



Вх. № Д/20-514/24.03.2026

REVIEW

regarding the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Field 3. “Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences,” in the professional area 3.8. “Economics,” and the scientific specialty “Commodity Science and Customs Activity (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)”

1. General Information about the competition

Reviewer – Assoc. Prof. Antoaneta Petrova Zhelyazkova-Stoyanova, PhD, University of Economics – Varna, Department of Commodity Science, professional field 3.8. “Economics,” scientific specialty “Commodity Science and Customs Activity”.

Reason for the preparation of the review – Order of the Rector of the University of Economics – Varna No. RD 06-22/26.01.2026, appointing the members of the Scientific Jury, based on Art. 4 in accordance with Art. 25 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), Art. 7, para. 2, and Art. 106, paras. 3 and 4 of the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics – Varna (RDASUE) (adopted by the Academic Council on 09.10.2025) and a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics, Minutes No. 31/20.01.2026, regarding the announced competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in professional field 3.8. “Economics,” scientific specialty “Commodity Science and Customs Activity (Quality and Customs Control of Goods),” for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science, announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 104 of December 5, 2025.

2. Information about the competition

Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Field 3. “Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences,” in the professional area 3.8. “Economics,” scientific specialty “Commodity Science and Customs Activity (Quality and Customs Control of Goods),” announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 104/December 5, 2025, for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna.



3. Candidate in the competition

The candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Velichka Peeva Marinova, PhD, is the sole participant in the current competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Field 3, "Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences," in the professional area 3.8. "Economics," scientific specialty "Commodity Science and Customs Activity (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)," announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 104/December 5, 2025, for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna.

The candidate meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of "associate professor" in Field 3. "Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences," in which the competition is announced, pursuant to Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the ADASRB and the regulations for applying it, declaring the following points for the various indicators:

- from Group "A," the required **50 points**;
- for the indicators in Group "B," with an independent monographic work worth **100 points**;
- for the indicators in Group "C," a total of **276.6 points** were recorded, with a required minimum of 200 points;
- for the indicators in Group "E," the candidate declares citations totaling **250 points**, with a minimum of 50 points.

Based on the data provided by the candidate above, it can be concluded that these figures far exceed the total quantitative score for the individual groups of scientometric indicators and represent only a part of the candidate's overall scientific output, which consists of over **60 publications** (attached as a reference to the competition). With this review, I confirm that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "associate professor" in accordance with Art. 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3, and the additional quantitative requirements presented in scientific work consisting of articles and reports corresponding to the requirements of Article 2b, paragraph 5 of the ADASRB.

This gives me grounds to confirm that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova fully meets and has achieved complete compliance with the established requirements set forth in the internal rules adopted by the University of Economics – Varna, as defined in the RDASUE.

Pursuant to Article 101 of the RDASUE, the candidate for the academic position of "associate professor" has obtained a doctoral degree by successfully defending a dissertation



on the topic "*Quality and Effectiveness of Products Made from Recycled Paper Materials*" to acquire the academic degree of "Doctor" in 2020.

Chief Assistant Professor Velichka Marinova held the academic position of "*Assistant Professor*" from 2008 to 2021, and since 2021 has held the position of "*Chief Assistant Professor*" in the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna and has more than *17 years* of teaching experience, which fully meets the established requirements.

For the purposes of this competition, the candidate submits a monograph that does not duplicate the topic of the dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor," published in 2025 by the "Science and Economics" publishing house, the "Tsani Kalyandzhiev" Library on the topic: "*The importance of the relation commodities science – customs control*".

To date, no instances of plagiarism have been proven in accordance with the law in the academic works of the candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Marinova.

4. Information about the candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Marinova earned a Bachelor's degree in "Commodity Science" in 2004 and a Master's degree in "International Business" in 2005 from the University of Economics – Varna. After 2020, upon obtaining her PhD, the candidate has consistently expanded her knowledge and enhanced her qualifications through various forms of professional training, with *18* different training programs recorded, including the obtaining of a master's degree in the field of the competition - specialty "Economic and Financial Control," Certificate for a Master's program in "Currency, Customs, and Tax Control" in 2020 at the Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov.

