

by a member of the scientific jury for the academic position of „Associate Professor” according to a competition announced by the University of Economics – Varna

### 1. General information

**Prepared the position** - Assoc. Prof. Eng. Mincho Nikolov Polimenov, PhD, in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, by professional direction 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty „Economics and Management (Tourism)”, at the University „Prof. Dr. Ass. Zlatarov” Burgas.

### 2. Contest details

**Grounds for writing the opinion** - This opinion was prepared on the basis of Order No: 06-121/01.07.2022. of the Rector's of the University of Economics - Varna (IU-Varna), [www.ue-varna.bg](http://www.ue-varna.bg) for the appointment of a Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position „Associate Professor” in professional direction 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty: „Economics and management (sports and pedestrian tourism)”, announced in State Gazette, Issue 41 of 03.06.2022 and Minutes of the meeting of the Scientific Jury for the election of the chairman and the appointment of reviewers and the preparation of opinions on the competition from 04.08.2022.

The opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for the Implementation of Law on the Development of Academic Staff in and the Republic of Bulgaria and The regulations for the development of the academic staff at IU-Varna.

### 3. Brief information about the candidate in the competition

**He has submitted documents for participation in the competition** Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, from the College of Tourism in IU-Varna - the only candidate. The documents and presented set of materials is in accordance with Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulation for the Implementation of Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria The regulations for the development of the academic staff at IU-Varna. The candidate is registered in the register of the academic staff of the Republic Bulgaria at the National Center for Information and Documentation /NACID/<https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/39515>.

### **General presentation of the candidate:**

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov has a higher education „master's degree” from VIF „G. Dimitrov”, Sofia with the qualification „physical education teacher and tennis coach”. In 2012 successfully defends a dissertation work for the acquisition of a doctorate in scientific specialty 07.05.05 Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (inclusive Methodology of physical therapy) at Vasil Levski National Academy of Sciences. He worked at the College of Tourism - Varna as a „teacher of physical education”, from 1995 to 2022 and until now, successively holding the positions of „assistant”, „st. assistant” and „Ch. assistant” at the University of Economics - Varna (IU-Varna). He is fluent in German - written and spoken, Spanish - written and spoken, Russian - spoken and English - spoken.

### **4. Evaluation of the presented scientific works and scientific-applied activity**

The candidate for Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Plyakov participated in the competition with a total of **24** publications that are not duplicated with his doctoral dissertation. The proposed scientific production for review has a **volume of 911 pages** and consists of: 2 independent **monographs (volume 429 pages)**, 9 scientific articles (7 independent and 2 co-authored with a total volume of 84 pages), 6 independent reports (one report in Russian language with a volume of 48 p.), 3 textbooks (two independent and one co-authored with a total volume of 330 p.), other scientific and popular publications (with a volume of 20 p.) (see appendix for a list of the scientific publications of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov).

The publications submitted for the competition for associate professor are published by authoritative Bulgarian and foreign universities and scientific institutions. The scientific work of Dr. S. Plyakov covers the period of the last 15 years, and we estimate the total volume of scientific production as completely sufficient. The monographic works as well as the other scientific publications are peer-reviewed by authoritative qualified professors of the scientific field. In the scientific production, the

monographic works with nearly fifty percent weight are noticeable, as well as 21 no. independent peer-reviewed publications.

The scientific production of Dr. S. Plyakov as a participant in the competition for „Associate Professor” is aimed at current issues of tourism activity and the subject matter concerned is related to *both the theory and practice of specialized types of tourism, as well as the physical training of students from specialty „Tourism”*, and is the basis for forming the candidate as an established scientist.

We appreciate the specificity of the entire scientific activity not only as theoretically oriented, but also of particular importance is its practical orientation to the set problem. For the period 2014-2015, Dr. Stanislav Plyakov participated in a scientific project with the development of sports events in Varna for amateurs and amateurs on the topic „Investigation of possibilities for organizing and holding special events in the municipality of Varna - sports events for amateurs and amateurs”.

The scientific works submitted for evaluation in the documentation of Dr. S. Plyakov fully comply with Art.24, point 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulation for the Implementation of Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art.62, point 3 in connection with Art.71, para.2 and paragraph 3 of The regulations for the development of the academic staff at IU-Varna (from 01.07.2021).

