

ON THE COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR",**ANNOUNCED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS-VARNA****1. General information**

Prepared by the opinion: Prof. Dr. Bratoy Koprinarov, Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assoc. Prof. Zlatarov" - Burgas.

Grounds for preparing the opinion: Order of the Rector of the University of Economics - Varna, No. RD06-7/15.01.2026 and Decision of the Academic Council meeting of 22.01.2026.

2. Data on the competition

The competition was announced in the State Gazette, issue 98/18.11.2025, for the needs of the University of Economics - Varna, professional field 7.6. "Sport", scientific specialty "Sport (Sports Tourism)"

3. Candidate for the competition

The only candidate for the competition is senior lecturer "doctor", Dimitar Stoilov Dimitrov, lecturer in the department "Language Education and Sport". Dr. Dimitrov graduated from the National Sports Academy - Sofia, OKS "Bachelor" / specialty "Sport" and OKS "Master" in the specialty "Sports Pedagogy" at Veliko Tarnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" - Faculty of Pedagogy. In 2015, the candidate acquired the ONS "doctor" in the scientific specialty 05.02.18. "Economics and Management" (tourism), (diploma No. 60 of 29.06.2015). Topic of the dissertation: "Increasing the competitiveness of the sports animation product in seaside hotel complexes."

The candidate for the competition has been a lecturer since 2004 at the Varna University of Economics, senior lecturer - 2007 and "doctor" since 2015.

4. Description of scientific works

In the competition for associate professor, senior lecturer Dr. Dimitar Dimitrov has presented 41 scientific publications, including 2 independent monographs (462 pages), co-author in 1 monograph (16 pages), 11 articles (3 independent, 8 co-author with a total volume of 90 pages), 25 scientific reports (13 independent; 12 co-author with a total volume of 151 pages) and co-authorship in 2 textbooks (82 pages). The total volume of scientific publications amounts to 801.5 pages.

The scientific interests of Dr. I. Dimitrov, which have found expression in his scientific production, are mainly focused on four areas: sports in the higher education system; sports and sports events as a social phenomenon; sports animation product as an element of the tourist offer; sports tourism as an element of specialized types of tourism.

All scientific publications submitted for review were published after the defense of a dissertation for obtaining the ONS "doctor".

The presented systematized characteristic and assessment of the scientific activity of Dr. Dimitrov gives me grounds for the conclusion that it meets the requirements of Art. 24 of the ZRASRB and Art. 71 of the Rules for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the University of Varna.

5. Identification of contributions

The scientific achievements of a contribution nature are concentrated mainly in the monographic works "Sports tourism - trends and prospects for development". Varna: "Science and Economics", Library "Prof. Tsani Kalyandzhiev". ISBN 978-954-21-1209-9 2025, and "Increasing the competitiveness of the sports animation product in the seaside hotel complexes: a monographic study. Varna: "FIL" OOD. (222 pages) ISBN 978-954-9741-65-0, but are also present in the scientific articles and reports presented by Dr. Dimitrov. In the scientific works we can highlight the following significant contributions of a scientific and practically applied nature:

- Based on empirical data, a positive relationship has been scientifically proven between regular physical activity, physical ability, health status and cognitive functions of students;
- A systematization of the factors motivating students towards physical activity and sports has been made, identifying social, psychological, material and institutional determinants influencing the motivation for participation.
- Systems for assessing and monitoring student physical activity have been developed, which allow tracking the level of participation and progress in sports activities. Exemplary models for assessing the success rate in physical education have been derived, guaranteeing objectivity, transparency and stimulating regular participation in sports activities.
- Approaches have been developed to increase motivation and form sustainable habits for independent sports activities among students.
- A conceptual and applied basis for planning and organizing sports events at the local, national and European levels has been developed. Guidelines for integrating sports events as a factor for economic, cultural and social development have been formulated, in accordance with the strategic priorities of modern public policies.
- The theoretical role of sports animation in active recreation and in the development of SPA and wellness tourism has been clarified. The understanding of the motivation and consumer behavior of tourists when consuming animation products has been expanded.
- A conceptual framework for integrating animation activities into individualized tourist services has been defined - a key strategic tool for increasing satisfaction. Practical models for integrating sports animation into SPA and wellness programs have been proposed.

- A comprehensive methodology for assessing the competitiveness of the sports animation product has been created. Critical areas for analysis have been determined: human resources, material base, diversity of forms and management. An author's model for quantitative measurement has been developed using an integral coefficient, combining a mathematical and managerial approach, which is applicable as a self-assessment tool in hotel complexes.

- The origin and evolution of sports tourism have been historically clarified. A systematic review of definitions has been conducted and an author's definition has been proposed. Key characteristics and factors of sports tourism are identified.

- Sports tourism and the concept of the sports tourist are defined. The mutual influence between sports and tourism is analyzed, as well as the forms of sports tourism. The main factors, motivations and social effects of sports tourism are identified.

- The role of sports events as tourist products is theoretically expanded. The motivations and experiences of spectators are studied. Sport is analyzed as a cultural tourist attraction and a bearer of local identity.

- The theoretical basis of sports animation is updated, and a comprehensive conceptual framework for the organization of sports, recreational and sports-entertainment activities in tourism is presented, taking into account modern trends, changes in infrastructure and the emergence of new sports.

From the presented reference of Dr. Dimitrov, 16 citations of 10 scientific publications are prominent, which can be assessed positively from the point of view of the significance of the research and the popularity of the candidate for associate professor.

6. Participation in scientific projects and scientific forums

Senior lecturer Dr. D. Dimitrov has participated in a university project on the topic "Tourism profiling of the municipality of Dalgopol" financed with a subsidy from the state budget, Contract NIR PNI 23/2018.