In 2023, she was elected Deputy Head of the Department of Commodity Science, a position she continues to hold at the time of this competition. Currently, the candidate is a member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and the General Assembly of the University of Economics – Varna, the QMS coordinator for the Department of Commodity Science, a member of the Expert Council at the Center for Quality of Goods and Consumer Protection at the Research Institute of the University of Economics – Varna, and an auditor for the university's internal QMS audits conducted in accordance with the requirements of the BDS EN ISO 9001:2015 standard.



Dr. Marinova's research focuses on a detailed examination of the theoretical and practical aspects of customs control as a complex economic category. She examines its regulatory functions and highlights the interconnection between contemporary market conditions and global trade chains. A central focus of her research is the explaining of the interrelationship between the physicochemical and consumer properties of goods and their status as objects of customs control in international trade. She demonstrates that the economic efficiency of customs control is directly linked to the customs administration's expert knowledge of goods.

5. Description of the scientific work

The candidate is participating in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education under professional field 3.8. "Economics," scientific specialty "Commodity Science and Customs Activity (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)," with a total volume of 705 pages in scientific publications, of which 176 pages are in a major monographic work on the topic: *"The Importance of the Relation Commodities Science – Customs Control"*.

In her habilitation thesis, the candidate conducts an in-depth scientific and theoretical analysis aimed at establishing and validating the relationship between "commodities science" and "customs control." The candidate successfully explains that the effectiveness of customs supervision and control is directly dependent on the level of competence of the active subjects involved in the control of goods. The work goes beyond a narrowly specialized description by proposing a model in which commodities science serves as a key tool for optimizing control mechanisms. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Marinova substantiates the need for a qualitative transformation of processes within the customs administration. She presents opportunities for refining tariff classification through the targeted enhancement of customs officers' specific expertise in the field of commodities science.

This monograph highlights key aspects of the interpretation of the scope of customs control, not only as a legally regulated administrative activity, but also as a technical and expert process that draws on the professional skills of customs officials regarding the safety and quality requirements of the goods subject to control.

The study has a distinctly practical focus, as it proposes specific mechanisms for improving the quality of operational processes through the application of established risk



management methods in customs control in the context of digitalization. The author proposes solutions for minimizing errors and increasing the effectiveness of customs administration controls, demonstrating that a detailed understanding of the specifics of different commodity groups is the foundation for this. In the final stage of the study, the risk in customs control is assessed through commodity knowledge.

This work is of high scientific value, as it proposes specific models for optimizing administrative capacity and refining the tariff classification of goods, which is of key importance for fiscal security and for safeguarding human health and the environment.

Dr. Marinova's scientific work includes six significant publications in specialized journals indexed in the global databases Scopus and Web of Science. This is not merely a quantitative achievement, but a clear indicator of high citation rates and scientific precision. A particularly striking feature of the research profile of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova is her enduring presence in the international academic community. As indisputable attestation to the high value of her work, her participation as a co-author in the book "Handbook of Research on Quality and Competitiveness in the Healthcare Services Sector"—with a standalone chapter on "Impact of External and Internal Circumstances in Managing Medical Services"—should be highlighted. Publication in such a prestigious international platform is proof of the candidate's ability to work in interdisciplinary teams and to generate scientific content that meets the highest global standards for quality and relevance.

The list of 16 scientific articles and 12 reports submitted for the competition, totaling 216 pages, is eloquent proof of her intensive research work and ability to generate original scientific theses. Dr. Marinova's work focuses on the most current aspects of customs supervision, with her research on digitization and the "e-Customs" concept demonstrating the candidate's modern thinking and ability to analyze the processes of technological transformation in the administrative environment. Dr. Marinova examines the "One-Stop Shop" service environment, viewing it not only as a technical convenience but also as an interconnected economic ecosystem requiring precise coordination and interaction between regulation, commodity knowledge, and control mechanisms.

All of these publications, which have appeared in peer-reviewed and indexed databases, present her research to the international scientific community and ensure visibility for her findings. The thematic focus of the presented scientific output corresponds to leading European



and global trends, thereby enabling Dr. Marinova to successfully integrate Bulgarian scientific potential into the international scientific debate on issues related to quality, competitiveness, and regulatory frameworks for goods. Publications in high-impact, internationally indexed journals are clear confirmation that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Marinova possesses the necessary scientific maturity and expertise.

Her scientometric indicators far exceed the formal requirements and establish her as a promising and recognized scientist in her field.

The candidate's overall publication activity is fully aligned with the scientific specialty of the competition. Each study adds a new dimension to economic knowledge regarding customs control, making Dr. Marinova one of the leading figures in contemporary Bulgarian customs science.