#### **5. Evaluation of the academic and teaching work of the candidate for „associate professor”**

The candidate for „associate professor” Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov,, is a lecturer at the College of Tourism at the University of Varna. Practical skills are leading in educational and pedagogical activity in taught disciplines and lecture courses such as: „Physical education and sports”, „Hiking tourism”, „Specialized types of tourism (sports tourism)”. Linking practice with theory is also the basis of creative and innovative forms of teaching for students majoring in tourism.

He participates in and directs the student, summer student practice (summer internship) and other sports events for the students, as well as route and hiking on the Rila mountain, as well as conquering the village of Musala and other sights. The managerial and professional qualities of the candidate fully meet the modern dual

requirements for the connection between theory and practice in student training. International participation in the conquest of Mont Blanc, the Alps and crossing the European route "Com-Emine" are an incomparable catalyst for the sports activity of students. He is a master of sports in swimming and a master of sports in sea sports all-around. This fully corresponds to high sports and pedagogical mastery.

## **6. Identification of scientific contributions**

I fully accept the scientific and applied contributions to the competition presented by Dr. S. Plyakon in a deposited report. Contributions fully correspond to research and teaching work and are in sync with teaching - learning by doing. The concept of unifying the criteria for evaluating the motor qualities of university students is particularly attractive. The proposed measures to increase the motor activity of the students, and in particular the students of the „Tourism” specialty, are important.

I value the candidate's research contributions and scientific publications both at home and abroad as original and personal work, and his declaration as authentic.

## **7. Critical notes, questions and recommendations**

Critical notes on the research work of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, I do not have. I recommend that he expand the content and subject scope of his scientific activity and expand his publications in refereed scientific and international publications. To continue to be innovative and enter new routing and underwater challenges.

## **Conclusion**


Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov participated in the competition for the academic position of „associate professor” with a sufficient volume and quantity of scientific production. All works and research results are also contributions to theory and practice in the field of the tourism sector. Professionalism and expertise fully complements his profile as an established scientist and teacher. In this regard, I propose Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov to be elected as an „associate professor” 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: „Economics and management (sports and hiking)”. I give a **positive assessment** to the candidate and propose to the respected members of the

scientific jury to vote **/for/** awarding the academic position „associate professor” according to PN 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: "Economics and management (sports and hiking)".

Burgas, 20.08.2022

Signature:...

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ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

 **Assoc. Prof. Eng. Mincho Polimenov, PhD**  
ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0159-3616>  
**3.9. Tourism**, Doctor of Economics and Management  
University Prof. Dr. Ass. Zlatarov ", Burgas  
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## SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT

Вх. № PA20-975/22.08.2022г.

by assoc. prof. Velina Ivancheva Kazandzhieva, PhD,  
Department “Economics and organizations of tourism”, University of Economics – Varna,  
appointed to participate in a Scientific Jury  
for a Competition for the academic position of “associate professor”  
Order № RD 06 – 121 of 01.07.2022. of the Vice-Rector for RPD at UE - Varna  
Notification letter for the decision taken from the First Official Meeting  
of the Scientific Jury on this competition from 04.08.2022

### 1. Data for the competition

The competition is announced by the University of Economics - Varna for the needs of the “Tourism” department at the College of Tourism - Varna in accordance with Order № RD 06 - 121 of 01.07.2022, ZRASRB and PPZRASRB. The announcement for the competition for the academic position of “associate professor” was published in the State Gazette, № 41 of 03.06.2022, in the field of higher education 3. “Social, economic and legal sciences”, professional field 3.9. “Tourism”, scientific specialty “Economics and management (sports and hiking)”.

### 2. Candidate for the competition

The only candidate in the competition is Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, chief assistant professor, full-time lecturer in the “Tourism” department at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna. He completed his secondary education at the “Olympic Hopes” CSU - Sofia in the period 1975 - 1979. In 1986, he graduated from the “Ivan Vazov” IMT, obtained the degree of “professional bachelor” and the qualification “Hotel-Restaurant Manager”. In the period 1986-1992, he obtained a master’s degree at the VIF “G. Dimitrov”, Sofia with the qualification “Physical Education Teacher and Tennis Coach”. Chief assist. prof. Plyakov received the ONS “Doctor” in scientific specialty 07.05.05 Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. Methodology of physical therapy) at the National Academy of Sciences “Vasil Levski”, Sofia in 2012. Successfully defended a dissertation on the topic: „Normative basis for control of motor fitness according to „Eurofit“ of students from the College of Tourism - city of Varna“ (Diploma № 000051).

