STATEMENT

on the materials submitted for the competition
for the academic position “Professor”
in a competition announced by the University of Economics - Varna

1. General information

_The opinion was prepared by:_ Assoc. Prof. Mariya Radoslavova Stanimirova, University of Economics - Varna, professional field 3.8 "Economics" and scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agriculture)".

_Reason for giving an opinion on the competition:_ № RD 06-230/05.12.2023 and decision of the scientific jury meeting held on 11.12.2023. The required documents are attached to the competition, according to Article 80 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.

2. Data about the competition

_**Field of higher education:**_ Economics

_**Scientific specialty:**_ Economics and management (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity)

_**Faculty and Department where the competition is announced:**_ Faculty of Economics at the University of Economics - Varna, Department of Agricultural Economics.

In the competition for associate professor, announced in State Gazette No. 86/13.10.2023 and on the website of the University of Economics - Varna, as the only candidate participated Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova.

3. General presentation of the candidate

Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova graduated from the University of Economics - Varna with a degree in Economics and Industrial Management and obtained her PhD in Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture) after studying at the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Economics - Varna in 1997 (decision of the Higher Attestation Commission - HAC). She has over 30 years of teaching and academic experience and is an Associate Professor of economics (scientific field: 05.02.18 - Economics and Management (Agriculture)) since 2004. In the period 2009-2015, as well as at the present moment, she is a Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Economics, Varna. From 2005-2015 he held successively the positions of Deputy Director and Director of the Centre for Master's Studies at UE-Varna.

The set of materials submitted by the candidate on paper/electronic medium is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna and includes the following documents:
- CV;

- A list of scientific publications, including a reference for fulfilling the minimum national requirements - scientific metrics;

- Reference for citations;

- Reference of scientific and applied contributions;

- Reference of supervised and successfully defended PhD students;

- Reference indexing reference list;

- Summaries of scientific publications in Bulgarian and English;

- Publications in electronic/paper format;

- Main habilitation work - monograph;

- References on the teaching load for the last two years, respectively in the Bachelor and Master degree programmes;

- Other documentation as required by the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.

The candidate has significant teaching, research and practice experience in the field of this competition. He is the author of 117 scientific publications including 17 monographs and studies, 79 articles and reports, 18 textbooks and teaching aids and 3 applied publications.

The following have been submitted for the competition: an independent monographic work (in accordance with all the requirements of Article 77 (3) of the IU-Varna PRAS), 5 more monographs (including one independent and 4 co-authored), 2 independent studies and one co-authored study, 28 scientific articles and 21 scientific reports in refereed and indexed journals, with scientific peer review. The scientific publications fully comply with the announced competition and are in the field of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity in rural areas. Independently and co-authored Assoc. Prof. Dr. Turlakova is the author of 10 textbooks and teaching aids.

The above-mentioned is a clear evidence of the desire of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Turlakova to continuously improve her qualifications and is an indication of professionalism and purposefulness in her work.

4. General description of the presented scientific works

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Turlakova has submitted a total of 70 publications (including 58 scientific works, 10 textbooks and teaching aids and 2 applied works), of which one major habilitation work, another independent monograph, participation in four monographs in co-authorship, two independent studies and one in co-authorship and 38 scientific research works in the form of articles and reports.
All the 58 scientific works mentioned are accepted for the preparation of the opinion, as they are after the first habilitation of the candidate. Of the scientific publications under the competition, 72.5% (42 items) are independent and the remaining 27.5% are co-authored. The relative share of scientific publications abroad is 32% (1 monograph co-authored, 4 scientific reports and 4 scientific articles).

In addition to the mentioned scientific works, participation in 10 textbooks and teaching aids in the field of agricultural entrepreneurship, agricultural policy, price formation and marketing in the agricultural sphere, etc., is also reported.

A list of scientific indicators is presented, of which the following are relevant to the problem-topic of the competition:

- in section I: Monograph (according to Article 77 (3) of the IU-Varna PRAS) with the volume of 386 standard typewritten pages;
- in Section II: Monographs and Studies (5 monographs, of which one independent and 4 co-authored and 3 studies, of which 2 independent and one co-authored) with a total volume of 597 standard typewritten pages;
- in Section III: Scientific articles (28 articles, including 21 sole-authored) with a total of 379 standard typewritten pages;
- in Section IV: Scientific Papers (21, including 17 individual papers) with a total of 218 standard typewritten pages.

A reference showing 24 citations of the candidate's scientific publications, including 3 citations by authors abroad, is attached.