6. Identifications of Contributions

In the reference presented, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova outlines her contributions, divided into two categories: scientific and scientific-applied.

In her research, the candidate examines theoretical and theoretical-applied aspects of customs control and commodity science, highlighting the interrelationship between them. Analyses the limitations of customs control, justifying the need for a risk-oriented approach in the implementation of customs control through increased digitalization of customs operations, while identifying the challenges, opportunities, and consequences of its implementation (Publications: 5.1; 8.2; 10.4; 12.6; 18.12; 20.14; 22.16).

In practical terms, in her research, Dr. Marinova analyzes the range of competencies required of customs officials and employs internationally recognized and standardized qualitative risk assessment methods (the Ishikawa diagram) in the realization of "customs control." She identifies cause-and-effect relationships between regulatory principles, the organizational framework, and the risk management process as tools for managing change and its impact on process quality (Publications: 5.1; 6.1; 7.1; 13.7; 14.8; 16.10; 17.11; 29.7; 31.9).

The candidate outlines the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing preventive and corrective actions in the management of identified and assessed risks (Publications 5.1, 6.1; 7.1; 13.7; 16.10; 17.11; 29.7).

Further develops and enriches scientific knowledge regarding the significance of the relationship between sustainability, the circular economy, and the bioeconomy in specific



industrial sectors, and supplements knowledge on quality aspects of certain categories of secondary products (Publications: 16.10; 17.11; 19.13; 21.15; 22.16; 23.1; 24.2; 25.3; 26.4; 27.5; 28.6; 32.10, 34.12).

In the information regarding citations, the candidate lists 24 quotes, 13 of which are in publications in peer-reviewed and Scopus-indexed journals. The reference in the Scopus system clearly shows that the candidate is recognized in the international scientific community, as evidenced by the fact that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova accumulates a h-index of 2 based on 12 publications and 8 citations.

7. Participation in research projects and scientific events

The candidate in the announced competition for the position of “associate professor” has participated in seven projects, two of which are research-oriented and focus on current topics: “Contemporary Approaches to Sustainable Management of the Agri-Food Chain” and “Management of the Bioeconomy Sectors in the Transition to Sustainability of the Bulgarian Economy”. The projects focus on the sustainable management of the agri-food chain and the strategic development of the bioeconomy, with the candidate demonstrating an ability to work in interdisciplinary teams to find solutions to current economic challenges in practice. The topics of the projects in which the candidate participates are in line with contemporary requirements and represent a significant contribution to the competition’s theme, as they highlight the candidate’s ability to analyze economic conditions and the implementation of sustainability policies in a national context.

Her research activities are successfully balanced with active organizational and expert work. Key participation in the preparation and implementation of the scientific forum “Commodity Science – Traditions and Perspectives” in 2023 is direct evidence of her contribution.

The combination of in-depth theoretical research, applied results from project work, and proven administrative capacity provides ample grounds to conclude that the candidate not only meets but also exceeds the quantitative and qualitative criteria for holding the academic position.

The candidate’s research work and participation in various forums clearly demonstrate their significant contribution and practical applicability. Based on the evidence presented, the candidate presents herself as an academic scholar with a solid research profile.



8. Teaching Experience

The teaching duties of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Marinova include lecturing, conducting laboratory and seminar exercises with students in the Bachelor's degree program in the following courses: "Fundamentals of Industrial Commodity Science", "Microbiology of Commodities", "Packaging Management", "Quality and Safety Management of Goods", "Customs Regimes and Procedures", "Customs Activity" (the last three in seminar exercises), and others; "Consumer Protection" and "Industrial Commodity Science" at the Master's level. Based on the information provided above, I can confirm that the candidate demonstrates impressive teaching experience covering the full scope of academic instruction—from leading seminars and laboratory exercises to delivering lecture courses.

In seminars and laboratory exercises, the candidate demonstrates an ability to translate theoretical concepts into practical skills. The approach focuses on individual work with students, ensuring a high level of mastery of the material. In addition, the candidate has participated in 7 projects, been a member of teams developing 26 curricula, supervised undergraduate students, and reviewed bachelor's theses.

Participation in professional development training is the foundation for successfully combining traditional academic approaches with innovative teaching methods, and serves as a guarantee of the candidate's high professional standards as an academic teacher.