Regarding his professional development, chief assistant professor, PhD Plyakov



accumulates considerable practical experience as a result of his individual qualities and skills. For four years, until 1986, he was a lifeguard at the Balkantourist - Golden Sands TK. For the next three years, he worked as a tennis teacher at the “Balkantourist – Interhotels” TK - Grand Hotel Varna. From 1995 to 2004, he was an assistant - teacher of physical education at the College of Tourism - Varna. After that, he successively held the academic positions of „senior assistant“ (2005 - 2008) and „chief assistant” (after 2008 and until now).

Thanks to specialized education, professional development and personal achievements, chief assist. prof., PhD Stanislav Plyakov is constantly improving himself. This is relevant to his areas of scientific interests. They also correspond directly to the topic of the defended doctorate and the set of disciplines in the scope of his current teaching activity at the College of Tourism - Varna as a full-time teacher in the professional bachelor's degree.

### **3. General description of the submitted scientific papers after the last procedure**

For the participation in the competition for the academic position “associate professor” chief assist. prof., PhD Plyakov presents a total of 24 publications, with a total volume of 911 pages. All publications are accepted for the preparation of the opinion. Two single authored monographs are in a volume of 429 pages, which is 47.1% of the total volume of publications. There are 9 scientific articles (7 single authored) with a volume of 84 pages - approximately 20% of the total volume of publications. All presented scientific reports (6) are single authored, as well as 4 other individual publications. Reports and other publications total 68 pages, which is 7.5% of the total volume of publications. Chief assistant professor, PhD Plyakov also presents 3 textbooks, 2 of which are single authored with a total volume of 330 pages. Of the publications in the competition, 21 (873 pages) are single authored, which is 87.5% of the presented scientific works and is a solid preponderance of the candidate's individual publication activity. This unequivocally proves the serious and in-depth nature of the candidate's research.

The presented monograph “Contemporary aspects and guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria” has a significant volume of 269 pages and corresponds to the requirements of Art. 62, item 3 and art. 71, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at UE - Varna. The monograph does not repeat publications for the acquisition of the ONS “Doctor”, it was published in the specialized scientific publishing house “Science and Economics” of the UE - Varna, it was discussed in the specialized



primary unit in the sense of § 1, item 6 of the ZRASRB and was reviewed by two qualified scholars.

The monograph of chief assist., PhD Plyakov is an in-depth study of a current problem in the field of tourism, with a scientific and applied nature, presented at a high contemporary level. Pedestrian tourism is studied from the position of “democratic and accessible value” through a comprehensive presentation of the historical genesis of the phenomenon, in-depth expert and practical analysis, thanks to the candidate’s many years of teaching and research. The monograph was developed by testing various conditions and principles of hiking. In accordance with present transformations, in the current crisis period for the global travel and tourism industry, actual directions for hiking tourism in Bulgaria have been determined, as well as opportunities for its improvement and favorable development.

All scientific publications on the competition are peer-reviewed and available. They were published by prestigious scientific publishing houses and in terms of structure, volume and content completely correspond to the requirements of Art. 62, item 3 in connection with Art. 71 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.

#### **4. General evaluation of the teaching work**

With regard to the workload in the “professional bachelor” degree, for the last 2 years as the chief assistant, the candidate has conducted 4 subjects during the in the 2020/2021 school year with a total audience workload of 537 hours (lectures and exercises). During the 2021/2022 school year, the total workload is 447 hours (lectures and exercises) and includes supervision of a summer student practice - summer internship. The total workload of chief assistant professor, PhD Plyakov for these two school years is 984 hours.

The presented data and information show that the candidate is an established long-standing teacher at the College of Tourism - Varna. The documents and findings regarding the circumstances of the educational activity correspond to the requirements under Art. 62, item 2 in connection with Art. 71 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna.