The candidate meets the minimum national requirements and the minimum requirements of the University of Varna for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 7.6. "Sports", scientific specialty "Sports (Sports tourism)". According to Art. 26 of the ZRASRB, Dr. Dimitrov forms the following performance by group of indicators: in group "B" he collects 100 points, in group "G" - 871 points (with a required minimum of 200 points), in group "E" - 105 points (with a required minimum of 50 points).

In general, the scientific production is sufficient in volume and is suitable in structure and quality for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Sport (Sports Tourism)"

7. Teaching work

Senior lecturer Dr. Dimitar Dimitrov annually has the required teaching workload of over 600 teaching hours, which is evident from the reference attached to the documents. Dr. Dimitrov leads seminars and lectures in the following academic disciplines: "Physical Education and Sports", "Physical Education and Sports Animation", "Modern Types of Tourism", "Tourist Resources", "Excursion Leadership", "Specialized Types of Tourism" and "Physical Education and Sports". "Social Psychology, etc. Co-author of 2 textbooks. Until the announcement of the competition, the candidate was the scientific supervisor of 23 diploma theses.

Senior lecturer Dr. Dimitrov actively works with students as an academic mentor in practical training under the national project of the Ministry of Education and Science "Student Practices" phase I and phase II. He actively participates in the organization of sports and tourism events at the University of Varna.

In summary, the candidate's teaching and teaching activities are in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Varna.

8. Plagiarism

In the documents and scientific publications provided by senior lecturer Dr. Dimitar Dimitrov, I have not noticed any texts that would establish incorrectly used scientific works or plagiarism.

9. Critical remarks

I have no specific remarks regarding the scientific research and teaching activities of Dr. Dimitrov. I recommend that his future publication activity be directed to publications and forums in the country and abroad registered in Scopus and WoS.

10. Conclusion

The analysis of the qualification, research and teaching activities of senior lecturer Dr. Dimitar Stoilov Dimitrov, his professional development and scientific achievements in the scientific specialty "Sport (Sports tourism)" give me reason to give a positive assessment of the overall activity of the candidate. Art. 24 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 53 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Varna for holding the academic position of "associate professor" have been fulfilled.

Based on the above, I propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury for the competition to elect senior lecturer Dr. Dimitar Stoilov Dimitrov to the academic position of "associate professor" in the professional field 7.6. "Sport", scientific specialty "Sport (Sport

Burgas
06.02.2026

Prepared the opinion
(Prof. Dr. Brat

Заличена информация съгласно
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679



OPINION

Ex. No. PA20-363/04.03.2026r.

Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.9 "Tourism", scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism - Tourism Resources, Travel Agencies, Travel Guide, Entertainment Business)"

1. General information

The opinion was prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, PhD, Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Economics – Varna, field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.9 "Tourism", scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism)".

This opinion has been prepared based on Order No RD 06-201/22.12.2025. of the Rector of the University of Economics-Varna for the appointment of a scientific jury and Report of the first meeting of the scientific jury for the election of a chairman and reviewers of the competition, held on 16.02.2026.

The Opinion has been developed in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic Bulgaria (ASDARB) and the Regulations for its Implementation (RIASDARB), and the Rules for Academic Growth at the University of Economics-Varna (PRAS).

2. Information about the competition

The competition was announced in the State Gazette No. 104 /05.12.2025 for the needs of the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Economics – Varna, in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.9 "Tourism", scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism - Tourism Resources, Travel Agencies, Travel Guides, Entertainment Business)".

3. Candidate for the competition

Chief Assistant Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov, PhD, from the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Economics – Varna has submitted documents for participation in the competition and is the only candidate. He has submitted documents and materials in accordance with ASDARB and RIASDARB, and the Rules for Academic Growth at the University of Economics-Varna (PRAS).

The candidate fulfills the minimum national requirements for Associate Professor in the field of higher education, in which the competition has been announced according Art.2b, paragraphs 2 and 3, on ASDARB. Chief Assistant Ilin Dimitrov, PhD, meets the requirements in Art. 101 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics-Varna (PRAS) and covers the additional quantitative requirements of the University of Economics-Varna under Art. 26, paragraph 5 of the ASDARB.



• **Data about the candidate** (personal characteristics):

Chief Assist. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD, was born in 1983 in the city of Dobrich, where he completed his secondary education at a language school with intensive study of the German language. Then he acquired the following educational degrees:

- "Professional Bachelor" - "Tourism", 2005 at the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics - Varna
- Master's degree in Company Management and Controlling, 2008 at the Academy of Economics "D.A. Tsenov" Svishtov;
- PhD in Economics and Management (Tourism), 2021 at the University of Economics - Varna.

The candidate works in the field of education and public administration:

- Part-time lecturer and Assistant Professor at the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics-Varna, 2013 - 2019;
- Director of the Center for Careers, Entrepreneurship and Marketing at the University of Economics-Varna, 2020 - 2021;
- Chairman of the Varna Chamber of Tourism in the period 2020-2021.
- Member of Parliament in the 47th National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Tourism, 2021 - 2022;
- Minister of Tourism at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2022 - 2023;
- Secretary for Education, Culture, Tourism and Religion at the Administration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2022 - 2025;
- Chief Assistant Professor at the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics - Varna, 2025 - until today.

4. **Description of scientific papers**

The candidate participates in the competition with 16 publications according to the attached list in a volume of 450 pages. The presented scientific papers include 1 monograph (a habilitation paper with a volume of 112 pages, reviewed by 2 habilitated persons), 3 studies (3 in English), 7 articles (1 in English in the database Scopus), 4 reports, and a book based on a dissertation, all of which are independent and peer-reviewed.