In the competition documents, the necessary references proving the points declared above for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b(2) and (3) of the Law on Academic Research for the academic position of Professor are attached:

- Reference for publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science: 4 papers, 3 of which are independent and one co-authored
- 9 citations in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information (Scopus and/or Web of Science).
- Reference for successfully defended PhD students - 2 pcs.
- 9 projects, of which 1 international, 3 national (including one funded by the Scientific Research Fund (SRF)) and 4 projects of IU-Varna, funded by the state budget. Out of these research projects, the applicant is in the position of "leader" of 3 projects.

The reports on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b(2) and (3) of the Law on Research and Development for holding the academic position of Professor in professional field 3.8 "Economics", as well as the additional indicators under Article 57a(2) of the Law on Research and Development (audience, participation in projects, results
of the research activity applied in practice) prove that the candidate for the competition has a profile and serious self-respect in his field.

The research work of the candidate clearly highlights contributions in the direction of regional entrepreneurial activity, agricultural entrepreneurship and organisational-economic forms in agriculture in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and ecological resource use and circular economy.

The main monographic work on "Regional dimensions of enterprise quality and entrepreneurial activity in rural Bulgaria" has a total volume of 386 pages. The publication is a study of entrepreneurship in rural areas on the one hand as a regionally determined phenomenon and on the other hand as a strategy for the revitalization and development of regions and aims to explore the theoretical-methodological and methodological issues of entrepreneurship in a regional perspective, with a focus on rural areas. Theoretical and empirical studies are analyzed, a theoretical framework is built, and a retrospective assessment of the problem of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity in a regional plan is made. Previous research. A model of cause-effect relationships in regional entrepreneurship is established.

The methodology includes regional, sectoral and personal (individual) analysis, using historical retrospection to study rural entrepreneurship. The causal relationships in the conceptual model developed are tested, analyzed and evaluated. Methodologically, the work is oriented in three directions: the creation of integral indicators and classification of rural areas, the study of the impact of the model and the measurement of inter-regional differences, and the study of locational choice factors and the dynamics of entrepreneurship.

As a result of the analyses and discussions in the monograph, the focus is on entrepreneurship, with regional development considered as a condition and outcome of entrepreneurial activity. The terms 'region' and 'rural' occupy a central place in the study, and working definitions are presented for them. In the empirical study, for ease of analysis, rural municipalities are used as territorial units defined by national statistics.

Twenty rural municipalities were selected from the mountainous, plain and agglomeration regions using classifications from other sources. The ranking of the municipalities was done using factors determined on the basis of the classical production function formula. The empirical analysis tests the hypotheses and interprets the relationships proved.

Main conclusions and recommendations are formulated as a result of the theoretical-methodological study and the empirical investigation. Aspects such as regional policy, methods to support entrepreneurial activity, infrastructural development and the creation of a Regional Innovation System are included in the proposed pro-changes. A methodology for the assessment of entrepreneurial capital is also developed, which can be applied by entrepreneurs when making localization decisions.

A combination of different approaches and methods have been used in the study, with the systems approach, behavioural approach and epistemological approach playing a key role. A variety of methods have been applied, including taxonomic method, Teit's method, Shift Share analysis, factor and correlation analysis, surveys, etc. This provides an extensive and qualitative basis for drawing conclusions and formulating recommendations in the field of rural entrepreneurship.
5. General evaluation of teaching and learning work

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Turlakova is an established lecturer in the field of pre-property management in agribusiness, pricing practices and decisions, including agribusiness, environmental economics and agricultural policy.

From the presented reports on the lecture load of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Turlakova for the last two years, it can be seen a maximum workload in the Baccalaureate - an average of 257 hours of lecture load per year. In addition, in the Master's degree programme the workload is on average 43 hours of classroom work per year. She has given lectures on 7 subjects in the Bachelor’s degree and 4 in the Master’s degree. All of them are in the field of the announced competition for associate professor. All of the candidate’s authored lecture courses are provided with authored textbooks and teaching aids.

6. Identified scientific contributions

The scientific and applied contributions are summarized in five main areas in the abstract submitted for the competition for "Professor", namely: 1) Regional entrepreneurial activity and rural entrepreneurship; 2) Common agricultural policy and agricultural entrepreneurship; 3) Organizational-economic forms and cooperative structures in agrarian entrepreneurship; 4) Ecological use of resources, application of organic and circular economy and 5) Teaching economics at different educational levels.

The reference of defined contributions correctly reflects the main achievements of the candidate for the competition for "Professor" and enrich the existing knowledge in the mentioned fields.