#### **5. Identification of scientific contributions**

In terms of scientific and scientific-applied contributions, the presented main monograph “Contemporary aspects and guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in





Bulgaria” is making a significant impression. In addition to the study of the essence and features of sports and, in particular, hiking tourism and its typology, which is a mandatory condition for a monograph of this type, fulfilled by chief assist., PhD Plyakov, the historical and organizational foundations of this type of tourist trips in Bulgaria have been determined. This is done within the scope of the current concept of alternative forms of tourism. The advantages and disadvantages, opportunities and threats to the development of hiking in our country are presented and evaluated in detail. The study of various good practices for hiking and, on this basis, offering approaches for designing relevant tourist itineraries in Bulgaria can also be assessed as a significant scientific and applied contribution.

Another specialized direction of significant scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the candidate’s publications are the proposals for improving the methodology for transversal research to establish the state and dynamics of students’ motor fitness, in particular the students of the “Tourism” major. The “Eurofit” test battery was tested with students from the College of Tourism in Varna, which is the first time in our country. Chief assist., PhD Plyakov defines the conceptual foundation for unifying the criteria for evaluating the motor qualities of students from higher schools. On this basis, he summarizes up-to-date and effective forms of physical activity for students majoring in Tourism. The candidate develops the methodical guide for alternative activities combined with sports-tourism practices. He formulates logically based recommendations for improving the regulatory framework for controlling students' motor activity.

#### **6. Critical remarks, questions and recommendations**

Through the presented documents and publications chief assistant professor, PhD demonstrates significant teaching and research potential, combined with professional competence. I recommend effective exploitation of this potential by continuing and expanding of:

- the publication activity, including and in co-authorship, in referenced and indexed global databases of scientific information, with which to expand the specialized audience of the results of the candidate’s specific researches;
- participation in national and international projects in which PhD Plyakov can be useful with his valuable experience and expertise in the scientific areas of his interests.



## 7. Conclusion

The evaluations and findings related to the research, publications and teaching activities of chief assistant professor, PhD Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, in addition to his personal qualities, demonstrate the complete fulfillment of the requirements of ZRASRB and PPZRASRB at the University of Economics - Varna to take the academic position “associate professor”. This gives me reason to confidently express a positive opinion on the candidacy under discussion and to propose to the respected members of the scientific jury to choose Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov for the academic position of “associate professor” in the field of higher education 3. “Social, economic and legal sciences”, professional field 3.9. “Tourism”, scientific specialty “Economics and management (sports and hiking)”

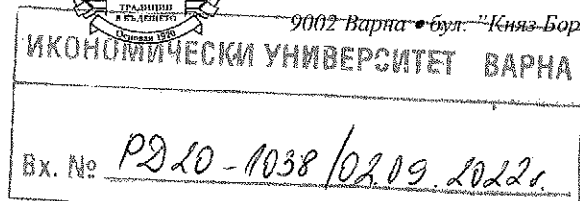
22.08.2022,

Author of the Scientific Statement

Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury (assoc. prof., PhD, Velina Kazandzhieva)

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



## SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT

from

*Assoc. prof. Genka Rafailova, PhD*

*Director of College of Tourism - Varna*

*University of Economics - Varna*

*According announced in GN No.41/03.06.2022 competition for holding the academic position "Associate Professor"*

### 1. General information

**Drafted the statement:** Assoc. Prof. Genka Ivanova Rafailova, Chair of a scientific jury on the issue announced in GN issue 41/03.06.2022 competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" according to order No RD06-121/01.07.2022 of the Vice-Rector of the University of Economics - Varna, in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional", Professional field 3.9 "Tourism", Scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (Marketing of Tourism and Leisure).

**Reason for drafting the statement:** Order No RD06-121/01.07.2022 of the Vice-Rector of the University of Economics – Varna and Decisions of the scientific jury, taken at the first meeting held on 4.08.2022, at 10 am in Hall 233 in University of Economics - Varna and by technical means in hybrid format.

**The statement is drafted** in accordance with the Law on the Academic Staff Development (LASD), Regulation for application of the LASD and Regulation for the academic staff development in UE-Varna.