The publications are developed on current issues and topics related to the development of tourism in Bulgaria and the world, present significant research, and have practical and applied contributions. The language and style used are of high quality.

5. **Identification of contributions**

The review of the scientific activity and the publications of Chief Assistant Ilin Dimitrov, PhD, outline contributions in the fields of "Medical and Spa Tourism", "Covid-19 and the Effect on Tourism", "Animation in Tourism", and "Human Resources Management in Tourism" as follows:



- **Medical and Spa Tourism** - a detailed theoretical review and analysis of health, medical, and spa tourism and legislation and resources for its development in Bulgaria, assessment of the potential and challenges for its development, and analysis of the opportunities for its effective implementation in the country, especially concerning its specialization in certain medical activities and directions;
- **Covid-19 and the effect on tourism** - an in-depth study of the development of tourism in Bulgaria before and after the pandemic caused by Covid-19, an analysis of the degree and speed of recovery of the sector, and the opportunities for improving these processes through marketing tools, for the development of medical tourism by offering treatment programs for recovery and post-COVID diseases, etc.;
- **Animation in tourism** - an in-depth analysis of the animation programs and products in the seaside hotel complexes in Bulgaria as a function of multiple factors and a developed model for determining the quality of the animation product;
- **Human Resources Management in Tourism** - an in-depth analysis of the training of personnel for tourism has been made, guidelines for improving educational programs have been prepared, the mechanisms for attracting personnel from third countries have been studied, including the requirements of the legislation and the possibilities for the implementation of the process, the risks of the process of attracting personnel from foreign countries have been assessed.

6. Participation in scientific projects and scientific forums

The candidate has participated in more than 20 scientific forums such as conferences ("Tourism Beyond Expectations" of the Department of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna, "Modern Tourism - Rethinking Opportunities and Directions for Its Development" and "Tourism and Innovation" of the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics - Varna, "Innovative Regenerative Tourism - Theory and Good Practices" of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, etc.), round tables and discussions. In his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Tourism, Minister of Tourism, and Secretary for Education, Culture, Tourism and Religion at the Presidency of the Republic of Bulgaria, he represents the country at numerous international events related to the development and problems of tourism, human resources, and training of personnel in the sector, etc. He is the initiator and organizer, in his capacity as Chairman of the VTC, of a round table dedicated to attracting and managing personnel in the tourism industry in 2021.

7. Teaching work

Chief Assistant Ilin Dimitrov, PhD, has been teaching at the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics - Varna since 2015, first as an assistant, then as a part-time lecturer, and in the 2025-2026 academic year as a Chief Assistant with a total classroom load of 914 hours. The disciplines he teaches are "Animation in Tourism", "Introduction to Tourism", "Guided Touring", and "Technology of Travel Agencies". The applicant actively participates in the organization and conduct of educational practices, assists students in



conducting events (presentation of animation programs), preparing course projects, etc. In his capacity as Director of the Center for Careers, Entrepreneurship and Marketing at the University of Economics-Varna, he contributes to the career development of students from all specialties at the University.

8. Plagiarism

The candidate participates in the competition with publications that have been checked in accordance with the procedure for plagiarism and do not give grounds to indicate incorrect use of other people's works and data.

9. Questions, critical remarks

The research and teaching activities of the candidate, Chief Assistant Ilin Dimitrov, PhD, are distinguished by high achievements and significance, both quantitatively and qualitatively. However, the following critical remark can be made and, accordingly, a recommendation to it:

1. To develop and publish at least one textbook or teaching aid in one of the disciplines in which he teaches to convey his knowledge and experience in tourism to a wider audience in the long term.

The recommendation is solely intended to contribute to the even more successful academic career of Chief Assistant Ilin Dimitrov, PhD, and to improve his teaching activities.

10. Conclusion

The candidate, Chief Assistant Ilin Dimitrov, PhD, meets all regulatory requirements according to the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation, as well as the internal rules of the University of Economics-Varna according to the PRAS for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in quantitative and qualitative terms. He holds a Ph.D., works as an Assistant and Chief Assistant at the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics - Varna and has been teaching for nearly 10 years in disciplines related to the competition, carries out active expert activity at the highest state level, and has made a significant contribution to the development of industry and education in tourism in Bulgaria.

Based on the above facts, I have every reason to propose that Chief Assistant Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov, PhD be elected to the academic position of Associate Professor at the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics - Varna in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", professional field 3.9 "Tourism", scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism - Tourist Resources, Travel Agencies, Travel Guide, Entertainment Business)

02.03.2026
Varna

Prepared Opinion...
/Assoc. Prof. Stanislav ~~ГЛАКОВ, ГИЛ~~/

Заличена информация съгласно
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679



ACADEMIC STATEMENT

regarding a competition for the academic position of “associate professor” in the professional field 3.9. “Tourism”, scientific specialty “Economics and Management (Tourism – Tourist Resources, Travel Agencies, Tour Guides, Entertainment Business)”

1. General information

Reviewed by: **Prof. Dr.Sc. Tanya Petrova Parusheva**

Field of higher education 3. “Social, economic and legal sciences”

Professional field 3.8. “Economics”

Scientific specialty “Economics and management (tourism)”

Department of “Economics of tourism”

University of National and World Economy, Sofia

Grounds for preparing the review: order of the Rector of the University of Economics – Varna No. **RD-06-201/22.12.2025** on the appointment of a Scientific Jury and decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury for the election of a chairman and appointment of reviewers for the competition of 16.02.2026.

2. Information about the competition

The competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” is announced in the field of higher education 3. “Social, Economic and Legal Sciences” in the professional field 3.9. “Tourism”, **scientific specialty “Economics and Management (Tourism – Tourist Resources, Travel Agencies, Tour Guides, Entertainment Business)”** for the needs of the Department of “Tourism” at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Economics – Varna (UE – Varna) in the State Gazette No. **104/05.12.2025**.

