

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Desislava Georgieva Varadzhakova -

member of the scientific jury of a competition for acquiring the academic position of “associate professor” by the candidate - Poli Nikolova Roukova, PhD, in professional field 4.4 Earth sciences, academic discipline - Social and Economic Geography, announced in the State Gazette, issue 51/28 from June 2019.

This Opinion has been prepared based on Order No. 01-276 / 27 Aug. 2019 and Resolution of the Scientific Jury meeting, Minutes No. 1 / 03 Sep. 2019. The contents of the Opinion is in line with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the Regulations for its implementation, the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA in the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography.

1. Applicant data.

Poli Nikolova Roukova, PhD, is the only candidate in the announced competition. Dr. Poli Roukova was born on December 7, 1957 in Sofia. In 1981 she graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " with a Master's degree in Economic Geography. Since 1983 till present day, the candidate has worked at the Institute of Geography and the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Division of "Economic and Social Geography". The provided resume states that the candidate has held consecutively the following positions: geographer (1983-1990), research associate third and second degree (1991-1999) and research associate first degree (1999-2010) at the Institute of Geography of the BAS. Since 2010 the candidate has worked as an assistant professor at the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography. In 2019 Poli Roukova was awarded a PhD degree in Economic and Social Geography after a successful defense of a PhD thesis titled "Impact of the International Division of Labour on the Localisation of Apparel Industry in South Western and South Central Bulgaria".

2. General characteristics of the applicant's research work.

Dr. Poli Roukova has submitted 29 scientific publications for the announced contest. Ten of the scientific papers are in English, published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in the international SCOPUS database, which covers the requirements of group C, indicator 4: Habilitation work - scientific publications (not less than 10) in peer-reviewed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information of the Minimum Requirements for Occupation of the position of "Associate Professor" in accordance with the Regulations for implementation of the DASRBA. The total number of points obtained by the candidate in group C is 100.45, out of 100 points required.

In order to meet the minimum requirements of Group D, Dr. Poli Roukova has submitted 15 scientific publications (6 conference reports and 9 scientific papers) in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, peer-reviewed conference proceedings and 4 chapters of collective monographs. The total number of points gained by the candidate in group "D" is 220.01 (out of 220 required), in accordance with Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA in the NIGGG.

3. Scientific contributions and citations of the submitted publications.

In accordance with the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA, an extended habilitation reference on the scientific contributions of the submitted publications, presented in Group C, Indicator 4, has been provided by the applicant. The reference demonstrates that the submitted publications are the result of projects which have been described in the reference. Those projects cover a large time span, cover a broad content scope, which is why the publications are co-authored by a number of Bulgarian and foreign scientists, while all publications related to those projects are indexed in SCOPUS. The above-mentioned publications are highly cited, while the paper titled "Upgrading, changing competitive pressures, and diverse practices in the East and Central European apparel industry" has been cited 70 times in SCOPUS-indexed publications.

A reference for Group D contributions for publications in non-peer-reviewed editions and collective monographs has also been submitted for the contest. The stated contributions are in the area of socio-economic geographical aspects of regional development and are divided into the following three groups:

1. Regional changes in the economic activity of the population;
2. Socio-economic restructuring and regional development;
3. Socio-economic effects of environmental pollution.

Conclusion.

Dr. Poli Roukova is the only candidate in the announced contest. The submitted documents and results show that the requirements of Art. 19 and Art. 24 (1) of the DASRBA and of Art. 53 (1) of the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA, the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA in the NIGGG, have been met as follows:

- the applicant holds a PhD degree;
- the applicant has held the academic position of assistant professor for at least two years;
- the applicant has submitted an equivalent of publications in specialized scientific editions and monograph chapters, different from the ones submitted for acquiring the PhD degree;
- the applicant complies with the minimum national requirements and those of the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA in the NIGGG.

The prolonged years of research and the results achieved by Dr. Poli Roukova give me reason to express a positive attitude (IN FAVOUR) towards her candidacy. I hereby recommend that the honorable Scientific Jury and its members vote "IN FAVOUR" of awarding the candidate with the academic position of "associate professor".

7 Oct. 2019
Sofia

Author of the Opinion:
(Assoc. Prof. Desislava Varadzhakova)