7. Critical remarks, questions and recommendations

As a member of the scientific jury drawing up an opinion, I should state that I am familiar with the details of the candidate's professional development in the competition over the last 25 years. Collectively, I would recommend the following to Assoc.

1. Her serious research and expert experience is a reason to include her as a member of international editorial boards.

2. The topicality and importance of the researched subject matter suggests even more active involvement in international research projects and emphasis on publishing in scientific journals that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases.

8. Conclusion

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova meet all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDA and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at Varna University of Economics.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the first habilitation. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions which have received international recognition. Her theoretical devel-
opments have practical applicability, and most of them are directly oriented to teaching work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Theodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova are unquestionable.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it fully justified to give my positive assessment and to recommend the esteemed scientific jury to vote at this level and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics to elect Assoc. Prof. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova, PhD to the academic position of Professor at the University of Economics - Varna in the professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity)".

21. 01. 2024.

/Assoc. Prof Maria R. Stanimirova, PhD/
STATEMENT

By Prof. Dr. Julia Georgieva Dobreva - VUZF University

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition
to occupy the academic position 'professor'
of University of Economics - Varna

by field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences
professional direction 3.8. Economy
scientific specialty - "Economics and management (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity)"

In the competition for 'professor', announced in the State Gazette, no. 86 of 13.10.2023, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlikova from UE - Varna participates as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. RD-06-230/05.12.2023. of the Rector of UE-Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of professor at UE-Varna in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty - "Economics and management (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity)".

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlikova from UE - Varna

The set of electronic materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlikova complies with the legal requirements and includes the following documents:

- Summaries of publications
- List of publications
- Certificate of fulfilment of the minimum national requirements
Candidate Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Teodorina Turlakova submitted a total of 70 scientific works, including 2 monographs - one habilitation monograph and 1 additional monograph, 4 collective monographs, 3 studies, 28 articles and 22 reports, 8 textbooks and 2 study activity books. All scientific papers submitted by the candidate, which are outside the dissertation and are taken into account in the final evaluation, are accepted for review, as well as participation in 9 research projects, 5 of which she was the scientific supervisor. Documents are also presented - references for study load and supervision of doctoral students - 2 defended PhD students and 3 more in the process of scientific supervision.

After getting acquainted in detail with the presented documentation, I confirm that the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova meets the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor".

2. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied activity

The presented monographic habilitation work has an interesting and significant research object - entrepreneurship in rural areas as a regionally determined phenomenon, which the author defines as the main strategy for the revitalisation and development of the regions.

The monographic study successfully achieves the author's main goal of the development, namely to investigate the theoretical-methodological and methodological issues of entrepreneurship in rural areas, giving an assessment of its practical application. Another significant contribution of the monograph is the formulated possible active approaches to support and promote entrepreneurial activity based on local resources. Also a valuable contribution of the work is the proposed model of causal relationships in regional entrepreneurship and recommendations for increasing entrepreneurial activity in rural areas. The author makes proposals for changes in various directions: in terms of regional policy, methodical and information provision of entrepreneurial activity, construction of
supporting infrastructure and Regional Innovation System. Another distinctive quality of the monograph is the methodology proposed by the author for the assessment of entrepreneurial capital, through which the potential of the specific region for entrepreneurial activity is established and is applicable by entrepreneurs in the process of making decisions about localization.

The other publications largely address similar issues related to sectoral policy and the growth of rural entrepreneurship. Publications regarding the impact of CAP on building sustainable business models in rural areas are also of interest. Research on ecological sustainability in the use of resources and the opportunities and challenges in applying bio and circular economy in entrepreneurial activity are also relevant.

3. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

We accept the following scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the candidate:

- The essence and content of regional entrepreneurship and its place among the spatial studies of economic activity and the general theory of entrepreneurship are investigated. A conceptual model of causal relationships in regional entrepreneurship has been constructed.

- Key indicators for evaluating regional entrepreneurial activity are derived.

- The essence of the concept of "entrepreneurial capital" and its role in the relationship "entrepreneurship-regional development" have been clarified. A methodology for assessing the attractiveness of the area and its entrepreneurial capital is proposed.

- The peculiarities of entrepreneurship in rural areas are presented, measures and indicators for evaluating its development are formulated. By means of the categories "place" and "space" a classification of entrepreneurial in rural areas has been made. A methodology has been developed for researching entrepreneurship in rural areas and testing it through specific data.

- Alternative methods and procedures for the analysis of the area, from the point of view of the possibility of entrepreneurial development, are proposed.