The candidate's extensive experience as a lecturer and organizer of the educational process, combined with his modern methodology, fully meets the requirements for the academic position of "associate professor." She has established herself as a respected teacher with a clear contribution to raising the quality of education in the specialty, the faculty, and the University as a whole.

9. Plagiarism

There is no evidence of plagiarism, as well as inaccuracy, incorrect data, or improper citation of other researchers' works, as established in accordance with the statutory procedure in the candidate's scientific works.

10. Questions, critical remarks and recommendations

Recommendation – to continue working in line with her research interests in the areas of quality management and product quality, sustainability, "green" trends in European



legislation and climate change policies, customs operations, and controls to ensure the safety and quality of products placed on the market.

11. Conclusion

In summary, it can be conclusively confirmed that the professional achievements of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova demonstrate that she meets both the Minimum National Requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the professional field for which the competition was announced, in accordance with Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), as well as all requirements under Art. 101 of the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics – Varna (RDASUE).

Based on the above, *I confidently propose to the Scientific Jury to award Chief Assistant Professor Velichka Peeva Marinova, PhD, the academic rank of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in professional field 3.8. "Economics," scientific specialty "Commodity Science and Customs Activity (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)" for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna.*

23.03.2026 г.

Varna

Reviewer: ...

(Assoc. Prof. Antoaneta Petrova Zhelyazkova Стоянова, ГИП)

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



REVIEW

Вх. № PA20-539/25.03.2026г.

in response to a competition announced by the University of Economics – Varna for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Field 3, “Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences,” in the professional area 3.8. “Economics,” scientific specialty “Commodity Science and Customs Activities (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)”

1. General Information

Reviewed by: Prof. Elka Slavcheva Vasileva, Ph.D., Department of Natural Resource Economics, Faculty of Business, University of National and World Economy – Sofia, professional field 3.8. “Economics,” scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Eco-economics)

Basis for preparing the review: Order of the Rector of the University of Economics – Varna No. RD 06-22/January 26, 2026, appointing the members of the Scientific Jury, pursuant to Article 4 in conjunction with Article 25 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, Article 7, paragraph 2, and Article 106, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics – Varna (adopted by the Academic Council on October 9, 2025) and a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics, Minutes No. 31/January 20, 2026, regarding the announced competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in professional field 3.8. “Economics,” scientific specialty “Commodity Science and Customs Activities (Quality and Customs Control of Goods),” for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science, announced in State Gazette No. 104 of December 5, 2025.

2. Information about the competition

Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Field 3. “Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences”, in the professional area 3.8. “Economics”, scientific specialty “Commodity Science and Customs Activities (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)”, announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 104/December 5, 2025, for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna.

3. Competition applicant



The sole candidate in the current competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.8. "Economics," scientific specialty "Commodity Science and Customs Activities (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)," announced in the State Gazette, Issue 104/12/05/2025 for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna is Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova.

The candidate meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of "associate professor" in Field 3. "Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences", in which the competition is announced, pursuant to Article 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Higher Education Act and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Higher Education Act, declaring the following scores for the various indicators: from Group "A" – 50 points; for the criteria in Group "B" – a published independent monograph – 100 points; for the criteria in Group "D", a total of 276.6 points were recorded, with a required minimum of 200 points; based on the indicators from Group "E", the candidate declared citations totaling 250 points, with a minimum of 50 points. The candidate has indicated in the application materials that the scores received for the individual groups of scientometric indicators far exceed the total quantitative score. The data attached as a reference to the application also shows that the total number of scientific publications exceeds 60.

In this review, I express the opinion that the candidate fully meets the established requirements set forth in the internal regulations adopted by the University of Economics – Varna, as defined in the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics – Varna. In accordance with the requirements of Article 101 of the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics – Varna, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova earned her doctoral degree by successfully defending her dissertation on "Quality and Efficiency of Products Made from Recycled Paper Materials" in 2020. She held the academic position of "Assistant" from 2008 to 2021, and since 2021, she has held the position of "senior assistant professor" in the Department of Commodity



Science at the University of Economics – Varna, with more than 17 years of teaching experience.

In accordance with the competition requirements, the candidate submits a monography published in 2025 by the "Science and Economics" Publishing House, "Tsani Kalyandzhiev" Library, titled "The Significance of the Relationship Between Commodity Science and Customs Control". The monography does not repeat the topic of the dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor."

