

## STATEMENT OF OPINION

In the competition for the academic position of „**Associate Professor**“ in the high education professional field 5.13 „General engineering“, in the study discipline „Technological entrepreneurship“, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Technical University - Varna

published in State Gazette, issue 31 from 19.04.2022  
with the candidate: **Chief assistant professor Sibel Ilhanova Ahmedova, PhD**

Member of the scientific jury: **prof. Stoyanka Petkova Petkova-Georgieva, PhD**,  
University “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” - Burgas,  
Department „Industrial Technologies and Management“

### 1. **General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied scientific activity.**

To participate in the competition, the candidate submitted 18 scientific works, of which 15 are publications, one is a monograph, one is a textbook and one is an academic exercise guide. They are directly related to the competition and do not repeat the works presented for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Ph.D." and occupying an academic position "Chief assistant professor".

The scientific works are dedicated to three thematic groups:

- **technological entrepreneurship and innovation** – 7 publications - [Г.7.1.], [Г.7.2.], [Г.7.4.], [Г.8.3.], [Г.8.4.], [Г.8.7.], [Г.8.9.];
- **competitiveness of enterprises** – 4 publications - [Г.7.3.], [Г.7.5.] [Г.8.5], [Г.8.6]
- **financial management** – 4 publications - [Г.7.6], [Г.8.1.], [Г.8.2.], [Г.8.8.].

Fifteen of the publications are written in English, and those in the Bulgarian language are 3 and include: a monograph, a textbook, and an academic exercise guide. The candidate is the only author for most of the publications – 14 by number, including the monographic work, 4 of them are with coauthor as Chief assistant professor Sibel Ilhanova Ahmedova, Ph.D. is the second author.

Five of the publications are indexed in the **Scopus** database [Г.7.1., Г.7.2., Г.7.3., Г.7.4., Г.7.5.], and one is indexed in the **Web of Science** database [Г.7.6.]. There are nine scientific publications in issues that are non-refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information [Г.8.1., Г.8.2., Г.8.3., Г.8.4., Г.8.5., Г.8.6., Г.8.7., Г.8.8., Г.8.9].

The candidate has submitted a reference for 100 scientometric points of citations: 5 in scientific publications referenced and indexed in **Web of Science** issues of conference proceedings, 12 citations in peer-reviewed collective volumes abroad, and 2 citations in publications issued in non-refereed issues.

Ahmedova, Ph.D. has presented a textbook, which consists of a co-authored textbook and exercise guide, in the discipline "Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship".

A list of the candidate's participation in 2 national projects funded under the National Program "Young scientists and postdoctoral fellows" and 3 intra-university projects of the "Industrial Management" department and the "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" club is presented.

Chief assistant professor Sibel Ilhanova Ahmedova, Ph.D. personally contributed to upgrading the used training version of the EnterpriseOne ERP system to version 2020 SP15. This gives an exceptional opportunity, in parallel with good theoretical preparation, for students to acquire serious practical knowledge, touching the realities of modern business.

The candidate has completed international academic teaching mobility as follows:

- International Balkan University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, 14-15.05.2021r., Skopje, North Macedonia;
- Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University, Faculty of „Economics and Management“, 29.10.2021r., Baku, Azerbaijan.

She has a successful activity as a participant in 5 international conferences held in Belgrade - R. Serbia, Sevastopol - Russia, Singapore, and Yalta/Crimea - Russia.

## **2. Evaluation of the pedagogical preparation and activity of the candidate.**

Chief assistant professor Sibel Ilhanova Ahmedova, Ph.D.'s activity as a university lecturer covers approximately 10 years. Lectures and exercises were conducted by the candidate in various disciplines as follows:

1. Technological entrepreneurship, for „Bachelor's degree“, 2nd year, lectures;
2. Fundamentals of Finance, for „Bachelor's degree“, 2nd year, lectures and laboratory exercises;
3. Management of company finances, for „Bachelor's degree“, 3rd year, lectures and laboratory exercises;
4. Innovation management, for „Bachelor's degree“, 4th year, seminar exercises and coursework;
5. Competitiveness of the industrial enterprise, 4th year, seminar exercises and coursework;
6. Regional Development, for „Bachelor's degree“, 3rd year, lectures and seminar exercises;
7. Analysis and diagnosis of economic activity, for „Bachelor's degree“, 3rd year, lectures and laboratory exercises.

