

STATEMENT

of: prof. Ivan Petrov Paligorov, PhD, University of forestry, Sofia

concerning: competition for academic position “associate professor” in professional field 3.7. Administration and management (Public administration), open for The Center for Legal Sciences at the Burgas Free University and published in the State Journal № 55/15.07.2022.

basis for the statement: Order No LS-181/ 09.09.2022 of the Rector of the Burgas Free University for the validation of the scientific jury and decision of the scientific jury of 19.09.2022

admitted applicant: eng. Hasan Azis Ismail, PhD

The statement reflects the content of the materials provided by the applicant for participation in the competition and their compliance with the normative requirements under the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the BPR and its Implementing Regulations, as well as the Rules for the Development of Academic Staff at BSU (RDAS).

I. Characteristics of the applicant and compliance with the regulatory requirements

Dr. Eng. Hassan Ismail graduated with a master's degree in industrial and civil engineering at UABG Sofia in 1995. In 1998 graduated with a degree in Marketing and Management, with qualification Economist, Master of Management and Marketing at the University of National and World Economy. In 2020 acquires the ONS "Doctor" in PF 3.7 Administration and Management at the University of National and World Economy.

Between 1997 and 1999 he worked as an engineer in construction companies. From 1991 to 2001 he was a manager at Team International Ltd. in Sofia. In the period 2001-2003 he was Deputy Regional Governor of Kardzhali District with administrative center Kardzhali. Since 2003 he has been elected as a Mayor of Kardzhali Municipality.

He started a teaching career in 2020 as a guest lecturer at Chernorizets Hrabar University in Varna, a part-time lecturer at the University of National and World Economy at the Department of Regional Development and as a lecturer at the Burgas Free University at the Center for Legal Sciences (CNS).

Compliance of the applicant's academic activity with the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor"

The minimum requirements for the teaching and scientific activity of the applicant for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the direction of the competition are specified in the Regulations for implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for District 3. Social, business and legal sciences. The fulfilment of the requirements according to the report provided is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for holding an academic position "Associate Professor"

Scoreboard of indicators	Minimum required points *	Performance **
A. Indicator 1	50	50
B. Indicator 3	100	100
Г. Sum of indicators 4 to 10	200	320
Д. Sum of indicators 11 to 13	50	185
Total	400	655

* According to the Regulations for implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for District 3. Social, business and legal sciences

** According to the reference annexed by the applicant

Dr. Eng. Hassan Ismail has acquired the ONS "Doctor" under 3.7 Administration and Management at the University of National and World Economy in 2020, and his dissertation is published as a book. He participated in the competition with published habilitation monographic work (Aziz, H., Local policies in the new reality – strategic elements and approaches of the municipalities. Publishing complex – UNWE, ISBN 978-619-232-634-0 Sofia 2022). Presents published second monograph (Aziz, H. Institutional capacity, satisfaction and social climate in Bulgarian municipalities. Publishing complex – UNWE, ISBN 978-619-232-642-5, Sofia 2022) The list of scientific publications proposed for review (Appendix 5) also includes: 10 articles (2 of them under seal) and 3 studies published in unreferenced journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. There are 7 citations.

Publications to authenticate scientific activity and citations have been attached. The total amount is 655 points (table 1), which exceeds the minimum requirements in total, as well as by group of indicators.

In summary, it can be argued that Dr. Eng. Hassan Ismail meets the quantitative criteria for taking up the position of "associate professor" according to the current legal framework.

Assessment of the additional requirements for the education and research pursuant to Art. 50 (3) by Rules for Academic Staff Development at BFU

The applicant has applied a reference for fulfilling the additional requirements for the academic position "associate professor" placed in the Centre for Legal Sciences at Burgas Free University. The published textbook (Aziz, H. Basics of Local Self-Government - Textbook. PH - UNWE, ISBN 978-619-232-391-2) is by discipline studied at the Center. A report on participation in 2 national projects and control, coordination and organization of 12 projects, with national and international funding, is presented.