- Recommendations and guidelines for the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas, through the creation of general and specialized regional infrastructure, the application of diversification and multifunctionality as the basis of entrepreneurial activity, are identified. A Regional Infrastructure Network (RIN) model is proposed in order to achieve institutional commitment and support at a regional level.

- The impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on agrarian entrepreneurship and rural areas has been studied.

- An analysis of the level, dynamics and effectiveness of European and state subsidies and support in agriculture was carried out.

- The possibilities of agricultural holdings for cross-border cooperation and participation in cross-border markets are analyzed.
- The main factors for the development of private farms were analyzed, based on selected criteria, the farms were classified into typological groups (market, semi-market and natural).

- The need to create cooperatives and apply the cooperative model as an approach to increase the competitiveness of farms is substantiated. The state, challenges and trends of cooperative business models in the conditions of the European market are revealed.

- A study of the competitiveness of agricultural enterprises was carried out and recommendations were made to increase it, including by increasing the supply of ecological products, applying entrepreneurial and management strategies.

- A market analysis was performed and the impact of green public procurement on sustainable consumption and production was assessed.

- The concept of ecological sustainability in the use of resources is substantiated and the evaluation criteria are derived.

- Exploring the opportunities and challenges in applying bio and circular economy in entrepreneurial activity.

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks.

I recommend that in future publications within the scope of the subject of the habilitation thesis, the methods of financing entrepreneurial activity in rural areas - through state intervention and financing from commercial banks - should also be reflected. It would be interesting to discuss and explore how different financial instruments impact on an increase in the number and volume of production from entrepreneurial activity, as well as the degree of export stimulation.

In this sense, what is the candidate’s opinion on the following question:

Can it be assumed that the presence of a greater number of small commercial banks would contribute to the improvement of well-being in the regions and specifically to increase the results of entrepreneurial activity, as well as its imprint on the country’s economy?

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova comply with all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of UE-Varna.

The candidate in the competition has presented a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD degree and after "associate professor". The
candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which has been published in journals and scientific collections issued by international and indexed academic publications. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work.

The results achieved by Assoc. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova in her educational and research activities are fully in line with the Regulations of the UE-Varna for the application of ZRASRB.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to The Academic Council for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova to the academic position of 'Professor' at UE - Varna in the professional direction 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty - "Economics and management (Agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity)".

14.01.2024

Reviewer:........................

(Prof. Dr. Julia Dobrieva)
STATEMENT

FOR FILLING THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF "PROFESSOR" IN A COMPETITION
ANNOUNCED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS - VARNA IN THE
PROFESSIONAL FIELD 3.8 ECONOMICS AND SCIENTIFIC SPECIALITY "ECONOMICS
AND MANAGEMENT (AGRARIAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND REGIONAL
ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY"

Assoc. Prof. Gergana Georgieva Slavova-Stefanova PhD, Department of Agricultural Economics
at the University of Economics-Varna

1. General information and data about the competition. This opinion on the competition for the academic position of Professor is prepared in accordance with the first meeting held on 19.12.2023 at 14:00, using technical means (video link). The Scientific Jury was appointed by Order No. RD 06-230/05.12.2023 for the competition for the post of AD "Professor" announced in Official Gazette No. 86/13.10.2023 in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management" and decided to prepare an opinion, and at the same meeting it was adopted that the Chair of the Scientific Jury should be Assoc. Dr. Maria Stanimirova from the Department of Agrarian Economics of IU-Varna, the reviewers to be prof. dr. Bistra Vassileva (IU-Varna); prof. din. Prof. Dr. Mariana Bozhinova (SA "D.A. Tserov" - Svishtov).