### 2. Data for the competition

The statement is prepared for a single candidate, Chief Assistant Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, PhD, in a competition announced in GN issue 41/03.06.2022 for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.9 "Tourism", scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (Sports and Hiking). The competition is held for the needs of the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Economics - Varna (Decision of the Council of the College, Protocol No 11 of 16.05.2022), by decision of the University Board of 19.05.2022 (Protocol No 34) and decision of the Faculty Council of the

Faculty of Management (Protocol No 35 of 29.06.2022) for a scientific jury. The

### **3. The candidate for the competition:**

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism – Varna at The University of Varna. At a meeting of a committee appointed by order

At a meeting of a committee appointed by order RD06-130/19.07.2022 by the Rector of The University of Varna and the scientific jury on the competition, held on 04.08.2022, the candidate's documents and the set of materials have been reviewed and approved.

The decisions of the committee and the scientific jury are:

- the documents submitted under the competition meet the requirements according to the Regulation for the academic staff development of the University of Economics - Varna;
- Stanislav Plyakov meets the minimum national requirements for taking up an academic position "associate professor" in accordance with Article 26 of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Bulgaria and the requirements of the Regulation for academic staff development at the University of Economics - Varna, and is accordingly admitted to the competition.

Chief Assistant Stanislav Plyakov, PhD graduated from the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Economics -Varna (heir to the Institute of International Tourism Varna) in 1986, and in 1992 received a Master's Degree in National Academy of Sport "G.Dimitrov" Sofia. The candidate acquired the academic and educational degree (PhD) in scientific specialty 05.07.05 Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. Methodology of healing physical culture) in 2012. Stanislav Plyakov currently works at the College of Tourism – Varna at the University of Economics - Varna since 1995 and has held the academic positions "Assistant", " Senior Assistant Professor" (2005) and "Chief Assistant Professor" (2008). Stanislav Plyakov is a lecturer of “Physical Education and Sport”, “Hiking Tourism” and “Special Interests Tourism. Throughout the period since the acquisition of the first Bachelor degree to this day, the applicant makes efforts and improves his knowledge and skills in the field of sports and tourism. His achievements in both scientific and practical application activities, which are interrelated, are remarkable.

### **4. General description of scientific publications**

The candidate, Stanislav Plyakov, presented 24 scientific publications with a volume of 911 pages (873 of the independent ones) which do not take part in the scientific papers on the dissertation. The scientific

production covers 21 independent publications and 3 in co-authorship as follows: monograph – 2 pcs. (429 pages), scientific articles – 7 pcs. (84 pages), scientific reports – 6 pcs. (48 pages), textbooks and teaching aids – 3 (330 pages) and others – 4 pcs. (20 pages).

The structure of scientific papers is balanced, with 47.1% of monograph editions and 20% of scientific articles. Publication activity is mainly in the period from 2015 to 2022, which is indicative of its actuality. Its importance is demonstrated by the scientific publications in which it is presented, which are on the reference list of National Centre of Information and Documentation, prestigious and with a high degree of weight in the professional field 3.9 Tourism.

The monographs and educational editions are peer-reviewed by authoritative scientists and teachers in the professional field. Monographic work (269 pages) "Modern aspects and guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria" presents in-depth research and knowledge in the scientific fields for sustainable tourism, special interests of tourism and specifically hiking tourism in Bulgaria and Europe. The edition makes a significant contribution to the development of tourist science and hiking tourism in Bulgaria. The monograph does not repeat the monographic work "Regulatory basis for control of the motor fitness of "Eurofit" of students from the College of Tourism – Varna", based on the candidate's dissertation.

The scientific papers submitted for evaluation in the documentation of Stanislav Plyakov fully comply with Article 24, Article 53, item 3 of the LASD, Regulations for its implementation and Article 62, item 3 in conjunction with Article 71, item 2 and item 3 of Regulation for the academic staff development at the University of Economics - Varna (as of 01.07.2021).

## **5. General assessment of educational and teaching activities**

Stanislav Plyakov is a long-time lecturer in "Physical Education and Sport". Since entering the college in 1995, he has developed and enriched his teaching activities in discipline with a variety of interactive training methods and applying the knowledge of his research activities. Candidate introduces and develops the discipline "Hiking Tourism" in the training of the "Professional Bachelor". Stanislav Plyakov started good practices in the teaching of "Hiking Tourism", which became emblematic of the College of Tourism – Varna at University of Economics -Varna such as the ascent of Musala Peak in winter conditions and hiking in the Rila lakes region.

