



OPINION

From: *Prof. Valentina Ilieva Staneva, PhD; Todor Kableshkov University of Transport – Sofia, Professional Field 3.8 “Economics”, Scientific Specialty “Accounting, Control, and Analysis of Business Activities”*

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.8 “Economics,” Scientific Specialty “Finance, Taxation, and Corporate Financial Management” at IBS.

1. Information about the Competition

The competition was announced for the needs of IBS in accordance with the Decision of the Academic Council, Protocol No. 4/26.03.2025. I am a member of the scientific jury for the competition pursuant to Order No. 39/02.04.2025 of the Rector of IBS.

2. Brief Information about the Candidates in the Competition

In this competition, there is only one candidate – Chief Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Valeriyeva Nenkova, PhD. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Finance from the D.A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov. She has professional qualifications in economic pedagogy. She obtained her PhD degree at IBS – Botevgrad. She has successively held the academic positions of “Assistant” and “Chief Assistant” at the D.A. Tsenov Academy of Economics and IBS – Botevgrad. For one year, she has been a consultant at BUL INS AD on financial and managerial matters.

3. Fulfilment of the Requirements for Holding the Academic Position

3.1. Fulfilment of Quantitative Requirements

The minimum required points by indicator groups for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Professional Field 3.8 “Economics”, according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RILDASRB), are as follows: A – 50 points, B – 100 points, C – 200 points, D – 50 points. The candidate has published scientific works that provide her with the following points: A – 50 points, B – 100 points, C – 235 points, D – 75 points. Total points – 460, with a required minimum of 400. The conclusion is that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements for the scientific and teaching activities of candidates for the academic position of “Associate Professor” pursuant to Article 2b of the RILDASRB.

The candidate for the academic position of “Associate Professor” participates in the competition with 21 publications, including reports and articles, of which 10 are independent and 6 are co-authored.

The submitted publications include 1 monograph, 1 book, 3 studies, 2 articles, and 14 reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes.

The number of citations submitted for the competition – 8.

3.2. Fulfilment of Qualitative Requirements

I consider the candidate to be an established researcher with contributions to both national and international level. Four of the publications submitted for evaluation are in

English. In addition to teaching, the candidate is engaged in expert and research activities. She has participated as an expert-researcher in eight research projects (university and national).

I believe that the candidate meets the qualitative requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

4. Evaluation of Teaching Activities

Regarding academic work and interaction with students, the candidate demonstrates significant activity. She annually conducts seminars in the disciplines "Taxes and Tax Administration", "Tax Control and Administration", "International Finance", "Fundamentals of Corporate Financial Management", "Public Finance", "Public Finance and Tax Management", "Finance", and "Corporate Finance".

Chief Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Valeriyeva Nenkova, PhD, is proficient in written and spoken English and German.

5. Brief Characteristics of the Submitted Scientific Works/Publications

The topics of the publications demonstrate a sustained interest in current issues related to income taxation specifics, risk allocation between commercial banks and enterprises in the context of critical infrastructure, the break-even point method as a basis for analysing a company's financial performance, issues related to tax preferences in pandemic conditions, the cumulative effect method on a company's financial condition, discussions on family income taxation, and other relevant topics related to finance, taxation, and corporate financial management.

The central publication is the habilitation monograph "The Need for Updating the Organization of Income Taxation of Individuals in Bulgaria", IBS Publishing House, Botevgrad, 2021. ISBN 978-619-7610-01-7.

The study focuses on the role of income taxes levied on individuals as an important tool of state policy. Without optimizing the organization of individual income taxation in line with the country's economic development, it is impossible to implement a rational market model of development and management.

The monograph has broad applied potential, as it is based on an in-depth knowledge of the theoretical achievements of Bulgarian and foreign authors in the field of organizing individual income taxation, including those working under employment and non-employment relationships, as well as the taxation systems applied in Bulgaria's tax practice. A significant emphasis is placed on the developed thesis for introducing elements of family income taxation into Bulgarian tax practice, such as tax credits differentiated based on the size of remuneration and the number of children raised in the family, as well as tax incentives for entering into civil marriages for young families, which are important for fairer taxation of individuals.

According to the submitted Table No. 1 for meeting the minimum state and IBUB requirements for holding this position, Chief Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Nenkova, PhD, reports 450 points, with a minimum requirement of 400. The actual points are 460, i.e., 10 points less, presumably due to a technical error.

6. Synthesized Evaluation of the Main Scientific and Applied Contributions of the Candidate

I accept the formulated main contributions in the submitted works, which are the merit of the author, in the following directions:

Scientific-Theoretical Contributions in the Publications:

1. Theoretical propositions are presented, revealing the essence and trends in the development and improvement of individual income taxation in Bulgaria (monograph; Publications No. 8, 13, 14, 15, 17).
2. An in-depth analysis of the current income tax policy in Bulgaria is conducted based on global theory and practice, justifying the need for reform in individual income taxation (monograph; Publications No. 8, 14).

Scientific-Applied Contributions:

3. Justified proposals are made for optimizing the organization of individual income taxation in line with the country's economic development, namely:
 - ✓ Transition from proportional to progressive income taxation and the introduction of an income taxation scale. The direct link between the upper limit of mandatory social security income and taxation is a prerequisite for a fairer distribution of the tax burden among individuals (monograph; Publication No. 8).
 - ✓ Elimination of the patent taxation system, which creates inequality among individuals in taxing the same income (monograph; Publications No. 17).
 - ✓ Change in the organization of income taxation for sole traders (the taxation of sole traders should be aligned with other legal entities, not treated as individuals, and taxed at a 10% rate instead of 15%) (monograph; Publication No. 8).
 - ✓ Introduction of family income taxation into the country's tax system, which will lead to a fairer distribution of income among households (monograph; Publication No. 14).
 - ✓ Elimination of preferences regarding the taxation of income of individuals working under non-employment relationships – in principle. This way, taxpayers will be subject to equal taxation conditions, regardless of whether they receive income from employment or non-employment relationships (monograph; Publication No. 10).
 - ✓ Emphasis on improving the work of the revenue administration through the digitization of tax services (monograph; Publication No. 15).
4. Further development of the application of methods for influencing the financial performance of enterprises (Publications No. 11, 12, 13).
5. Outlining opportunities for optimizing the investment policy of enterprises in crisis conditions (Publications No. 4, 5, 9).
6. Providing rational proposals for selecting financing techniques for enterprises (Publications No. 5, 6, 19, 20).

7. Main Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no critical remarks and do not personally know the candidate. Her excellent knowledge of the theory and issues of finance, taxation, and corporate financial management is noteworthy. This is a solid foundation for further research in this direction. I recommend that Chief Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Nenkova, PhD, in her future publications, investigate the shortcomings and issues that may arise as a result of tax policy implementation in crisis conditions and in the context of introducing a single European currency.

8. Conclusion

The scientific research of the candidate for the academic position of "Associate Professor" – Chief Assistant Tsvetelina Valeriyeva Nenkova, PhD – is dedicated to current issues in the field of finance, taxation, and corporate financial management. Her scientific output contains significant scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions. She is an established and respected researcher and teacher. Her scientific works and teaching activities meet the requirements of the RILDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation at IBS-Botevgrad for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Therefore, I confidently recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote "Yes" for the appointment of Chief Assistant Tsvetelina Nenkova, PhD, to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Professional Field 3.8 "Economics", Scientific Specialty "Finance, Taxation, and Corporate Financial Management" at IBS – Botevgrad.

Date:

05.05.2025

Jury Member:

Заличена информация
съгласно ЗЗЛД и
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(Prof. Dr. Valentina Staneva)