2. Brief information about the candidate in the competition: the only candidate in the announced competition who meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of Professor is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova. In the period 1993 - 1997, Assoc. 05.02.18 - Economics and Management (Agriculture). Her biographical path in the field of teaching and scientific work began immediately after her graduation in the Master's degree of the University of Economics-Varna, specialty "Economics of Industry" at the Faculty of Economics. During the same period (1993-1997) she was also a visiting assistant professor, and in 1997-1999 she was already a senior assistant professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University of Economics-Varna. In the period 2000-2003 she was a senior assistant professor and in 2004-2024 she held the position of associate professor in the same department. In parallel, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Turlakova was the Deputy Director of the Centre for Master's Studies, and in the period 2008 to 2015 she was the Director of the Centre for Master's Studies, and in the period 2009 to 2015 she was the Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, a position she currently holds since June 2023. During this same period, Assoc. Turlakova teaches the following main courses: "Entrepreneurship", "Agricultural Entrepreneurship", "Pricing in Agribusiness", "Agricultural Policy". At the same time, it also carries out annual supervision of graduate students, PhD students and preparation of students for participation in the annual student research activity as well as tutoring activity. She has supervised five PhD students, two of whom have
successfully defended their dissertations. Associate Professor Turlakova has also been actively involved in curriculum development, project supervision for parts of PhD theses, research consultancy, etc. Apart from everything mentioned so far, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova is also involved in conducting seminars for training purposes at the National Agricultural Advisory Service and its regional divisions, is also involved in conducting seminar sessions in practice, participates in setting up working groups, mentor and expert in various EU programs (EIT Food, etc.), and carries out consultancy activities. Her research interests are in the field of: agribusiness, rural development, regional entrepreneurial activity, green investments and agri-environmental approaches of the Common Agricultural Policy. So far she has over 115 scientific publications: including over 15 monographs and studies, about 90 articles and reports, over 10 textbooks and teaching aids. She is involved in 9 research projects, one international and one with the Scientific Research Fund, and is project leader of 5 of them.

3. Quantitative and substantive characteristics of the presented scientific works and fulfillment of the requirements for the academic position: A total of 70 scientific publications have been submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova for participation in the competition for the academic position "Professor", including: 9 monographs and studies, 28 publications in specialized scientific journals; 21 reports, 4 of which are indexed in Scopus, 8 textbooks and 2 teaching aids, two articles in the section of other popular scientific publications. As a major work, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova presents one independent monograph - "Regional changes of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity in rural areas of Bulgaria", ed. Science and Economics, Varna, vol. 87, 2023, ISBN 978-954-21-1153-5 in a volume of 386 standard pages and 328 printed pages. In addition to the above monograph, one solo and 5 co-authored monographs with a total number of 852 pages, three studies with a total number of 131 pages, 28 scientific articles with a total number of 379 pages have been submitted for the competition. The full description of the publications for the competition, including solo, co-authored and number of pages is presented in Table 1.

### SUMMARY TABLE OF SUBMITTED PUBLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>Type of publications</th>
<th>Solo</th>
<th>co-authored</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>number</td>
<td>pages</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Scientific articles</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Scientific Reports</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Textbooks and teaching</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to the report on the fulfilment of minimum national requirements for the academic position "PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", according to Article 2b, paragraph 2. The main monograph of the competition ("Regional changes of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity in rural areas of Bulgaria") carries 100 pts. and another 100 pts. 100 points from other scientific publications-reports and articles in refereed and indexed journals in world-known databases and another 160 points from publications in non-refereed journals and publications in collective scientific volumes, and another 15 points from a published study in non-refereed journals; 123.34 points from participation in collective monographs and individual chapters in them, or the total accumulated points from all publications is 498.34 points. The applicant collected 220 points from citations of her scientific publications. From supervision of successfully defended PhD students Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova collects 80 points, as she has two successfully defended PhD students, each of them brings her 40 points. From her participation in national research projects, the candidate collects a total of 45 points from three projects of 15 points each. From supervising national, scientific and educational projects, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova collects a total of 120 points from her participation as a supervisor in 4 such projects, receiving 30 points for each of these projects. For published textbooks that are used by students for their training and preparation, she receives an additional 53.33 points and for her participation in doctoral student training, research projects, their supervision and presentation, she receives an aggregate 298.33 points.

According to the reference for the academic position of PROFESSOR in the field of higher education 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", according to Article 77, item 5 of the PRAS in IU-Varna (in force from 01.07.2021) the declared part of the total list of publications, citations, number of defended PhD students and participation in projects shows the following results according to the point system:

Table 2

QUANTITATIVE REQUIREMENTS
for holding the academic position of "professor" at UE - Varna
on the basis of Art. 2b, par. 5 of the Law on Academic Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Points for &quot;Professor&quot;</th>
<th>Points declared by the candidate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Scientific reports</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Scientific articles</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>289.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Studies</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Citations in Scopus and/or Web of Science</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PhD students</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Research projects (participation and/or supervision)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the above mentioned in point 2 and 3 gives us grounds to say that the proposed monograph and all the other scientific works presented and the criteria and requirements met by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova comply with the requirements of Article 77, items 3, 4, 5 and 6 in conjunction with Article 86 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna. Namely, in addition to a proposed and printed monograph for the purposes of the present competition, the candidate has submitted a reference-declaration of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "professor", as well as meets the requirements for the absence of plagiarism in the development of her scientific works. It can be seen from Table 2 that the submitted works and the points collected from them are many times more than those required by the University of Economics-Varna. A large part of the candidate's scientific works - articles and reports are in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of high scientific value, and others are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. Many of the publications of the candidate for professor are devoted to topics related to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity, as well as environmental protection and green investments. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova has a sufficiently large number of contributions to monographic and research publications which gives us grounds to claim that she meets the criteria adopted by the University of Varna for the acceptance of her candidacy for professor.