The requirement for at least 10 publications outside the "Doctor" designated for the acquisition of the NSA is also fulfilled, with at least 3 of them in international publications, including collections from international conferences. The audience occupancy requirement of at least 1000 hours has been partially met. This quantitative criterion is not considered essential in assessing the application, since its implementation is rather linked to the possibility of the academic institution securing the relevant employment. The work of Dr. Eng. Ismail at 3 universities shows that he has integrated as part of the teaching staff and knows the peculiarities of the learning process.

II. Candidate's contributions and overall assessment of the application

The scientific contributions of Dr. Eng. Ismail are related to the topic of the competition and mainly concern local self-government and public administration. I acknowledge the contributions indicated by the applicant by allowing myself to point out a few more important contributions.

With the nature of scientific contributions, I stand out:

- ✓ The understandable apparatus of the process of decentralization, regionalization and deconcentration in government, both at home and abroad, is systematized by bringing out a model of connectivity between central and local.
- ✓ An assessment of the financial performance was made, presented as an amendment of key indicators for local budgets and the degree of decentralisation, such as: relative growth in tax, own and total revenues.
- ✓ An assessment of the leadership styles of government in the surveyed municipalities was made and the relationship between the management style and the levels of satisfaction in the workplace is shown.

- ✓ A systematized scheme of the state government of Bulgaria with hierarchical and functional interaction of the types of authorities has been drawn up and systematized.
- ✓ Administrative opportunities and civic attitudes for the realization of the decentralization process in cross-border municipalities in Bulgaria and Greece have been identified.

With a practical-applied character, I stand out:

- ✓ A methodology has been developed and developed with an algorithm for empirical study of administrative possibilities and civic attitudes, with which it is possible to form a kind of diagnostic map of the process of decentralization in municipal administrations and civil society.
- ✓ An integrated model of local and regional governance has been created and proposed, in accordance with the European Charter on Local Self-Government and the achievement of good governance indicators.
- ✓ Possible scenarios for conducting a reform for decentralization of the Bulgarian municipalities have been received and proposed, with recommendations for improving the legislation and other policy instruments for strengthening and developing local self-government.
- ✓ Specific rules and processes for making management decisions in the local government are proposed, through the prism of possibilities for implementing the principles of "good governance".
- ✓ A model of connectivity between the municipal administration, municipal councillors and mayors has been outlined, highlighted by improvement in the social climate, improving the microclimate and increasing job satisfaction, taking into account the specific characteristics of the municipalities surveyed.

The candidate is a lecturer at the Center for Legal Sciences at University of BFU in NP 3.7. Administration and Management (Public Administration). The content of the discipline "Basics of local self-government" is shaped into a textbook. The theoretical training and the long-standing expertise and management experience of the candidate in the field of local self-government make it possible to deepen the scientific and research activities and the preparation of students trained in the University of Central Government in this field by the public administration.

Taking into account the applicant's distinguished professional experience in the field of local self-government, his/her attraction in the teaching staff of the Ministry of Education will contribute to expanding the link with the practice and, in line with the trends in modern higher education, will strengthen the practical and applied aspect of training especially in master's programs.

III. Notes and recommendations

No significant omissions or contradictions were found in the materials submitted in the competition. I allow myself to recommend that the candidate form research teams, including with international participation, to explore the extremely topical topic of local self-government. This would be a prerequisite for expanding publications abroad, especially in referenced and indexed international publications, which would allow Dr. Eng. Ishmael to promote his work among the international scientific society.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements, the quantity and quality of the materials submitted for review and their compliance with the legal basis, as well as in view of the educational and research activities and the undeniable scientific and scientific and applied contributions, I strongly express my positive opinion on the candidacy of Dr. Eng. Hassan Aziz Ismail to hold academic position as 'associate professor' in PF 3.7. Administration and Management (Public Administration) declared for the needs of the Center for Legal Sciences at Burgas Free University.

Sofia, 13. 10. 2022

Member of the scientific jury:

Prof. Ivan Paligorov, PhD