3. Candidate in the competition

The candidate in the competition – Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov has deposited a set of documents, which is in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Varna University of Economics (UE – Varna).

He exceeds the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for AD “associate professor” in the field of higher education 3. “Social, economic and

legal sciences” on the basis of Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of LDASRB. He achieves 485 points in groups of indicators A+B+C+D+D, with 430 points required.

The candidate in the competition for associate professor also meets the additional quantitative requirements of the University of Varna on the basis of Art. 2b, para. 5 of the LDASRB. He scored 135 points, with a minimum threshold of 110 points. The candidate meets the requirements in Art. 101 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Varna (RDAS):

1. He has acquired the educational and scientific degree of “doctor”.
2. He has held the academic position of “chief assistant” at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Varna for more than two years.
3. He has proven achievements in his field.

4. Candidate data (personal characteristics)

Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov is the only candidate in the competition. He graduated with a “Professional Bachelor’s Degree”, majoring in “Hotel and Restaurant Organization and Management” at the Varna College of Tourism (2002 – 2005). He continued his studies at the “Master’s Degree” in “Company Management and Controlling” at the “D. A. Tsenov – Svishtov” Academy of Economics (2007 – 2008). He defended his dissertation on the topic “Improving the Quality of the Animation Product in Seaside Hotels” and acquired the ESD “Doctor” (2022). He is fluent in English, German and Russian.

Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Dimitrov began his professional development as the owner and manager of “Star Fox Teams” EOOD (2016 – 2021). He continues to work as a lecturer at the College of Tourism – Varna (2013 – 2019). In the period 2020 – 2021 he is the Chairman of the Management Board of the Varna Chamber of Tourism and Director of the Central Committee of Tourism at the University of Economics – Varna. In 2021 – 2022 he is a member of the people’s parliament in the 47th National Assembly and Chairman of the Committee on Tourism. In the period 2022 – 2023 he is the Minister of Tourism at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria. In 2023 – 2026 he is the Secretary for Education, Culture, Tourism and Clergy in the Administration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria. Since 2025 he is a Chief Assistant, Doctor at the College of Tourism – Varna.

His areas of scientific interest include “Tourism Management”, “Medical, Balneo and Spa Tourism” and “Animation in Tourism”.

5. Description of scientific works

Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Dimitrov participated in the competition for associate professor with 16 publications. The scientific production proposed for opinion includes:

- 1 independent monograph – habilitation work;
- 1 published book based on a defended dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree “doctor”;
- 1 article published in a scientific publication, refereed and indexed in the world-famous database of scientific information Scopus;
- 10 articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes;
- 3 studies published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes.

The scientific production of the candidate for participation in the competition for “associate professor” has a total volume of 708 pages. He has 1 (one) publication, refereed and indexed in the world-famous database of scientific information Scopus, for which evidence has been provided.

The publications presented by Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Ilin Dimitrov are of high quality from a linguistic and stylistic point of view. In terms of quantity, structure and content, they fully comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Art. 101, item 3 and Art. 112, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Varna University of Economics.

5.1. Evaluation of the monograph

Highly appreciated is the monographic work *Dimitrov, I., Medical and Spa Tourism in Bulgaria, Plovdiv: Academy of National and Information Security, 2025, 122 pp., ISBN 978-619-7774-31-3*. The monographic work meets the requirements of Art. 112, para. 2 of the PRAS of the University of Varna. It was reviewed by two habilitated persons – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimir Alexandrov and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesselina Atanasova.

The development solves a significant scientific and applied scientific problem at a highly modern level. It presents an in-depth study of the development, trends and institutional framework of health, medical and SPA tourism in Bulgaria. The theoretical foundations, historical prerequisites and modern management models in the sector are systematized. The study offers an analysis of national resources, legislative framework and human capital, as well as an assessment of the country's competitiveness in a European and global context.

The monographic work complements the theoretical and practical knowledge in the specialized tourism literature. The work is also valuable for interested circles in the tourism business.

6. Identification of the contributions in the candidate's research work

I accept and confirm the contributions made by the candidate for associate professor. The research activity of Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Ilin Dimitrov is concentrated in **4 main thematic areas:**

I. Medical and SPA tourism in Bulgaria

The theoretical foundations, historical prerequisites and modern management models in the sector have been studied, and scientific, economic and social aspects have been analyzed. The potential and challenges facing medical tourism in Bulgaria have been studied in depth. A detailed analysis of the possibilities for treating rheumatological diseases through the use of balneo and SPA procedures has been made.

II. COVID-19 and its effect on the tourism sector

The degree of recovery of the sector, the speed and pace of tourist return, as well as the imbalance in the different markets were analyzed. A synthesis of the existing literature, medical publications and scientific research from the tourism sector was made, in order to track the development of the condition and the available therapeutic options for the treatment of prolonged COVID-19 syndrome. The dynamics of the tourism markets in Bulgaria before and after the pandemic were studied.

III. Animation product and improving its quality

A detailed study of the quality of the animation product has been conducted. Animation programs and products in seaside hotel complexes have been analyzed as a function of multiple factors. A formula has been derived for the accurate calculation of the quality of the animation product through a questionnaire survey and in-depth interviews.

IV. Human Resources and Education in the Tourism Sector

The state of education in the sector and the main sources of personnel have been analyzed. The mechanisms of importing personnel for tourism from third countries have been studied. The entire process of attracting employees from abroad has been studied.

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Ilin Dimitrov has presented evidence for 5 citations of 3 of his publications.