The numerous documents submitted by the candidate for fulfilling the quantitative and qualitative requirements of the competition for the professorship at the University of Economics-Varna show that the total mandatory number of points required for participation in the competition for the academic position of professor has been exceeded, while all the specific requirements of the different sections have been fulfilled. All this shows that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova has fulfilled the basic requirements necessary for participation in this competition.

4. Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of teaching and learning work
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova has taught in different departments of the University of Economics-Varna, as well as in different fields and disciplines. She started her teaching activity back in 1993 and continues it until today (2024). For
example: the total teaching load in the Master's degree for 2023/2024 is 86 hours. In the Bachelor's degree it is.

There is sufficient experience in delivering seminar classes and lectures. Over the period, the hours taught by her are always above the average hours accepted under the norm. All this, as well as the high evaluations by students in the attestation of her teaching activities, indicate excellent professional training, competence and scientific development, which are important professional arguments for her participation in this competition.

5. Brief description of the submitted scientific papers/publications
The scientific production presented in the competition addresses current theoretical, methodological and practical issues in the field of economics and management of agribusiness and entrepreneurial activity, including regional entrepreneurial activity. Several main areas of research are clearly distinguishable in the case of the professor candidate: Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity in rural areas; Prices and pricing, Green investments and environmental protection. In support of my thesis, I can cite some of the most interesting titles in this direction from the professor candidate’s main studies: Regional Changes of Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial Activity in Rural Bulgaria, Entrepreneurial and Managerial Strategies Applied in the Agricultural Sector, Environmental Sustainability of Land Resources in Agriculture, Sectoral and Regional Transformations of Entrepreneurial Activity in Agriculture and Rural Areas, Cooperative Business Models in the Agricultural Sector, and many others.

6. Synthesized evaluation of the main scientific and applied contributions of the candidate:
After the thorough review of the presented scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova, we can summarize:
- The presented scientific works of the candidate show her high scientific development and excellent professional competence developed for the period from 1993 to 2024;
- Basic concepts of the theory of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity related to the development of activity in rural environment and in particular in the agrarian sphere have been developed and substantially supplemented;
- There are additional useful and relevant results in the study of different regions in Bulgaria and their opportunities for entrepreneurial activity and development of entrepreneurial activity;
- The theoretical and methodological foundations of entrepreneurship, as a separate economic direction, both in the field of macroeconomics and from the microeconomic point of view, have been upgraded; The content of the category "entrepreneurial activity" in the regional perspective has been theoretically substantiated and supplemented. Key indicators for the assessment of regional entrepreneurial activity are derived. (Publications 1.1; 2.1; 4.3; 19.10; 25.16; 29.20; 40.3; 41.4 from the attached list by the candidate in the professor competition). Clarifies the nature of the concept of "entrepreneurial capital" and its role in the "entrepreneurship-regional
development" nexus. A methodology for assessing the attractiveness of a region and its entrepreneurial capital is proposed (Publications 1.1; 27.18).

- The candidate's scientific works offer a methodological approach for assessing the level of entrepreneurial activity in individual regions of the country and in individual entrepreneurial activities and directions;
- The contribution value in the candidate's scientific works includes scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions in several main areas:
  I. Regional entrepreneurial activity and entrepreneurship in rural areas.
  Systematization of the theory and methodology of regional entrepreneurship is carried out. The scope, nature and content of regional entrepreneurship and its place among spatial studies of economic activity and general entrepreneurship theory are revealed. A conceptual model of causal relationships in regional entrepreneurship is constructed (Publication 1.1. of the attached list). The features of entrepreneurship in rural areas are outlined, and measures and indicators for assessing its development are formulated. Through the categories of "place" and "space" a classification of rural entrepreneurship is made. A methodology for the study of rural entrepreneurship and its validation with concrete data has been developed (Publications 1.1; 3.2; 5.4; 8.7; 21.12; 24.15; 26.17; 33.24; 34.25; 48.11; 49.12; 62.4.)
- Alternative methods and a procedure for analyzing the area in terms of the potential for entrepreneurial development are proposed (Publications 1.1; 14.5)
- Recommendations and guidelines for the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas, through the creation of general and specialized regional infrastructure, the application of diversification and multifunctionality as the basis of entrepreneurial activity are outlined. A Regional Infrastructure Network (RIN) model is proposed to achieve institutional linkages and support at a regional level. (Publications 1.1; 5.4; 9.8; 23.14; 31.22; 44.7 of the attached candidate list)