The applicant has substantial merit in the introduction and training of "Special Interests Tourism". He participates in teaching "Sports Tourism" and implementing traveling seminars and study routes. In terms of the

workload in the "Professional Bachelor's degree", for the last 2 years as Chief Assistant Professor, the candidate has had in the 2020/2021 school year 537 hours (lectures and exercises) and during the 2021/2022 school year 447 hours (lectures and exercises), which includes a guide to summer student practice – summer internship. The total workload of Stanislav Plyakov for the two school years is 984 hours.

## **6. Identification of scientific contributions**

The candidate has significant scientific contributions in two directions:

- "Theory and practice of specialized types of tourism". In this direction Stanislav Plyakov has summarized and upgraded the theory of sports and hiking tourism and made significant recommendations for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria;

"Theory and practice of physical training of students from the specialty "Tourism". In this direction the candidate has developed recommendations for improving the normative basis for controlling the motor activity of students and has systematized theoretically and put into practice new and effective forms of motor activity of students from the specialty "Tourism".

## **7. Critical notes, questions and recommendations**

Despite the significant research and other achievements, the following pre-selections may be made to the applicant:

1. To continue with active publication activity in referenced and indexed editions in a global database;
2. To conduct consultancy and to work as an expert in research and other university and national projects.

## **8. Conclusion**

The conclusion on the research, publication and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, PhD is that they fully meet the requirements of the LASD and the Regulation for the academic staff development at the University of Economics – Varna for the academic position "Associate Professor". On this basis, I express a strongly positive statement on the candidacy under discussion and propose that the honourable members of the scientific jury choose Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, MD, to take up the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", Professional field 3.9. "Tourism", Scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Sports and Hiking Tourism)".

*Date: 02.09.2022*

*Place: Varna*

*Signature.*

*(Assos. Prof. Genka Rajailova, PhD)*

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

## OPINION

on the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor",  
announced by the University of Economics - Varna

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

*The opinion was prepared by:* Prof. Mariyana Bozhinova, Ph.D, Economics and Management of Tourism Department, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, Scientific specialty Economics and Management.

*The opinion was prepared on the basis of* the Order of the Vice-Rector for Research and Professional Development of University of Economics - Varna, No. RD 06-121/01.07.2022 and the Decision of the meeting of the Scientific Jury dated 04.08.2022.

### 2. COMPETITION INFORMATION

The competition was announced in the "State Gazette" No. 41/03.06.2022, for the needs of the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna, in the scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and management (sports and hiking)".

### 3. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATE IN THE COMPETITION

The only candidate in the competition is Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, Ph.D, lecturer in the Department of Tourism at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna. He graduated from the College of Tourism (1986) and earned a Master's degree from Vasil Levski National Academy of Sciences - Sofia (1992). He earned a Ph.D in 2012 from the National Academy of Sciences in the scientific specialty "Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. Methodology of physical therapy). The candidate has been a long-time teacher at the College of Tourism at the University of Economics - Varna (since 1995). Since 2008 he has been chief assistant professor.

#### **4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBMITTED SCIENTIFIC WORKS AFTER THE LAST PROCEDURE**

In the competition for associate professor, Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Plyakov, Ph.D has presented 24 publications, including: 2 monographs, 9 scientific articles, 6 scientific reports, 3 textbooks and teaching aids and 4 other publications. Of these 24 works, 21 are independent and 2 are abroad. The total volume amounts to 911 pages.

A positive finding is that the number of scientific publications prevails – a total of 21 monographs, scientific articles and scientific reports, i.e. 87.5% of the total number of publications in the competition.

The most significant scientific publication of the submitted ones is the independent monograph "Contemporary aspects and guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria" (2021), with a volume of 269 pages. It presents the candidate in a good light. The issues discussed in the monograph are undoubtedly relevant. The purpose of the research is to systematize the practical and organizational aspects of hiking. The essence of hiking is clarified, its historical development is traced and a neat classification is proposed, as well as its organizational features are outlined. An up-to-date SWOT analysis of hiking tourism in Bulgaria has been made, the guidelines for its development have been outlined, and the conditions for its improvement have been indicated.