7. Participation in scientific projects and scientific forums

The candidate for associate professor has participated with reports in 8 scientific conferences in the country. He is a member of editorial boards of 3 journals. He exercises expert and consulting activities in public and private institutions – National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, Administration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria and Star Fox Team EOOD. He is a member of renowned public organizations, such as the Varna Tourist Chamber.

Chief Asst. Dr. Ilin Dimitrov has other professional achievements. He is a Doctor Honoris Causa of Karatekin University in Çankara. He has awards for:

- Person of the Year in Tourism – Destination Magazine, 2022;
- Minister of Tourism of the Balkans, PATWA, ITB Berlin, 2023;
- Contribution to the Development of Tourism – BAT, 2023.

8. Teaching work

The analysis of the study load report of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Dimitrov shows that he teaches students in full-time and part-time forms of study, the degree of “Professional Bachelor”. He leads lectures and seminars in the disciplines “Introduction to Tourism”, “Animation in Tourism”, “Tour Guidance” and “Service Technology in TA”.

During the academic years – 2015/2016; 2016/2017; 2019/2020; 2020/2021; 2021/2022; 2025/2026 the candidate has a total classroom load of 1319 hours. His work with students includes leading teams in the field of animation in tourism.

Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Ilin Dimitrov has extensive teaching experience. He has a high level of preparation for the academic position of “Associate Professor”. The candidate’s academic competence corresponds to the specifics of the competition.

9. Plagiarism

In the scientific publications of the candidate for “associate professor” submitted for opinion, there is no plagiarism proven in accordance with the statutory procedure. There is no use of incorrect data and incorrect reference to other people’s scientific works.

10. Critical comments and questions to the candidate

I have no comments on the teaching and research activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Dimitrov. I would recommend that in future research he focus his attention on writing textbooks in the disciplines he leads and publishing in Scopus and/or Web of Science publications.

11. Conclusion

The candidacy of Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov for participation in the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” complies with the regulatory requirements, according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the additional requirements of the University of Varna. He possesses undeniable merits as a lecturer and researcher, with proven contributions in the scientific specialty of the competition.

I clearly state my **positive assessment** for the only participant in the competition for “associate professor”. With full conviction, I vote **“FOR” Ch. Asst. Prof. Dr. ILIN PAVLINOV DIMITROV** to be elected to the academic position of “associate professor” in the **field of higher education 3. “Social,**

economic and legal sciences”, professional field 3.9. “Tourism”, scientific specialty “Economics and management (Tourism – Tourist resources, Travel agencies, Tour management, Entertainment business)” in the Department of “Tourism” at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Varna.

Sofia,
06.03.2026

Academic Statement by:
(Prof. Dr.Sc. Tanya Parusheva)

Заличена информация съгласно
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679



Вх. № PA20-421/11.03.2026г.

OPINION

in reference to a competition for taking the academic position "Associate Professor" at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics-Varna.

1. General information

Prepared the opinion: Prof. Stoyan Petkov Marinov, PhD, Department of Economics and Organization of Tourism (EOT) in the University of Economics-Varna (UE-Varna), area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional trend 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and management (Tourism)".

This review is made on the ground of Order №: RD 06-201/22.12.2025 of the Rector of UE-Varna for appointing a Scientific jury and Minutes of its first meeting for selecting a chairperson and appointing reviewers for the competition dated 16.02.2026.

The review is made in compliance with the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for applying it (RALDASRB) and the Regulations for academic staff development (RASD).

2. Information about the competition

The competition for the academic position of "associate professor" is announced in the State Gazette, issue **104/05.12.2025**, in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: "Economics and Management (Tourism - Tourist Resources, Travel Agencies, Tour Guides, Entertainment Business)" for the needs of the Department of "Tourism" at the College of Tourism at the UE-Varna

3. Candidates in the competition

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition – Chief Assist. Prof. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov PhD from the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism at the University of Varna.

The set of materials and documents submitted by the candidate is in accordance with LDASRB, RALDASRB and RASD in UE-Varna.

Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of "associate professor" in the area of higher education for which the competition was announced, according to art. 2b, item 2 and 3 from LDASRB. The candidate meets also the additional qualitative requirements of UE-Varna in art. 2b, item 5 of LDASRB and meets the requirements in art. 101 in RASD in UE-Varna

4. Data on candidate

Ilin Dimitrov graduated from higher education in the period 2002-2005 at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics-Varna and acquired the professional bachelor EQD degree in the specialty "Organization and management of the hotel and restaurant". The candidate acquired the master EQD degree from the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov in the specialty "Company Management and Controlling" (2007 - 06.2008). From 2018 - to 2021. Ilin Dimitrov is a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Economics and Organization of Tourism (EOT) at the University of Economics-Varna with a study period of 3 years, where he acquired the ESG PhD in the professional field 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism).

Ilin Dimitrov's professional career began as a lecturer at the College of Tourism - Varna (2013-2019). In parallel, the candidate started and managed his own business for tourist animation as the owner of the company "Star Fox Team" Ltd (2016-2019).

Ilin Dimitrov held the position of Director of Career Development and Marketing Center at the University of Economics-Varna (2020-2021). He was elected Chairman of the Board of the Varna Chamber of Tourism (2020-2021) and a Member of Parliament in the 47th National Assembly, where he was Chairman of the Tourism Committee (2021-2022). In the period 2022-2023. Ilin Dimitrov was the Acting Minister of Tourism, after which he worked as Secretary for Education, Culture, Tourism and Clergy in the Administration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria. (2023-2026). Since 2025, Ilin Dimitrov has held the position of Chief Assistant in the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism - Varna at the University of Economics-Varna.