II. Common agricultural policy and agribusiness.
- The impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on agribusiness and rural areas has been studied (Publications 1.1; 3.2; 4.3; 11.2; 16.7; 18.9; 22.13; 42.5; 46.9)
- An analysis of the level, dynamics and effectiveness of European and state subsidies and support in agriculture has been carried out. (Publications 1.1; 4.3; 12.3; 17.8; 35.26; 35.27 of the attached list)
- Analyses the opportunities for agribusinesses to cooperate and participate in cross-border markets (publications 13.4; 30.21 of the annexed list).

III. Organisational forms and cooperative structures in agribusiness.
- The main factors for the development of private agricultural holdings are analyzed, based on selected criteria the classification of holdings into typological groups (market, semi-market and subsistence - publications 20.11; 7.6; 45.8; 47.10 from the attached list of the candidate for participation in the competition for professor) is carried out.
- The need for the establishment of cooperatives and the application of the cooperative model as an approach to increase the competitiveness of farms is justified.
The status, challenges and trends of cooperative business models in European market conditions are revealed (Publications 6.5; 58.21; 28.19 of the attached list).

The competitiveness of agricultural enterprises has been studied and recommendations have been made to increase it, including by increasing the supply of ecological production, applying entrepreneurial and management strategies. (Publications 7.6; 32.23; 37.28, of the attached list)

IV. Environmental resource use, application of organic and circular economy. A market analysis has been carried out and the impact of green public procurement on sustainable consumption and production has been assessed. (Publications 39.2; 56.19 of the attached list for the professor competition)

The concept of environmental sustainability in resource use is justified and the evaluation criteria are derived. (Publications 38.1; 39.2; 42.5; 54.17; 55.18;

Research has been carried out on the opportunities and challenges of applying organic and circular economy in entrepreneurial activities. (Publications 10.1; 15.6; 50.13; 51.14; 56.19 from the attached list).

V. Teaching economics at different levels of education

- Trends in training are outlined and the factors of choice of major and motivation for training are analyzed (Publications 56.19 of the attached list of candidates for professorships)

- Training approaches are examined and the need to change approaches and apply innovative methods is argued (Publications 52.15; 53.16 of the attached list)

7. Key critical comments and recommendations. I have no main critical remarks to Assoc. My main and only recommendation to the candidate for professor is directed to her future professional plans - they could be focused on future academic research, so that her significant publication assets and acquired professional experience could contribute even more to the improvement of the scientific image of the University of Economics-Varna. This recommendation confirms my positive attitude, and high positive evaluation of the overall scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Turlakova and her active teaching, and administrative activities.

8. Conclusion

Taking into account the professional qualities and scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova, her rich scientific production, interesting and proposed developments and diverse teaching activities, I strongly recommend the Honourable Members of the Scientific Jury to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Theodorina Turlakova for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialist "Economics and (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity)" for the needs of the management of the department "Agrarian Economics" at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Economics-Varna.
TRAKIA UNIVERSITY – STARA ZAGORA

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Nadka Stefanova Kostadinova

scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture)

Department of Management

to the Faculty of Economics of Thrace University - Stara Zagora

General information

I participate in the composition of the scientific jury for the competition according to Order No. RD-06-230/05.12.2023 of the Rector of the University of Economics, Varna by decision on its first meeting on 19.12.2023.

Contest details

The competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" in scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional track 3.8 Economics, with a scientific specialty Economics and management (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity) has been announced for the needs of the Department of "Agricultural Economics" at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Economics, Varna, according to the decision of the Academic Council, published in the State Gazette - no. 86 of 13.10.2023

Contest candidate

The only candidate in the competition is assoc. prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova. She is a full-time professor on a main employment contract in the Department of "Agricultural Economics" at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Economics, Varna.

Quantitative and substantive characteristics of the presented scientific works

Assoc. prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova has fulfilled the quantitative and qualitative requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor" at the University of Economics, Varna, according to the RDASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics, Varna.

