publications for the period 2005-2019.

5. Research work.

The significant project activity of the applicant and her specializations in Belgium, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Sweden, all make a strong impression.

6. Conclusion.

In summative terms, it is important to note that the applicant meets all the minimum requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and its Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Group of indicators	Contents	Required number of points	Total number of points
A	Indicator 1	50	50
C	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100,45
D	Sum of indicators from 9 to 10	220	220,01

E	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	60	120
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Required minimum: 430 points; total score: 490.46.

The attached table shows that Dr. Poli Nikolova Roukova fully meets the minimum scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor". Taking into account the compliance with all requirements of the procedure, research achievements and competence of the applicant, I give my positive assessment (**IN FAVOUR**) and recommend to the distinguished Scientific Jury and its members to vote **IN FAVOUR** of awarding **POLI NIKOLOVA ROUKOVA** with the academic title "Associate Professor" in Area of higher education 4. - Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Social and Economic Geography).

05 Oct. 2019

Veliko Tarnovo

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