



POSITION

of Professor Georgi Ivanov Shopov, PhD

Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)

(field 3. Economic, social and legal sciences,
professional line 3.8. Economics – National economy)

Subject: competition for the academic position of “professor” in scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional line 3.7. Administration and management, scientific specialty “Organization and management outside the material production sphere”.

1. Information about the competition

The above-mentioned competition was announced by the University of Telecommunications and Posts (UTP) in State Gazette 65/July 27, 2023 for the needs of the “Communications Management” department.

This position was prepared in connection with this competition in my capacity as a member of the Scientific jury approved by Order 3-242/September 28, 2023 of the Chancellor of the UTP. The position was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Article 60 of the Rules on the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Personnel of the Republic of Bulgaria Act (RIDAPRBA).

2. Information about the competitors

Associate Professor Baki Hasanov Huseinov is the only competitor. The candidate is the vice-chairman of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, and simultaneously, since 2017, he is an associate professor at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE), as well as an academic researcher (half-time) at the Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) (2014-2023). He is a “Doctor of Economics” with a scientific specialty “Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance” (social and economic protection), which scientific degree was acquired in 2014 at the Economic Academy “D. A. Tsenov” – Svishtov.

In addition to being a university teacher and scientist, the candidate's professional profile also includes managerial experience in high positions in central institutions (the indicated current position in the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, Deputy minister in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, National coordinator of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015” at the Council of



Ministers), as well as in local self-government bodies (4 terms of office as mayor). This versatile experience is manifested in the teaching and research activities of Associate Professor Huseinov.

3. Fulfilment of the quantitative and qualitative requirements for the academic position

For the current competition, AP, DSc Baki Huseinov presents 2 monographs, one of which is based on his dissertation for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"; 1 article and 1 study in the "Икономически изследвания" (Economic Research) journal, which was referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (SCOPUS); 7 studies, articles or reports published in non-referenced peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. These are a total of 11 scientific works, all of which are independent, while two of them are in English (in the "Икономически изследвания" (Economic Research) journal. The monograph "Social-economic determinants for the active life of the elderly" is presented as the main habilitation thesis. The book "Social-Economic Problems of the Roma Population in the Republic of Bulgaria" is not the subject of evaluation in this position, as it is based on the doctoral dissertation of the candidate. The publications presented for this competition do not repeat this dissertation in terms of content.

I think that all publications were peer-reviewed or, as is the case with conference papers, were subject to public discussion.

The information in the presented quantitative map shows that the candidacy of Associate Professor DSc Baki Huseinov fully meets the National minimum requirements under the Development of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DAPRBA) and those in the Regulations on the Implementation of this Act. Dr. Huseinov's quantitative score of 780 points exceeds the required threshold of 550 points. Accordingly, in group D (publications) he has 245 points out of the required 200 points, in group D he has 160 points out of the required 100 points, and in group E he has 225 points out of the required 100 points, respectively.

Regarding the obligation of the scientific jury imposed by Article 4, paragraph 11 of the DAPRBA to rule on the presence or absence of plagiarism in the scientific works of the candidate Associate Professor Huseinov, based on the provided references, no plagiarism was found.

4. Assessment of the lecturing activity

From the documentation provided for the competition and, in particular from the curriculum vitae and the Reference for performed lectures and provision of activities in a practical environment for the period 2018-2023, it is evident that Associate Professor B. Huseinov has performed academic lecturing activities in the disciplines "European economic and social policy" and "Multicultural business environment" in the European Higher School of Economics and Management (in the period 2016-2020),

in the UNWE (2017-currently) in the disciplines “Social security systems” and “Public-private partnerships”.

Along with that, in the period after 2018, he has read 21 lectures within the framework of training seminars (to principals and teachers, to employees from Labour Inspectorates, to employers from the North Central Region and the Southwest Region), or during participation in various other events (round tables, public events on projects financed by Operative Programs in which the applicant participated).

On the grounds of item 2, item 3 and item 4 (the provided relevant information for the competition, accordingly), it can be concluded that the candidate meets the requirements specified in Article 110, paragraph 1 of the Regulations on the development of the academic personnel at the UTP, including the requirements for age (under 65), at least 2 years of holding an academic position “associate professor”, but also the alternative requirement of 5 years of experience as an academic lecturer.

5. Characteristics and significance of the presented scientific works/publications

The monograph habilitation thesis “Social-economic determinants for the active life of the elderly” (2022) of AP, DSc Baki Huseinov, Publishing House of UNWE (publication 1 from the list of publications) is distinguished by the following scientific merits:

Relevance: the work is relevant from a research and from a practical point of view. The concept of active aging is one of the key ones in social policy, in labour market policies and in terms of social inclusion, and it is particularly important for Bulgaria in the context of the main negative demographic processes in the country, such as depopulation and aging population.

The applied scientific toolkit and the obtained results of the analysis have a scientific-theoretical value and practical applicability – a broad scientific toolkit was used: research of literary sources, theoretical and empirical analysis, processing and analysis of statistical data from the National Statistics Institute, etc. On this basis, a complex study of the mutually dependent economic and social factors for the active life of the elderly was conducted.