For his activities in tourism, Ilin Dimitrov has been awarded a number of awards: "Doctor Honoris Causa" of the Karatekin University in the city of Chan-kara, Turkey; "Person of the Year Award in Tourism" by Destination magazine, 2022; "Award for Minister of Tourism of the Balkans", Pacific Area Travel Writers Association /PATWA/, ITB Berlin, 2023; "Award for Contribution to the Development of Tourism" by BAT, 2023.

The candidate has a high level of German and English and a good level of Russian.

5. Outline of research work

For participation in the competition, Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD submits a total of 16 publications according to the attached list. The submitted scientific works include: 1 independent monograph - habilitation work; 1 monograph based on a dissertation work; 3 studies; 7 scientific articles and 4 reports. All submitted publications are independent.

The works accepted for review have a total volume of 440 printed pages of personal participation of the candidate by types, shown in Table 1.



Table 1

Type and volume of peer-reviewed publications

№	Type of publications	Number	Number of pages	Relative share %
1	Monographs	2	248	56,4
	Studies	3	85	19,3
3	Articles	7	78	17,7
4	Reports	4	29	6,6
	Total	16	440	100,0

In terms of structure, monographs predominate in terms of number of pages with a share of 56.4%, followed by studies with a total share of 19.3.6%.

For participation in the competition, Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD presents an independent monographic work on the topic "*Medical and Spa Tourism in Bulgaria*" with a volume of 112 pages, which does not repeat publications for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor". The work was discussed in the primary unit - Department of "Tourism" at the College of Tourism at the University of Varna, was reviewed by two habilitated persons and was published in the scientific publishing house of the Higher School of Security and Economics in Plovdiv in 2025.

The monograph treats a scientifically applied problem regarding the development of the specialized type of tourism - medical and spa in destination Bulgaria.

The publications presented by Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD in quantitative, structural and content terms meet the requirements of LDASRB, RALDASRB, as well as art. 101, item 2 from RASD in UE-Varna.

6. Identifying contributions in the candidate's research work

The content of the publications of Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD shows that he works mainly in three thematic areas: "health tourism in its specialized form - medical and SPA tourism", "animation activity in tourism" and "education and human resources in tourism".

In summary, the contributions in the publications of Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD in the main areas are:

First, scientific and applied contributions in the area of "*health tourism in its specialized form - medical and SPA tourism*" (publications from the list with N: 6.1; 9.3; 10.4; 11.1; 14.4; 16.6)

In his publications, the candidate builds on the theory of medical and SPA tourism as a specialized type of health tourism with an emphasis on its economic

and social aspects. He assesses the health resources, legislative base and human capital of Bulgaria as a basis for the development of competitive medical and spa tourism.

Useful for practice is the detailed analysis made by Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD of the possibilities for treating rheumatological diseases through the use of balneology and SPA procedures.

The author thoroughly researches the impact of COVID-19 on tourism and the recovery of the tourism sector after the pandemic.

Second, scientific and applied contributions in the direction of "*animation activity in tourism*" (publications from the list with N: 8.2; 13.3; 19.2).

In his scientific works, Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD contributes to the theoretical systematization of animation activity in tourism. He proposes a methodology for quantitative assessment of the quality of the animation product through questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews.

For the needs of practice, he models animation programs and products in seaside hotel complexes

Third, scientific and applied contributions in the direction of "*education and human resources in tourism*". (publications from the list with N: 8.1; 9.2; 10.3; 13.6; 28.14; 31.17; 37.1; 58.22; 60.24; 61.25).

In his publications, the candidate analyzes the state of education in tourism. He proposes models and mechanisms for improving university programs in tourism education.

Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD studies the import of personnel for tourism from third countries, systematizes the problems of the process and makes specific proposals for its improvement.

Ilin Dimitrov, PhD presents proof of 5 citations of 3 of his publications.

7. Participation in research projects and scientific events.

Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD has participated with reports and presentations in over 10 scientific conferences in Bulgaria and abroad. Since 2020 actively participates in the work of the annual Black Sea Tourism Forum of the Varna Tourist Chamber. The candidate is also a member of the editorial board of IDEA magazine. Member of the Varna Tourist Chamber

8. Teaching work

The teaching and pedagogical activity of Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD is mainly focused on the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism at the University Economics - Varna. He participates in the development of curricula and leads lectures and seminars with professional bachelors in the disciplines "Introduction to Tourism", "Animation in Tourism", "Specialized Types of Tourism", "Travel Agencies and Transport in Tourism".

During the academic year 2025/2026, Dr. Dimitrov has a full academic classroom workload of over 400 hours in total at the College of Tourism - Varna.



9. Plagiarism

In the publications submitted for review there is neither plagiarism proven in accordance with the statutory procedure, nor use of incorrect data and/or incorrect citation of other people's scientific work.

10. Critical notes and questions to the candidate

I have known Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD since 2018 as a doctoral student in the field of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna, and subsequently as a lecturer at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna. Ilin Dimitrov possesses the qualities of an initiative, persistent and competent specialist-lecturer.

The reviewed scientific works do not provide grounds for significant critical remarks. I recommend that Ilin Dimitrov expand the scope of his scientific research in the field of economic aspects of health tourism in Bulgaria

11. Conclusion

According to the submitted documents and the achieved scientific and teaching results, Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD meets the requirements of LDASRB and RALDASRB in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the requirements of RASD in UE-Varna for taking the position of "associate professor", namely:

He has acquired the educational-and-scientific "PhD".

For more than 2 years he has held the academic position of "assistant" and "chief assistant", including a part-time lecturer at the College of Tourism-Varna. He has been and is a specialist in practice and has proven achievements in the field of tourism.

There are presented and accepted for assessment 16 publications, including a habilitation paper in the form of an independent monograph.

There are documented 5 candidate's citations by other authors in Bulgaria and abroad.

