

EXPERT OPINION

of Prof. Dr. Tvetan Iliev in competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the professional filed 3.8 “Economics in the scientific specialty “Economics and Management (Agribusiness)” at the Department of Economics and Finance at UARD – Plovdiv.

This expert opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Chapter Three, Section Three “Conditions and procedure for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor” of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, in accordance with Order № 205/29.07.2021 of the Rector of UARD – Plovdiv.

The competition was announced in SG no. 43/21.052021 in accordance with Art. 4 ZRASRB and Art. 28(1) of the Regulations for application of The Law on the Protection of People’s Rights with Disabilities. Candidate for the competition **Angel Stankov Sarov**.

1. Short Curriculum Vitae

The candidate under the announced procedure Ch. Associate Professor Dr. Angel Stankov Sarov was born in 21.04.1974 in Sofia. In 1999 he graduated from the University of National and World Economy - Sofia with a degree in Agrarian Economics. In 2017, acquisition of ONS ‘Doctor’ in the scientific specialty “Economics and Management (by industry)” at the Institute of the Agrarian Economics at the Agricultural Academy – Sofia after successfully defending dissertation on “Management of Agricultural cooperatives – challenges and prospects”.

On the basis of the copies of the diploma of acquiring ONS ‘Doctor’ and a copy of an annex to the employment agreement with employer submitted by Angel Sarov, I can conclude that the candidate in the competition meets the requirements of Art. 53 items 1 and 2 of ZRASRB for holding the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’.

2. General description of the presented materials

Ch. Associate Professor Dr. Angel Sarov participates in the competitionn with:

- Monographs – **4 issues**, two of them co-authored.

- Studies – **7 issues**, two of them referenced and indexed editions in SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE.
- Articles – **32 issues**, eight of them referenced and indexed editions in SCOPUS and WEB SCIENCE.
- Chapters in collective monographs – **10 issues**.

From the information presented by the candidate in the competition for his publishing activity, I can conclude that it meets the requirements of Art. 53 item 3 of ZRASRB and does not repeat the publications for acquisition of ONS ‘Doctor’. During the evaluation of Angel Sarov’s publications I did not establish a legally proven presence of plagiarism in accordance with Art. 53 item 5 of ZRASRB.

3. Reflection of candidate’s scientific publications in the literature (famous quotations)

According to the reference submitted by the candidate in the competition, there are 9 quotations of his publications. Two of them are in referenced and indexed editions of SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE and seven in non-refereed editions with scientific review. In view of this, I consider that Angel Sarov meets the requirements of Art. 2b of ZRASRB and Art. 1a of PPZRASRB for holding the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’.

4. General characteristic of candidate’s activity

4.1 Educational and pedagogical activity (work with students and doctoral students)

The quantitative and qualitative requirements of the teaching activity of Dr. Sarov can be presented in the following directions.

4.1.1 Study load

From the documents submitted by the candidate in the competition it is clear that in quantitative terms the candidate has teaching activity at UNWE, NBU and the Institute of Agrarian Economics at the Agricultural Academy. Qualitatively, the study load can be assessed by the basis of the taught disciplines. In particular, he was assigned lectures and seminars I disciplines “Customer Relationship Management”, “Business Process Management”, “Innovations in the real estate business”, “Financial innovations in the real estate market”,

“Strategies for rural business development”, “Stakeholder management” and “Strategic management of the enterprise”.

4.1.2 Activity outside of direct teaching engagements

Angel Sarov’s autobiographical report testifies to the existence of professional commitments outside the teaching work – participation in teams for the development of program documents in the field of agriculture at the national level, reviewer in the magazine “Agricultural Cooperation”, participates in the development and implementation of a number of national projects and programs.

4.2 Scientific and scientifically applied activity

Scientific achievements with the nature of contribution can be found, on the one hand, in the main monographic work, with which Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Sarov applied in the competition, and, on the other hand, in his studies, articles and scientific reports. I accept the synthesized contributions, believing that they can be divided in two directions- with theoretical-methodological and practical-applied character.

In the period 2013 – 2021 he participated in the development and implementation of 17 research projects – 9 funded by the Institute of Agrarian Economics at the Agricultural Academy – Sofia, 6 from national sources external to the Academy, and 2 with international financial support. This gives me reason to define Dr. Sarov as a researcher with scientific-applied activity. In this sense, what he presented in this regard, I accept that it meets the requirements of Art.27 para 4 item 2 of ZRASRB and Art. 57a para 2 item 3 of PPZRASRB.

5. Assessment of candidate’s personal contribution

I do not know the candidate personally but from the presented CV and scientific publications I am left with the impression of serious scientific-research look. I accept Angel Sarov’s production as his personal achievement and I find no evidence of plagiarism.

6. Critical remarks

I do not have any significant critical remarks about the candidate in the competition but I would still like to point out two main points. First of all, Dr. Sarov has not developed his own textbooks and teaching aids. In the future he will need them when working with students. Secondly, the list of publications includes many co-authored works. There are no separation protocols with the other co-authors for them in the competition documents.

These critical remarks do not in any way detract from the candidate’s research achievements.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that Ch. Associate Professor Dr. Angel Stankov Sarov meets the requirements for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in scientific specialty “Economics and Management (Agribusiness)” in the professional field 3.8 “Economics” for the needs of UARD – Plovdiv and has the necessary qualities. In this view, I **vote “YES”** and propose the estimated members of the Scientific jury to support the election on the basis of Chapter three, Section III of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

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Plovdiv

Prepared the expert opinion:

/Prof. Dr. Tvetan Iliev/