Scientific objectivity and good faith: On such an important aspect of the acute and socially significant topic of the demographic crisis in the country, such as the elderly and their quantitative and qualitative-structural characteristics, Associate Professor Huseinov makes objective assessments, conclusions and proposals based on the results of his scientific analyzes and professional experience, including as a person involved in the formation and implementation of the state social policy.

Practicability: - The research of the impact of the main factors for the active life of the elderly in Bulgaria was qualified as a “road map” for the development and implementation of appropriate policies and measures by the competent authorities, as well as theoretical concepts for the use of scientific results from analyzes and assessments in management practices. In relation to the above, the author proposes codification of the existing national legal framework in a complex Active Living of

the Elderly Act and an innovative concept for an optimal ratio between institutional long-term care and social services in a home environment for the elderly in the National Strategy for Long-Term Care (until 2034).

The habilitation thesis of AP, DSc Baki Huseinov is a result that summarizes his scientific accumulations and experience in the field of social inclusion of risk/vulnerable population groups (such as the elderly, Roma). In particular, it emphasizes issues related to the educational status and structure of the elderly, the size and structure of their income per poverty levels, imbalances between female and male labour in pre-retirement age, and long-term care for the elderly as part of the social services. This work is proof of purposeful scientific and expert work in this field of scientific knowledge and practical administrative-management activity on the subject of the competition.

Apart from the habilitation monographic thesis, the problems of social inclusion and discrimination of vulnerable groups were the subject of research in the other publications presented for the competition, such as studies, articles, reports. They examine issues related to the access of the elderly, women, Roma to education, poverty and income, access to economic resources and the labour market, remuneration, housing, health care, etc.

Regarding the citations, it can be noted that AP, DSc B. Huseinov has 12 citations from 6 Bulgarian authors in their publications, which make him an author who is sufficiently recognizable by the national scientific collegiums.

6. Assessment of the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions

AP, DSc B. Huseinov researches current problems related to the delineation of the social-demographic profiles of vulnerable groups of the population (elderly people, Roma), where the main aim is to find the influence of the education level on the professional qualities, positions on the labour market and in employment, and on income and quality of life, accordingly. Based on the applied approach, profiles are identified by education, age and gender, and comparisons are also made with other EU member states. In an applied aspect, from a managerial point of view, *the habilitation thesis* proposes a concept for finding an optimal ratio between institutional long-term care and social services in a home environment to meet the growing needs of the elderly, while complying with European norms and standards, as well as justifying a proposal for the development of a complex act for active living of the elderly. A proposal for the creation of an inclusive labour market is also justified, which would contribute to limiting the discriminatory acts restricting the access of the elderly to the labour market, and thus to active aging. Specific proposals for the development of the long-term care system for the elderly have also been systematized. I am linking the contributions *in the other publications* to conclusions, evaluations and proposals regarding policies and management decisions for: reducing the regional differences in the educational infrastructure; reducing school dropout; reducing the risks of discrimination; the inclusion of Roma through adequate housing and health policies.

On this basis, the contributions can be characterized mainly as scientific-applied: (a) from a scientific-research point of view – as systematization and upgrading of existing knowledge about the social-demographic profiles of vulnerable population groups and the factors for the active life of the elderly people; (b) in an applied aspect – as formulating conclusions and proposals for improving the social policy, as well as the organization and management of the activities related to the social inclusion of vulnerable groups of the population.

7. Remarks and recommendations

I have critical remarks about the content. From a formal point of view, I would note the discrepancy that the two publications in the “Economic Research” are in English, while in the list of publications and in the scientometric table, the candidate has described them with their Bulgarian titles. Furthermore, the claimed contributions are related only to his habilitation thesis, while he has ignored his other publications in his reference. In connection with this, I suggest that at the meeting of the scientific jury our colleague Huseinov presented his view on his contributions in the publications outside his habilitation thesis – of course, in the context of the profile of the current competition.

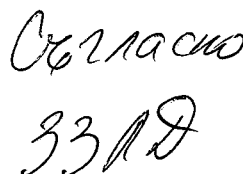
My recommendations are that in the future he should find ways to publish in foreign scientific publications, as well as to look for opportunities for complex research carried out by scientific teams. The first will contribute to wider scientific recognition, and the second will enrich the opportunities for professional contacts and mutual expert enrichment.

8. Conclusion

The information in this position gives me reason to consider that Associate Professor DSc Baki Huseinov meets the requirements of the DAPRBA, RIDAPRBA, and the Regulations for the development of the academic personnel at the UTP for occupying the academic position “Professor” in scientific field 3 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional line 3.7. Administration and management, scientific specialty “Organization and management outside the material production sphere” (for the needs of the “Communications Management” department). **The necessary conditions for my positive conclusion to award the academic position of “Professor” to Baki Hasanov Huseinov are present.**

24.11.2023

Signature:


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