He teaches classes in academic disciplines in the "professional bachelor" program at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna, which are directly related to the direction of the competition.

Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD meets the minimum national requirements in art. 26, items 2 and 3, respectively the requirements in art. 2. b, item 5 from LDASRB. The candidate declares total of 455 points, the require minimum being 400 points, with performance on indicators in all groups (group A – achieved 50 p. with required 50 p.; group B – achieved 100 p. with required 100 p.; group D – achieved 250 p. with required 200 p.; group E – achieved 55 p. with required 50 p.

As per all indicators, Ilin Dimitrov, PhD meets the quantitative requirements for taking the academic position "associate professor" in UE-Varna based on art. 2b, item 5 of LDASRB and in compliance with art. 101, item 5 from RASD in UE-Varna (in force from 09.10.2025), declaring 130 points with required 90 points.

There is no plagiarism in the research works proven in accordance with the statutory procedure.

The achievements of Chief Asst. Prof. Ilin Dimitrov, PhD in scientific-applied and educational-pedagogical activities are grounds for me to give him a positive assessment and to propose him for election to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Department of "Tourism" at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: "Economics and Management (Tourism - Tourist Resources, Travel Agencies, Tour Guides, Entertainment Business)"

08.03. 2026
Varna

Reviewer:
Prof. Stoyan Marinov, PhD

Заличена информация съгласно
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679



EVALUATION REPORT

for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor
at the University of Economics – Varna
with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov

Prepared by: Prof. Dr. Velina Ivancheva Kazandzhieva
University of Economics – Varna, Professor in Professional Field 3.9 Tourism,
Scientific Specialty "Economics and Management" (Tourism),
validated in the Register of Academic Staff of NACID,
section "Habilitation Academic Staff with Scientometric Indicators",
Member of the Scientific Jury for the academic position of Associate Professor,
appointed by Order No. RD 06-201/22.12.2025 r.

Information about the competition. The competition was announced pursuant to Art. 57, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act (PPZRASRB) and the Rules for Academic Staff Development at the University of Economics – Varna, promulgated in the State Gazette, issue No. 104/05.12.2025. The competition is for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism – Tourism Resources, Travel Agencies, Tour Guiding, Entertainment Business)", for the needs of the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism, University of Economics – Varna.

This evaluation report has been prepared pursuant to Decision No. 3 of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury held on 16.02.2026.

1. Candidate. The sole applicant in the competition is Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov. Based on the submitted documents and the report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, it can be concluded that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements established by the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and its implementing regulations.

Furthermore, the candidate satisfies the quantitative criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor at the University of Economics – Varna, in accordance with Art. 2b, para. 5 of the Act. The reported indicators show that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements and, in several cases, exceeds the required thresholds. Similarly, the candidate also fulfills the additional quantitative requirements established by the University of Economics – Varna (Tables 1 and 2).

2. Background of the Candidate. The candidate, Dr. Ilin Dimitrov, possesses solid academic training and professional experience in the field of tourism, combining teaching, research, and managerial activities. In 2021, he obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor (PhD)" in Economics and Management of Tourism from the University of Economics – Varna. He also holds a Master's degree in Corporate Management and Controlling from the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, as well as a Professional Bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the College of Tourism at University of Economics – Varna.



Dr. Dimitrov's professional career is associated both with the academic environment and with the public and business sectors of tourism. Since 2025, he has held the position of Chief Assistant Professor at the College of Tourism – Varna. In previous years, he has also carried out teaching activities at the same higher education institution.

Table 1. Minimum National Requirements (MNR) for the Academic Position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.9 "Tourism", according to the Academic Staff Development Act and the points declared by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Dimitrov

Indicator Groups	Points Required under the Academic Staff Development Act (Art. 26, para. 2 and 3)	Points Declared by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dimitrov
Group A	50	50
Group B	–	–
Group C	100	100
Group D	200	250
Group E	50	55
Total for the AP of "Associate Professor"	400	455

Table 2. Additional Quantitative Requirements of the University of Economics – Varna and Declared Points by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Dimitrov

Indicator Groups	Quantitative requirements of UE – Varna (based on Art. 26, par. 5 of ZRASRB)	Points Declared by Dr. Dimitrov
Scientific papers	30	40
Articles and studies	80	95
Total for AP "Associate Professor"	110	135

The candidate possesses significant managerial and public experience in the tourism sector. During the period 2022–2023, he served as Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria. In 2021–2022, he was a Member of Parliament in the 47th National Assembly and Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Tourism. From 2023 to 2026, he has served as Secretary for Education, Culture, Tourism and Spirituality in the Administration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In addition, he has held managerial positions in both academic and professional organizations, including Director of the Center for Qualification and Professional Development at the University of Economics – Varna and Chair of the Board of the Varna Chamber of Tourism. For his professional activity, he has received several awards related to his contribution to the development of the tourism sector.

The presented academic and professional biography of the candidate demonstrates a consistent development of his teaching, research, and expert activities. His educational background and professional achievements comply with the requirements of Art. 101 of the Rules for Academic Staff Development at the University of Economics – Varna.



3. Description of Scientific Publications. In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Dimitrov has submitted a total of 16 scientific publications, all of which are single-authored. These include 2 monographs (one of which is the habilitation thesis and one book based on the doctoral dissertation), 3 studies, 7 articles, and 4 conference papers (Table 3).

Table 3. Summary of the Scientific Publications Submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Dimitrov

Type of Publication	Single-Authored	Total
1. Monographs	2	2
2. Studies	3	3
3. Articles	7	7
4. Conference papers	4	4
Total:	16	16

The submitted publications are related to the scientific specialty of the announced competition and have been taken into account in the preparation of this evaluation report. The scientific publications have been published in peer-reviewed academic journals and conference proceedings and comply with the established standards of academic ethics. Thematically, they focus on medical and SPA tourism, the entertainment business, and related aspects of tourism management, and are relevant to the scientific field of the announced competition.