As of the date of this review, there is no evidence of plagiarism in the scientific works of the candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Marinova, submitted for this competition, as established in accordance with the law.

4. Candidate Information (Personal Profile):

The topic of the dissertation (thesis) for the degree of Doctor of Science, 2020, at the University of Economics – Varna is "Quality and Efficiency of Products Made from Recycled Paper Materials". The candidate earned a Master's degree in the field of the competition—specialization "Economic and Financial Control", major "Currency, Customs, and Tax Control" in 2020 from the Dimitar A. Tsenov Academy of Economics in Svishtov.

The information presented in the professional biography of candidate Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Marinova demonstrates the development of professional knowledge and competencies, as well as the acquisition of a variety of additional qualifications, such as a Master's degree in "International Business" a professional teaching certification, as well as a number of language certifications. The candidate also possesses organizational competencies at the department, faculty, and university levels, including those related to quality management.

All of this leads me to conclude that the candidate's education, dissertation, and additional qualifications are consistent with the research focus of the announced competition.

5. Description of the scientific works

Based on the attached "List of Publications" and the materials submitted for the competition, it can be concluded that the candidate meets the competition requirements.



The candidate has presented a published monography that is up to the requirements of article 101, paragraph 2 of the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics – Varna. The candidate has not repeated the publications for acquiring the PHD academic rank. The monography, titled „The Significance of the Relationship Between Commodity Science and Customs Control“ was published in 2025 by the specialized the “Science and Economics” Publishing House, “Tsani Kalyandzhiev” Library, Varna, v. 107, pp. 176, with a distinguished editorial board and ISBN 978-954-21-1202-0. The applied Minutes No. 5/December 17, 2024, of the Departmental Council of the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna indicate that the monography was discussed in detail and with expertise by the relevant academic unit.

The Content of the monography touches upon the contemporary problems of the connection between commodity science and customs control from the perspective of improving the quality of processes in customs control. The study employs a competency-based approach to assess the quality and effectiveness of customs controls from the perspective of commodity science. A crucial scientific problem for the functioning of global markets is being resolved on a cutting edge level through an analytical methodology for the evaluation of the connection between the information for the control subjects and the identification of risks in evaluating the impact of external and internal factors in the surrounding environment. As a result, the importance of the knowledge provided by the commodity science for increasing the expertise of customs authorities in the context of global supply chains development has been demonstrated.

An English-language study, published in 2023 by the international IGI Global publishing house, on a contemporary topic, connected to the questions of health services management should be also added. The candidate is a co-author of this independent chapter in the book, titled "Handbook of Research on Quality and Competitiveness in the Healthcare Services Sector" with an international editorial team.

16 scientific articles in Bulgarian and English are presented, as well as 12 reports with a total volume of 216 pages, out of which 12 are solely written by the



candidate. A big part of the scientific publications is included in indexing, referencing and evaluation systems, and 6 of the reports are referenced and indexed in the world databases of scientific information (Scopus, Web of Science). The indexing of the presented publications in referenced and indexed global databases as well as in other such specialized databases, allows for good communication with the scientific community in the research field.

In terms of content, the presented works show the problems of customs activity, including technological transformation of the administrative field, the digitalization of customs supervision and the e-Customs concept, the possibility of improving the service quality on "One desk", among others.

6. Identification of the candidate's contributions to research

I confirm the Reference on the scientific and applied contributions of Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova in the parts "Contributions of a scientific nature" and "Contributions of a scientific and applied nature".

Among the contributions of the *first group* can be identified mainly those that concern the interconnection between commodity science and customs control (in a monography, Publication 5.1) in substantiating the necessity of applying an *approach, based on risk* and in accordance with the requirements of business and society. In the monography of the candidate (Publication 5.1) the *competences approach* is also justified and applied to the quality and effectiveness of customs control from the point of view of commodity science. Here we can also add the systematization of theoretical statements about the interrelationship of sustainability - circular economy, bioeconomy in specific sectors of industry (Publications: 16.10; 17.11; 19.13; 21.15; 22.16; 23.1; 24.2; 25.3; 26.4; 27.5; 28.6; 32.10, 34.12).

