

TO

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY

of the NIGG at BAS

PROF. DR BOYAN KULOV

REGARDING

Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor,

SG 86/15.10.2021

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Boian Koulov,

National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, Department of Geography, Section of
Economic and Social Geography,

4. 4.4. 4.4 Earth Sciences, Scientific specialty: Economic and Social Geography

The opinion was prepared on the basis of the order No. RD-01-265/12.11.2021 and the Decision of the meeting of the scientific jury with protocol No. 1/17.12.2021. Its content is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LADASRB) and the Regulations for its Implementation (RAPASRB), as well as the Regulations for the Implementation of the LADASRB in NIGGG-BAS.

One candidate has submitted documents for the competition. Dr. Alexandra Lyubenova Ravnachka from the Section of Economic and Social Geography, Department of Geography of the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. According to the documents provided, the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation have been met.

Main as. Dr. Alexandra Ravnachka has submitted 22 publications for the competition, of which: one independent monograph with scientific peer-review on the topic "Demographic situation and the labor market in Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil region", two co-authored articles in journals indexed in Scopus, 17 scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific peer-review or in edited collective volumes and two chapters of collective monographs. These publications have not submitted for the Education and Science Degree of Doctor (PhD). The majority of the publications of Dr. Ravnachka in this competition are co-authored, and eight are independently authored, which is evidence that the candidate can work both in a team and independently. No plagiarism was found in the submitted research papers.

The candidate's publications are mainly in the fields of geodemographic and socio-economic research and analyses of the geographical features of the labor market, especially in south-western and south-central Bulgaria, and ecosystem services. At least 26 citations of her publications have been noted. I accept the scientific contributions presented by the candidate, with some purely editorial comments. In our collaborative work on several research projects and publications, Dr. Ravnachka has distinguished herself not only by her accumulated scientific and administrative experience, but also by her accuracy, willingness to work, work ethic and versatile research interests. I would recommend that the candidate take an even deeper interest in foreign language literature, collaboration with foreign scholars, leadership in research projects, which will also bring her higher publication activity in journals indexed in world-renowned databases, Scopus and WoS included.

In conclusion, the candidate has submitted diploma No. 000864/05.04.2017, issued by NIGGG-BAS, for the acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor" (PhD). She held the position of Assistant Professor from 2010 to 2017 at NIGG-BAS, and thereafter until the present time she has held the position of Principal Assistant Professor. The documents and materials submitted by the candidate in the competition give me the full grounds to have a positive assessment of the scientific research and scientific applied activity of Asst. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Ravnachka and to propose to the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury to support her candidacy for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics; professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences in the Section of Economic and Social Geography at NIGGG-BAS.

15 January 2022.

Signed:

/Prof. Dr. Boian Koulov/