The monograph (habilitation thesis) submitted for participation in the competition (Dimitrov, I., 2025. *Medical and SPA Tourism in Bulgaria*. Plovdiv: Academy of National and Information Security. Reviewers: Krasimir Vladimirov Aleksandrov, Veselina Ivanova Atanasova, ISBN: 978-619-7774-31-3) is an independent scientific work, discussed at the primary academic unit (the Department of Tourism). The monograph has been reviewed by two habilitated scholars in accordance with the regulatory requirements, published by a specialized academic publisher, assigned an ISBN, and has a total length of 122 pages. An up-to-date bibliography has been used. The study does not merely repeat existing knowledge but addresses current scientific issues at a high academic level, presented in a clear, logically structured, and consistent manner. The monograph analyzes contemporary problems of health tourism and offers well-grounded conclusions and practical guidelines for the development of the sector.

The candidate's other publications complement his research thematically. The submitted scientific works correspond to the scientific specialty of the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor.

4. Identification of Contributions. The scientific and applied scientific contributions presented by the candidate can be considered well substantiated. The analysis of the submitted publications makes it possible to identify a number of scientific and applied research contributions that demonstrate the systematic and focused research activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dimitrov. The main scientific contributions can be summarized in several key directions:

➤ The main theoretical concepts related to the development of medical and SPA tourism in Bulgaria have been examined and conceptually systematized. A comprehensive analysis of



the historical prerequisites, resource potential, and contemporary management models in the sector has been carried out.

➤ The scientific understanding of medical tourism as a specialized segment of the tourism industry has been enriched through an analysis of the factors determining Bulgaria's competitiveness as a destination for medical treatment in both European and global contexts.

➤ The scientific interpretation of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector has been expanded through research on the dynamics of tourism markets, the pace of recovery, and changes in tourist behaviour.

➤ A conceptual framework for studying the quality of the tourism animation product has been developed, identifying key factors determining its content, structure, and influence on the tourist experience.

➤ The scientific discussion on human resources in tourism has been enriched through an analysis of educational models, workforce training, and mechanisms for ensuring labour supply in the sector.

The scientific-applied contributions are directed toward:

➤ An assessment of Bulgaria's resource potential for the development of medical and SPA tourism has been carried out, including an analysis of mineral water resources and the possibilities for the treatment of rheumatological diseases through balneological and SPA procedures.

➤ Analytical assessments of the recovery of the tourism sector after COVID-19 have been developed. The study examines international and domestic tourist flows, as well as the dynamics of the main tourism markets.

➤ A matrix for analysing the impact of the pandemic on tourism flows has been developed, based on empirical data from the ESTI system, which can be used in the development of marketing and investment strategies.

➤ Models and methodological tools for evaluating the quality of the tourism animation product have been developed, including: a matrix for assessing the impact on the tourism environment; a formula for calculating the quality of the animation product; and a mechanism for determining the weight of individual quality factors.

➤ Practical recommendations for improving animation programmes in seaside hotel complexes have been formulated. These are based on empirical research and analysis of the factors influencing their effectiveness.

➤ Models for improving university education in the field of tourism have been proposed, including the introduction of modern educational approaches and good international practices.

➤ An analysis of the mechanisms for attracting labour from third countries to the tourism sector has been conducted. Key administrative and organisational constraints have been identified, and specific measures for optimising the process have been proposed.

The identified contributions correspond to the scientific specialty of the announced competition and demonstrate both theoretical results and practically applicable solutions. According to the submitted report, three of the candidate's publications have been cited a total of five times. Two of the citations of one of the publications are indexed in the Scopus database.

5. Teaching Activity. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dimitrov has 13 years of teaching experience. Since 2013, he has been working first as a part-time lecturer and subsequently as a full-time academic staff member at the College of Tourism, University of Economics – Varna. His teaching activity covers courses in the fields of tourism theory, tourism animation and entertainment activities, tour guiding, and service technology in travel agencies, delivered in



both full-time and part-time forms of study. The candidate has experience in conducting seminars and lecture courses and works with students enrolled in the Professional Bachelor's degree programme.

The candidate's teaching activity is characterized by consistency and thematic coherence with the theoretical foundations of tourism, tourism animation, and tour operator and travel agency services, which corresponds to the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

6. Recommendations to the candidate. With regard to the further academic development of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dimitrov, the following recommendations may be made: to participate more actively in teaching mobility programmes under Erasmus+, as well as in national and international research projects, where he could contribute with his accumulated professional experience and expertise.

7. Conclusion. Following an analysis of the submitted documents and scientific publications, it can be concluded that the candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov, fully meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Regulations for Implementation, and the Rules for Academic Staff Development at the University of Economics – Varna for the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism – Tourism Resources, Travel Agencies, Tour Guiding, Entertainment Business)".

The candidate holds the educational and scientific degree "Doctor (PhD)", has held the academic positions of Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor for more than two years, presents an original habilitation thesis and significant scientific publications, fulfills and exceeds the minimum national requirements, as well as the additional quantitative criteria of the University of Economics – Varna, and demonstrates substantial theoretical and applied scientific contributions.

All this provides sufficient grounds for me to express a positive evaluation of the candidate's application and to recommend to the Scientific Jury that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ilin Pavlinov Dimitrov be elected to the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism – Tourism Resources, Travel Agencies, Tour Guiding, Entertainment Business)", at the College of Tourism, University of Economics – Varna.

08 March 2026
Varna

Signature: Заличена информация съгласно
Prof. Dr. V ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679
Memb of the Scientific Jury