The identified contributions from the *second group* are related to: the interpretation of a set of competencies of customs officers from the operational level of the technology of customs activities (Publications: 5.1; 10.4; 14.8); the extraction of *cause-and-effect connections in "customs control"* and discovering the importance of commodity science knowledge and the subsequent risks in achieving the stated goals (Publication 5.1); research and analysis of *the degree of digitalization* in individual sectors of customs activity and control (Publications: 5.1; 8.2; 10.4; 12.6; 18.12; 20.14, 22.16). Practical proposals have been formulated to *increase the*



competence of customs officers for continuous improvement of the effectiveness of the applied control mechanisms, aimed at reducing and eliminating potential or real risks in the implementation of customs control. (Publications: 5.1; 10.4; 11.5; 12.6).

The provided reference for the citations of the scientific publications of Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova shows that as of January 20, 2026, 11 publications have been cited with a total of 24 citations. The reference from the Scopus system is attached, where a total of 12 publications are described, 8 citations with 2 h-index.

7. Identification of the candidate's contributions to research

The candidate has participated in a total of six projects as a team member. Among these, two university-level research projects are particularly noteworthy: *Project NPI-47* "Contemporary Approaches to Sustainable Management of the Agri-Food Chain" from 2020 and *Project NPI-72* "Management of Bioeconomy Sectors in the Transition to a Sustainable Economy in Bulgaria" from 2023. As evident, the topics of the projects in which the candidate participates are highly relevant and represent a significant contribution to the theme of the competition.

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova actively participated in the preparation and implementation of the academic forum "Commodity Science: Traditions and Perspectives" at the University of Economics – Varna in 2023. She assists with the preparation and conduct of the event and also shares her expertise as a speaker at a webinar on the topic: "Approaches to Sustainable Food Chain Management" from September 14, 2023, to September 19, 2023, organized by the Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovation – Varna.

8. Teaching

The report on the teaching load at the *bachelor's level* submitted by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova indicates active teaching activities as delivering lectures and conducting exercises (laboratory and seminar sessions) in the following courses: Fundamentals of Commodity of Industrial Goods; Microbiology of Goods; Customs Operations; Customs Regimes and Procedures; Packaging Management; Quality Management in Logistics.



The report on the academic workload for the *master's program* once again demonstrates an intensive academic schedule: lectures and seminars in the following courses: Commodity of Industrial Goods and Consumer Protection.

The candidate has published *one textbook* and *three teaching guidelines* in the field of industrial goods economics (commodity science).

In addition, she participates in a number of *extracurricular initiatives* with students in her capacity as a lecturer and thesis advisor, among other roles. Since 2021, she has served as the academic advisor for four master's thesis students, and since 2009, she has reviewed 29 theses. She has been a member of the state examination committee at the Department of Commodity Science since 2022 and actively supports the annual Review of Student Research Activities at the Department of Commodity Science.

According to the information provided, the candidate has extensive experience in developing curricula and in teaching in the academic field covered by the competition.

Membership in scientific and professional organizations: membership in a number of prestigious scientific and professional organizations, such as the International Society of Commodity Science and Technology, based in Vienna, Austria (IGWT); the Bulgarian Scientific and Technical Unions; the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Varna Branch, "Economics" Section; Association "Club 9000", and the Alumni Association of the University of Economics – Varna, also support the candidate's teaching and research work in the competition.

9. Plagiarism

No instances of plagiarism, inaccuracies, incorrect data, or improper citation of other scholarly works have been established in the candidate's scholarly works, as proven in accordance with the law.

10. Questions, critical comments, and recommendations for the candidate

Despite the candidate's achievements in teaching and research as described above, I would like to recommend that in the future he focus his efforts on developing *new lecture courses, as well as innovations in teaching methods and scientific*



research on current topics related to sustainability and the fight against climate change, which are inevitable in light of the challenges of our century.

Participating in *faculty exchange programs* and working at foreign universities would also enrich the candidate's teaching and research activities by facilitating the exchange of new approaches and best practices.

11. Conclusion

The candidate has experience teaching courses in the academic field of the announced competition. They have extensive research activity and expertise related to the subject matter of the competition. All of this confirms that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova fully meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate professor" in the professional field for which the competition is announced, pursuant to Article 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as all requirements pursuant to Article 101 of the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics – Varna.

This leads me to give a ***positive evaluation*** of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Velichka Peeva Marinova as a candidate in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Commodity Science and Customs Activities (Quality and Customs Control of Goods)" for the needs of the Department of Commodity Science at the University of Economics – Varna.

24.03.2026 г.

Sofia

Reviewed by: .

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

(Prof. Elka Slavcheva Vasileva, Ph.D.)