

REVIEW

by

**Prof. Dr. BORIS TODOROV KOLEV - Faculty of Economics at
South-West University "N. Rilski"- Blagoevgrad,**

**Member of the Scientific Jury, in accordance with Order No. 01-276 / 27 August 2019 of the
Director of the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography at the Bulgarian
Academy of Sciences for a competition for occupation of the academic position of "Associate
Professor" in Professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences, academic discipline - Economic and Social
Geography, for the needs of the Department of Geography at the NIGGG-BAS, announced in in
State Gazette no. 51 from June 28, 2019; Candidate for the position:**

Assist. Prof. Dr. Poli Nikolova Roukova

The sole candidate who has submitted application documents for the announced competition is Assistant Professor POLI NIKOLOVA ROUKOVA from the "Economic and Social Geography" Division of the Department of Geography at the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The submitted documents for participation in the competition meet the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the Regulations for its implementation, the relevant Regulations of the BAS and the Regulations for the DASRBA implementation in the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography.

I. Biography information:

Assist. Prof. Dr. POLI NIKOLOVA ROUKOVA was born on December 7, 1957 in Sofia. In 1981 she graduated from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a Master's degree in Economic Geography. Poli Roukova has specialized in Sweden (1996), the United Kingdom (2003 and 2014), Belgium (2010) and Switzerland (2012). In 2019 the applicant acquired a PhD degree in Economic and Social Geography. Since 1983 she has been working at the Institute of Geography at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, (since 2010 - the Department of Geography at the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), where she holds the position of "assistant professor" in the "Economic and Social Geography" Division.

The applicant Dr. Roukova is fluent in English, German and Russian, both written and spoken.

She has extensive experience in managing research projects in socio-economic geography and regional development.

II. Eligibility criteria:

Higher requirements have been applied to the occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in accordance with Article 2, item 4.3 of the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Annex No. 1, in comparison with the minimum national requirements. The documents submitted by the candidate include the following: a diploma for the academic and educational degree of

“doctor” (PhD) (group A), as well as 29 scientific publications in the following groups: group C - 10 publications; group D - 19 publications. The submitted publications include 5 chapters from collective monographs, 18 scientific papers and 6 scientific conference reports. In group E, 24 citations have been reported (indicator 10 - Citations in peer-reviewed editions indexed in world-renowned scientific databases (SCOPUS). The candidate has obtained a total of 490.46 points of the required minimum of 430 points for the academic position of “Associate Professor” (Table 1).

Most of the submitted scientific publications are collective works due to the large amount of research activity of the international project teams the applicant was part of.

Table 1. Required and obtained points by group of indicators.

Group	Indicators	Number of points required for “associate professor”	Number of points obtained by the candidate
A	Indicator 1	50	50
C	Indicator 4	100	100,45
D	Sum of indicators 8 and 9	220	220,01
E	Indicator 10	60	120
Total		430	490,46

III. Extended habilitation reference:

Along with the 10 publications submitted in Group C, Indicator 4 represents an extended habilitation reference, which is structured as follows: 1. Introduction; 2. Basic scientific contributions and 3. References.

III.1. Introduction:

The introduction covers 10 publications observed in SCOPUS and WoS. This introductory part of the report analyzes the following two areas of research: the socio-economic geographical aspects of regional development and the social geography of health. Those topics have been studied through the implementation of three international projects, of which: 1) "Reconfiguring Economies, Communities, and Regions in Post-Socialist Europe" (funded by the US National Science Foundation, national coordinator - Assist. Prof. Poli Roukova); 2) "The Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and Its Regions (TIGER)" (funded under the ESPON 2013 program of the EU Regional Development Operational Program, 2010-2013, contract No. 068/2010 (national coordinator – Assist. Prof. P. Roukova); 3) "Self-care Support for People with Long Term Conditions, Diabetes and Heart Disease: A

Whole System Approach (co-funded under the Seventh Framework Program, General Directorate of Research and Innovation, EC, 2012-2015, Contract No. F3-2011-279081, where P. Roukova was a key researcher).

As a national coordinator, P. Roukova has managed the implementation of the above-listed projects 1) and 2) in Bulgaria. She was the co-author of the analyses, evaluations and conclusions, and participated in the preparing of the national reports, publications and reports presented at international forums. Poli Roukova is also among the authors of the final report and of the summary scientific reports on project 2).

Within Project 3) research analyses have been conducted regarding the assessment of the impact of social environment resources on the ability of the chronically ill to manage their long-term lifestyle independently. In the course of the implementation of this project, Dr. Roukova was a key researcher involved in all stages of the project's implementation.