The candidate participated in the development of 3 study programs in the disciplines „Technological entrepreneurship“, „Fundamentals of Finance“ and „Management of company finances“ for „Bachelor's degree“.

For the last 3 years (2019, 2020, and 2022) the auditorium occupancy is 653 hours for lectures, 94,1 hours for seminar exercises, 731,3 hours for laboratory exercises, and 127,3 hours for term paper/term projects for „Bachelor's degree“. The general report on the educational activity for the period from 2019 to 2022. shows a workload of 1605.7 hours. For her participation in the competition Ahmedova, Ph.D. presents pieces of evidence for 121 hours of lectures in Bulgarian-language education for a „Bachelor's degree“.

For the period from 2019 so far, under the guidance of Ahmedova, Ph.D. 4 students from „Bachelor's degree", Specialization "Industrial Management" have successfully defended their theses for their final graduation work.

A very good impression is made by the candidate's work, not only with graduates but also with students from the "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" club. As a result of their joint work, two projects have been implemented that address current issues regarding the opportunities and challenges faced by young entrepreneurs.

### **3. Basic scientific and scientific-applied contributions.**

The contributions contained in the publications submitted for participation in the competition can be grouped into the following main categories:

#### **Scientific contributions**

- the fundamental concepts of regional development and competitiveness are systematized (B.3);
- based on a theoretical analysis of the nature and characteristics of "regional competitiveness", a new definition of the concept is proposed (B.3);
- the main methods of analysis and evaluation of investment decisions are studied, as a result of which their advantages and disadvantages are summarized (Г.8.2);

#### **Scientific and applied contributions**

- a model for increasing regional competitiveness was studied, as a result of which guidelines are proposed for increasing the competitiveness of the North-East region (B.3);
- the entrepreneurial attitudes among the Industrial Management students at the Technical University - Varna toward starting their own business and/or implementing an entrepreneurial idea are investigated and identified (Г.7.4);
- the state of digital transformation, the implementation and application of digital technologies for financial management in enterprises, and the management of business processes has been studied (Г.7.3, Г.7.5, Г.8.8);
- an analysis of the sources of financing for technological entrepreneurship and innovation for Bulgarian enterprises is carried out, as a result of which recommendations were summarized for the creation and maintenance of a flexible innovation system at the national level (Г.8.4);
- the importance of technology transfer, clusters, risk capital, and research and development as a tool for increasing the growth and competitiveness of enterprises in Bulgaria is analyzed (Г.7.1, Г.8.1, Г.8.5, Г.8.6., Г.8.7);
- guidelines have been formulated to increase the innovation activity of food industry enterprises (Г.7.1);
- measures to reduce the effects of COVID-19 on the economy of the Northeast region are summarized (Г.8.3);
- recommendations for increasing the inflow of foreign investments in Bulgaria have been made (Г.7.6)
- recommendations and guidelines for promoting family business in Bulgaria are systematized (Г.8.9)

#### **Applied contribution**

- a model was developed to increase the regional competitiveness of the North-East Region, R. Bulgaria (B.3)

#### **4. Significance of contributions to science and practice.**

The scientific works presented in the competition are the personal work of the candidate. I do not doubt the importance of contributions in the scientific works of Ch. assistant professor Sibel Ilhanova Ahmedova, Ph.D., which is confirmed by the presented reference for citations. Scientific research is current for our time directions, which can find wide applications, both in the educational process and in practice. The quantitative indicators of the scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" were not only met, but even exceeded.

#### **5. Critical notes and recommendations.**

I found original, up-to-date, and significant scientific and scientific-applied achievements in the field of technological entrepreneurship and innovation, enterprise competitiveness, and financial management. However, I can recommend the candidate to expand her publication activity in journals with impact factors and impact rank in the future.

However, the research of the candidate, with which I became acquainted, is completed developments with in-depth scientific research, typical of scientific work for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor".

### **CONCLUSION**

I highly appreciate the scientific research work of Chief assistant professor Sibel Ahmedova, Ph.D. Bearing in mind the scientific works, the contributions and their significance for science and practice, her research, and her pedagogical activity, I accept that she meets all the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor". The quantitative indicators of the criteria for filling the position have also been met, which is why I find it reasonable to propose Chief assistant professor Sibel Ilhanova Ahmedova, Ph.D. takes the academic position "Associate Professor" in the high education professional field 5.13 „General engineering“, in the study discipline „Technological Entrepreneurship“.

**MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY**

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/prof. Stoyanka Petkova Petkova-Georgieva, r.n.D./