According to the reference submitted by the candidate, 8 reliable citations of his works in national editions have been identified.

Chief Assist. Prof. Plyakov, Ph.D participated in a research project.

The candidate fulfills the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, according to Art. 26 of LASRB, collecting 100 points under group "B" indicators, 215 points under group "G" (with a required minimum of 200 points), 70 points under group "D" (with a required minimum of 50 points).



*In summary, the volume of scientific production is sufficient and is suitable in terms of structure and quality for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Economics and management (sports and hiking)".*

## **5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITY**

Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Plyakov, Ph.D has the necessary annual academic employment, which is evident from the reference attached to the documents from the College. He conducts seminars and lectures on the following academic disciplines: "Hiking Tourism", "Specialized Types of Tourism" and "Physical Education and Sports". He has written 3 textbooks, 2 of which are independent.

Chief Assist. Prof. Plyakov, Ph.D actively works with students as a summer student practice leader.

*In summary, the educational and teaching activities of the candidate are in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations of the Development of Academic Staff (RDAS) in the University of Economics - Varna.*

## **6. IDENTIFICATION OF SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

The scientific achievements and contributions of Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Plyakov, Ph.D contained in his publications, are in two main directions: theory and practice of specialized types of tourism and theory and practice of physical training of students majoring in "Tourism".

The main contributions in the first direction are related to: enrichment of existing knowledge through theoretical summaries and critical analysis of productions in the field of sports tourism and, in particular, hiking tourism; systematization of their organizational features; preparing an in-depth SWOT analysis of hiking tourism in Bulgaria and designing new routes.

The main contributions in the second direction are related to: improvement of the methodology for transversal research to establish the state and dynamics of students' motor fitness, and for the first time in our country the "Eurofit" test battery was tested with students from the "Tourism" specialty at the College of Tourism - Varna; formulating recommendations for improving the regulatory framework for controlling students' motor activity; development of a methodological guide for alternative activities with sports-tourism practices.

The candidate's scientific contributions are mainly for the enrichment of existing knowledge, for the improvement of organizational policy and practice in the field of sports and hiking tourism.

## **7. CRITICAL NOTES, QUESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

My recommendation to Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Plyakov, Ph.D is to direct his publishing activity at scientific journals indexed in the world-renowned databases with scientific information Scopus and Web of Science.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Plyakov participated in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" with a sufficient volume of scientific works. In addition, he has many years of experience in scientific and teaching activities. He fulfills the minimum national requirements and the requirements for occupying the requested academic position, laid down in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna. Given the above, I propose to the members of the Scientific Jury that Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Plyakov, Ph.D be given the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in professional field 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and management (sports and hiking tourism)", for which I will vote "YES".

03.09.2022 г.

Signature:

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

/Prof. Mariyana Bozhinova, Ph.D/



ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ - ВАРНА

Вх. №

Р220-1050 / 04.09.2022

## STATEMENT

**on a competition for the academic position of "associate professor",  
announced by the University of Economics - Varna.**

### 1. General information

**Prepared the opinion:** Assoc. Ph.D. Veselin Ivanova Atanasova - University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, Department of "Marketing and Tourism".

**Basis for drawing up the opinion:** Order No: 06-123/04.07.2022. of the Rector of the University of Economics - Varna (IU-Varna) for the appointment of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position of "associate professor".

### 2. Competition data:

The announced competition is for the occupation of an academic position "docent" in a scientific field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction, 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: "Economics and management (Sports and walking tourism)". The competition announcement was published in the State Gazette, no. 41 of 03.06.2022

### 3. Contest candidate:

The only participant in the competition who has submitted documents is Ch. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, assistant professor, from the College of Tourism in IU-Varna. Since 1995 candidate Pleakov successively held the positions of "assistant" (1995-2004), "senior assistant" (2005-2008) and "Ch. assistant" (2008 to the present) at the College of Tourism - Varna. In the period 2014-2015 Ch. Dr. Stanislav Plyakov participated in a scientific project with the development of sports events in Varna for amateurs and amateurs on the topic: "Investigation of possibilities for organizing and holding special events in the municipality of Varna - sports events for amateurs and lover".