III.2. Main scientific contributions:

The following scientific contributions to the above-listed projects have been submitted as follows:

Projects 1) and 2) have applied quantitative and qualitative research methods of studying the global commodity chains, global value chains, and global production networks so as to evaluate the restructuring of the studied industries, with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of industries and regions, both at national and regional scale. *Such combination of methods had not been applied before in Bulgarian economic geography.*

In Project 3), Dr. Roukova stands out for adapting some of the research methods which haven't been applied before in Bulgaria such as the self-assessment of *the personal health status and the physical activity, the intervention method*, etc. The candidate also participated in the verification team of the Health Education Impact Questionnaire (HeiQ) in Bulgarian language, for which she was licensed. The topic of the project is new to Bulgaria and Dr. Roukova is one of the two main researchers who have conducted a comprehensive analysis of the results obtained in the national surveys. Another noteworthy contribution of Dr. Roukova is her participation in the development of the methodological guidelines for conducting in-depth research within the project. In addition, the applicant has a significant contribution in the elaboration of the preliminary and final analyzes, the results of which were presented in a number of conference reports and scientific publications.

As a result of a comparative study of the process of restructuring the production of clothing in Bulgaria and Slovakia, specific recommendations were made to the European Commission. These recommendations were made in conjunction with a report on the future development of this industry, in the context of the EU enlargement and trade liberalization. The national sectoral policies have been analyzed with regard to the EU policy in this sector. The impact of the various opportunities for improvement of the clothing industry by increasing its added value has also been justified. The influence of the existing restrictive conditions and factors of the development of the regions specializing in clothing production in the new EU Member States in conditions of international competition, as well as the opportunities for adaptation of the manufacturing companies, have also been examined. Some attention has been paid and specific analyses have also been made regarding the ways and approaches to integrating the clothing manufacturing companies into international production chains, without which the access to international markets would be difficult. The specific competitive advantages of the Eastern European Member States have also been highlighted.

III.3. Bibliography:

The extended habilitation reference includes a list of peer-reviewed papers, conference reports and a monograph chapter in the specified research areas of the applicant. An additional list (III.2.) of 23 scientific publications has been provided, which are not the subject of this competition, but are in the same scientific research areas.

IV. Main contributions of the publications in Group D:

Group D lists 19 publications detailing the main contributions to the socio-economic geographical aspects of regional development. The contributions are organized into three groups:

1. Analyses and assessments of the regional changes in the economic activity of the population, unemployment and regional labor markets.
2. Analyses and assessments of the socio-economic restructuring and regional development.
3. Analyses and assessments of the socio-economic effects of environmental pollution.

V. Reference to the citations of publications:

I would like to point out that the candidate has an extensive research experience, which can be ascertained both from her publications and from the number of citations in the world-renowned scientific information database SCOPUS, mentioned in the reference. Twenty-four citations of three publications were submitted, yielding a total of 120 points (as of July 2019).

The entire research activity of Dr. Poli Roukova covers the requirements for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor", as evident from the attached detailed bibliography, in accordance with Art. 2b, item 5 of the DASRBA.

VI. Critical notes:

- In her future work, the applicant is advised to specify more clearly the achieved research results;
- The applicant is advised to publish more publications as a sole-author.

Conclusion:

All legislative requirements of the competition procedure in accordance with the DASRBA, as well as with the Regulations of the NIGGG - BAS have been complied with.

The above-listed critical remarks only have the character of recommendations. Dr. Poli Nikolova Roukova is a scientist with a clearly distinguished research profile in economic and social geography, and especially in the social geography of health, which is a new area and does not overlap medical geography.

The applicant stands out with her substantial scientific productivity and has the necessary experience, interests and scientific competence, which is why she has been involved in a number of scientific projects within major programs of the European Commission, as well as projects within the European Bilateral

Exchange Program. Many of the publications, and especially the monographs in which the applicant is a co-author, have considerable practice-applied significance.

By occupying the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Economic and Social Geography for the needs of the Department of Geography at the NIGGG-BAS, Dr. Poli Roukova, given her scientific interests and achievements, will contribute to the expansion of the thematic profile and research scope of the Department's research and development projects.

I hereby declare my positive attitude (IN FAVOUR) towards the candidacy of Assistant Professor Poli Nikolova Roukova for the academic position of “Associate Professor”, and I propose that:

the respected members of the Scientific Jury propose to the Scientific Council of the NIGGG – BAS that Assist. Prof. POLI NIKOLOVA ROUKOVA be awarded the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Professional Field 4.4. Earth Sciences, academic discipline - Economic and Social Geography, for the needs of the Department of Geography.

October 10, 2019

SOFIA

REVIEWER:

(Prof. Dr. Boris T. Kolev)