



## OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Darina Ruscheva Todorova, scientific specialty "National Economy (incl. regional economy and history of national economy)", professional field 3.8. Economics, Member of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position "Professor".

**Scientific area:** 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

**Professional field:** 3.8. Economics

**Research specialty:** "Economics and Management (Economics and Business, Entrepreneurship)"

Trakia University - Stara Zagora

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### 1. Contest information

The competition for the academic position "Professor" was announced by the Trakia University – Stara Zagora. The competition is open for the position of Professor of the Department of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship at the Faculty of Economics.

The opinion was prepared on the basis of Article 2 and Article 3 of the Rule of procedure for the development of the academic staff at Trakia University and the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics ( Protocol No. 1/14.09.2023) and Order No. 3133/19.09.2023 of the Rector of the Trakia University - Prof. Dr. Dobri Yarkov.

### 2. Candidate Information

Only one candidate - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darina Georgieva Zaimova - participated in the competition for the academic position of Professor. She provided comprehensive, precisely arranged and in accordance with the legal requirements documentation described in the submitted List of documents of the competition and the materials provided.

#### *Education, administrative experience, participation in projects*

In 2002 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darina Zaimova obtained her Bachelor's degree and in 2004 - Master's degree, both at the University of Economics - Varna. In 2008 she received her PhD from Trakia University - Stara Zagora. Since 2012 she holds the academic position of Associate Professor. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zaimova has extensive administrative and managerial experience: deputy rector for project activities (2016-2019), currently deputy rector for scientific and international activities at the Trakia University, deputy head of the Department of Industrial Business and Entrepreneurship at the Faculty of Economics of the University (since 2012), head

of the Projects Department, etc. She has specializations in Italy, Hungary, Serbia, Spain, Greece, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Poland, etc. Assoc. Prof. Zaimova has very good language and computer skills, experience in project management and coordination and teamwork.

*Compliance with the Minimum National Requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Minimum Requirements and the Additional Requirements of the Rule of Procedure for the development of the academic staff at Trakia University for holding the academic position "Professor".*

The review of the quantitative measurements and the factual data of the indicators presented in the Report-declaration by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darina Zaimova, concerning the materials for participation in the competition, shows the following: a) the candidate meets the minimum requirements in terms of indicator group A (100 points) and indicator group C (100 points); b) significantly exceeds the minimum requirements in indicator group D (251,60/200 points), repeatedly exceeds the minimum requirements in indicator group E (435/100 points) and again repeatedly exceeds the minimum requirements in indicator group F (525/100 points) and (c) indicator group G - the applicant exceeds the minimum requirements (155/100 points). Impressive is the fact that the total sum of the candidate's individual points is more than twice the required minimum (1516.6/650 points).

The publications presented in the Report-Declaration correspond thematically to the announced competition for the academic position of "Professor" at the Trakia University - Stara Zagora. It is also evident that the candidate participates in the competition with a rich publication activity monograph; articles and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world databases of scientific information; articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in editorial collective volumes; participation in collective monographs, etc. Member of the Editorial Board of 3 international journals. And the citations mentioned are proof that the candidate is known in the scientific community.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darina Zaimova participates in National Program ("Healthy Foods for a Strong Bioeconomy and Quality of Life", "Intelligent Plant Breeding"), FNI project and other projects (leader of 4 international projects, participant in 4 national projects, coordinator of 1 national program); has successfully defended a PhD; published a textbook "Intellectual Property", developed curricula (15), scientific supervision of graduates (6), participation in scientific forums, etc. She is a member of artistic and professional organizations and carries out expert and consulting activities.

It can be summarized from her professional CV and the presented facts that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darina Zaimova has extensive professional, teaching, administrative and expert-consulting experience and positive results from the reconciliation of the mentioned diverse activities. This is sufficient justification for her right to participate in the competition for the academic position of Professor for the needs of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

### 3. Scientific contributions

I fully accept the proposed Author's Report on the original scientific and applied contributions in the candidate's works and the results derived from the research therein. I would like to point out that the Report is very well structured and with the necessary argumentation in it.

In general, the main scientific and applied contributions can be presented as follows:

1) Expanding and building on existing information on "social economy" and "social entrepreneurship".

2) Developing and applying an integrated approach to the analysis and evaluation of cooperative organizations and their development.

3) Enriching knowledge in the field of sustainable development, bioeconomy and circular economy, as well as on environmental entrepreneurship and business practices.

4) Integrate digital innovation capabilities in targeted sectors by adapting/profiling the necessary social capital/human resources to new technologies.

### 4. Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darina Zaimova has extensive scientific, teaching, administrative and expert-consulting experience, is well-known among the scientific circles at home and abroad, member of international editorial boards and various scientific organizations. This assessment, formed on the basis of my acquaintance with the submitted documents for the competition, allows me, with full conviction, to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively for the academic position of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Darina Georgieva Zaimova.

01.11.2023  
Sofia

Signature:   
(Prof. Dr. Darina Ruscheva)