### 4. General description of the presented scientific works after the last procedure

The scientific publications presented in the list from ch. assistant professor Dr. Stanislav Plyakov is a total of 24. The list includes 2 independent monographs, 9 scientific articles (7 independent and 2 co-authored), 6 independent reports (one report in Russian), 3 textbooks (two independent and one co-authored). The total volume of independent scientific works is 911 printed pages and they are in accordance with the requirements under Art. 62, item 3 in connection

with Art. 71 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Economics - Varna).

#### **5. General evaluation of the educational - teaching work**

The educational and teaching work of ch. Stanislav Plyakov, assistant professor, is concentrated in the College of Tourism at the University of Varna.

Leads classes in academic disciplines that are directly related to the direction of the competition. He held the academic position of "chief assistant" at the College of Tourism in IU-Varna for 14 years. The candidate has developed curricula and lecture courses in the disciplines "Physical education and sports", "Hiking tourism", "Specialized types of tourism (sports tourism)". Ch. assistant professor Dr. Stanislav Plyakov, together with students, develop a guide to summer student practice (summer internship), organize annual hikes with a climb to Musala mountain, visit the Seven Rila Lakes and the Bacho Kiro cave.

#### **6. Identification of scientific contributions**

The presented scientific research and publications of the candidate are aimed at the development of current theoretical, scientific and scientific-applied problems that correspond to the subject of the announced competition. I support and accept the scientific and applied contributions of Ch. assistant professor Dr. Stanislav Pleakov as significant. This is confirmed by the fact that the candidate has extensive knowledge in two areas: one - "sports and, in particular, hiking tourism in the context of the concept of alternative types of tourism" and the second - "theory and practice of the physical training of students from the Tourism major ". The long-term practice of the candidate as a teacher of the FVS outlines the guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria and indicates the conditions for its improvement. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Stanislav Plyakov demonstrates competence in solving practical problems related to alternative pursuits with sports and tourism activities. Also, the candidate significantly improves the theoretical knowledge to establish the state and dynamics of the students' motor fitness, in particular the students of the "Tourism" specialty.

Based on the publications provided to me from the list of research work of Ch. assistant professor, Dr. Stanislav Plyakov, I believe that the established contributing points in the attached report are correctly identified and presented, enrich the existing methodology and scientific knowledge of the thematic areas under consideration.

#### **7. Critical notes, questions and recommendations**

I have no significant comments. I recommend to Ch. assistant professor Dr. Pleakov to continue his development by focusing his publication activity in



proven refereed and indexed editions, with the aim of increasing the research work and popularizing the achieved scientific results. Referrals do not affect my overall positive rating.

## 8. Conclusion

In conclusion, I consider that the candidate fulfills the formal requirements regarding research and teaching activities.

According to the submitted documents and achieved scientific and teaching results ch. assistant professor, Dr. Stanislav Pleakov meets 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 PRAS of IU-Varna for holding the position of "Associate Professor". Covers the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively the requirements under Art. 2.b, para. 5 of ZRASRB. The candidate declared a total of 465 points with a required minimum of 400 points with performance according to the indicators from all groups (group A - achieved 80 points out of the required 50 points; group B - achieved 100 points out of the required 100 points; group D - achieved 215 points out of the required 200 points.; group D - achieved 70 points with the required 50 points. Fulfills all indicators the quantitative requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" at IU - Varna on the basis of Art. 2b, para. 5 of ZRASRB and according to art. 62, item 5 of PRAS in IU-Varna (in force from 01.07.2021), declaring 140 points against the required 110 points. There is no proven plagiarism in scientific works according to the law.

**All this gives me reason to offer a positive assessment for the candidate.** I allow myself to recommend to the respected members of the scientific jury, Ch. assistant professor Dr. Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov **to be elected to the academic position of "associate professor" at the College of Tourism in IU-Varna** in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: "Economics and management (sports and hiking)".

28. 08. 2022 г.  
Burgas

The statement has been prepared

Assoc. Ph.D. Veselina Ivanova Atanasova

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