She obtained a Doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences in the scientific specialty 05.02.18 Economics and management (agriculture) in 1997 (Diploma No. 24901/18.08.1997).
From 2004 to the present, he holds the academic position of "Docent" in the Department of Agrarian Economics at the University of Economics, Varna. From 2007 to 2015, he was the Director of the "Master's Education" Center at the University of Economics, Varna.

Meets the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor", according to Art. 2b para. 2 and 3 of RDASRB (with a required minimum of 580 points, 1,196.67 points are considered, an excess of 616.67 points).

Meets the requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor" at the University of Economics, Varna based on Art. 2b para. 5 of RDASRB (with a required minimum of 275 points, more than 970 points are presented).

I am not aware of any evidence of legally proven plagiarism in the candidate's scientific works.

To participate in the competition, assoc. prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova submitted a total of 34 publications, of which 16 were in English:

- 2 monographs – as a sole author;
- 1 studio (in English) - as a sole author;
- 4 articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus or Web of Science) - of them 3 as a sole author;
- 17 articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review - of them 15 as a sole author and 2 co-authored;
- 8 chapters in collective monographs;
- 2 textbooks, one of which is co-authored.

The presented monographic work "Regional dimensions of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial activity in rural areas of Bulgaria" (2023), ISBN 978-954-21-1153-5, deserves special attention. It is dedicated to the study of entrepreneurship in rural areas, as a regionally determined phenomenon. In retrospect, theoretical and empirical studies of entrepreneurial activity in a regional plan are analyzed. Working definitions were derived, and a certain number of rural municipalities were included in the empirical study in order to cover characteristics typical for the respective group. Based on the conducted research, the main conclusions and recommendations for increasing entrepreneurial activity in rural areas have been drawn.

The monographic work "Sectoral and regional transformations of entrepreneurial activity in agriculture and rural areas" (2023), ISBN 978-619-184-064-9, also deserves a high rating. In it, the factors of regional entrepreneurial activity, which are the basis for changes in rural areas, are thoroughly investigated. The transformations in Bulgarian agriculture after the country's accession to
the EU have been analysed, regional sectoral differentiations have been brought out, as well as the reasons that have given rise to the mentioned disproportions. Suggestions have been made to reduce the impact of sectoral and regional differences and develop sustainable agricultural entrepreneurship.

The articles and reports examine important and current economic problems of the agricultural sector. A precise style of expression and a clear logical sequence are demonstrated. The conclusions are well-argued and the recommendations justified. Scientific research has been published in authoritative specialized publications.

The publications are known to the scientific community, which is proven by the number of citations - 8 in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Scopus or Web of Science) and 20 in articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

**Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of teaching and educational work**

Assoc. prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova is a respected teacher and gives specialized lecture courses in the BA "Bachelor" - Basics of agrarian business, Entrepreneurship in agribusiness, Pricing in agrarian business, etc., and in the BA "Master" - Agrarian Policy, Ecopolitics and legislation, Management of eco-projects, etc.

Assoc. prof. Dr. Teodorina Turlakova has done educational work in a total of 515 hours, of which 365 lecture hours and 150 hours of exercises, at the BA "Bachelor" for the academic year 2021/2022 and the academic year 2022/2023. In these two years, a total of 86 hours were thought at Master's level.

The educational disciplines engaged are in the field of the announced competition and ensure the academic load of the candidate in accordance with the established regulations. Under her guidance, two doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations.

In terms of character and content, the teaching activity of Associate Professor Dr. T. Turlakova confirms her as an experienced teacher with established authority in the academic community.

**Identification of scientific contributions**

I accept the contributions made by the candidate in the relevant reference. I assess them as real and significant for economic theory and practice with an emphasis on agrarian entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity.

**Critical notes and recommendations**

I have no critical notes and recommendations.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis of the scientific and teaching activities of the candidate, I believe that
assoc. prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova, MEETS AND COMPLETELY COVERS THE REQUIREMENTS of the RDASRB, GARDASRB and RDAS of the University of Economics, Varna, which gives me reason to vote for the awarding of an academic position "Professor" in scientific area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional track 3.8 Economics, with a scientific specialty Economics and Management (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity).

I propose to the Scientific Jury to vote POSITIVELY, proposing to the FC of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Economics, Varna to elect assoc. prof. Dr. Teodorina Zhelyazkova Turlakova for "Professor" in scientific area 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional track 3.8 Economics, with a scientific specialty Economics and Management (agricultural entrepreneurship and regional entrepreneurial activity).

22.01.2024

Opinion prepared by:

Prof. Dr. N. Kostadinova