



REVIEW

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of “Professor” in Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.8. Economics, Scientific Specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit and Insurance, announced in the State Gazette, issue no. 99 of 21.11.2025, for the needs of the Faculty of Economics, Department of Economics at Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Reviewer: Prof. Teodora Dimitrova Petrova, PhD, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.8. Economics, Scientific Specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit and Insurance, appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. RD-131/26.01.2026 of the Rector of Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

1. General Information on the Candidate’s Career and Thematic Development

The competition for the academic position of “Professor” was announced in issue 99 of the State Gazette dated 25.11.2025 for the needs of the Department of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, within the scientific field 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit, and Insurance.

The candidate for the academic position of “Professor” under the announced competition is Dr. Nadezhda Georgieva Blagoeva, a faculty member in the Department of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, currently holding the academic position of Associate Professor.

Nadezhda Georgieva Blagoeva was born in 1975. She obtained higher education in economics at the Master’s degree level, majoring in Business Management and Administration, at the University of National and World Economy – Sofia in 1997. She earned a Doctorate (PhD) in the scientific specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit, and Insurance (Finance) at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov in 2011.

The candidate began her academic career in 1999 as an Assistant at the Department of Economics, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, with subsequent promotion to Senior Assistant in 2002 and Chief Assistant in 2005. She has held the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit, and Insurance at the same department since 2013.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva has successfully combined her teaching and research activities with the execution of administrative responsibilities at the university:

- Acting Head of the Department of Mathematics and Informatics, 2022–2024;
- Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economics, from 2024 to the present.

The documents submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva for the competition comply with the regulatory requirements. They contain sufficient information on her scientific and teaching work, including in the areas of economics, finance, and taxation. Publications used for obtaining the PhD and the academic position of Associate Professor are clearly distinguished from those submitted for evaluation under the announced competition for the position of “Professor.”

The academic development of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva corresponds to the competition announced in the State Gazette (issue 99/25.11.2025) for the position of

“Professor” in the scientific field 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit, and Insurance, for the needs of the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Economics of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

2. General Description of the Submitted Materials

Based on the Report on compliance with the national minimum scientometric requirements under Art. 2 and Art. 26, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB) in Scientific Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva reports a total of 1,414.16 points, with a minimum required threshold of 550 points.

In accordance with the regulatory requirements for participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted for review 21 publications (single-authored and co-authored), as follows:

- Monograph (habilitation thesis) – 1;
- Articles and papers published in scientific journals indexed in internationally recognized databases of scientific information – 11 (Indicator 6);
- Articles and papers published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes – 4 (Indicator 7);
- Studies published in indexed scientific journals – 3 (Indicator 8);
- Textbook – 1 (Indicator 20);
- University study guide – 1 (Indicator 21).

The minimum required points for the respective groups of indicators have been met and exceeded as follows:

- Group A: 50 points reported, 50 required;
- Group B: 100 points reported, 100 required (habilitation thesis);
- Group C: 234.16 points reported, 200 required;
- Group D: 890 points reported, 100 required;
- Group E: 140 points reported, 100 required.

3. Main Areas of the Candidate’s Research Activity

The content of the scientific works submitted for review, authored by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva, represents a research portfolio reflecting the deepening and further development of knowledge and analytical skills as a result of the candidate’s scientific and teaching activity following her appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor.

Among the publications submitted for participation in the competition, special attention deserves the monographic work (B – 1) with the following bibliographic description: Blagoeva, N., 2025. Environmental Taxes in the Republic of Bulgaria – Trends and Challenges, Koala Press, ISBN 9786192610739. The issues addressed are developed at a high research level. The monograph is a completed scientific work, an original authorial research study with substantial scientific and scientific-applied contributions to Bulgarian economic science in the field of environmental taxation, combining theoretical analysis, legal evaluation, and empirical conclusions. The author’s research contributes to expanding scientific knowledge regarding the role of environmental taxes as an instrument for the “green” transformation of the economy and for aligning Bulgarian tax practice with European policies.

The study is devoted to environmental taxes as a principal type of market-based instrument of public intervention and has a pronounced empirical character. A multifaceted and in-depth analysis of environmental taxes as a major fiscal instrument of public authority is presented, together with their theoretical foundations, practical aspects, specific challenges, and opportunities in the context of Bulgarian and European tax policy and legislation. Trends in tax revenues from environmental taxes and prospects for their development at national level are examined.

In the remaining authorial publications submitted for the competition, several research directions can be identified in which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva concentrates her scholarly work, including: agrarian economics (G-6 – 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10; G-7 – 1, 2; G-8 – 1), tourism (G-6 – 4), farmers (G-7 – 3, 4), environmental taxes, environmentally sustainable development and waste management (G-6 – 6, 7, 8, 11; G-8 – 2, 3), and finance (E – 1, 2). In this regard, the candidate's studies and authorial contributions have been evaluated from the perspectives of economics, ecology, and the agrarian sector.

Assoc. Prof. Blagoeva's publication activity is directed toward peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals included in Web of Science and Scopus. Her research is distinguished by its applied empirical character, the use of econometric and statistical methods, and an orientation toward policy formulation, which enhances its practical significance for the economy. Some of the publications are the result of effective teamwork in scientific research, further enriching the methodological and thematic scope of the studies.

I accept the publications submitted for review as authentic and compliant with academic ethical standards, as evidenced by the Declaration of originality and authenticity submitted by the candidate in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework.

A Certificate from the Research and Technology Transfer Center at Agricultural University – Plovdiv has been presented, confirming the participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva in research projects, as follows:

- Project Leader: “Economic Instruments for Circular Economy in Rural Areas: Synergy between Agriculture, Tourism and Green Tax Policies,” Research and Technology Transfer Center, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, 2025–2026;
- Project Participant: “Sustainable Financial Models for Ecological Agriculture,” Research and Technology Transfer Center, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, 2024–2026.

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, meets the national minimum requirements in Scientific Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences (Art. 26, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria) and complies with the conditions for holding the academic position of “Professor” in the scientific specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit and Insurance.

4. Evaluation of Teaching Preparation and Activity

From the submitted certificate of teaching workload, it is evident that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva reports a teaching workload with students enrolled in the educational and qualification degrees “Bachelor” and “Master” over the past five (5) academic years that exceeds the workload established in the university's academic plan.

For the purposes of the announced competition for the academic position of “Professor,” the candidate has submitted for review one (1) independently authored university textbook,

Fundamentals of Finance, and one (1) independently authored university study guide, Fundamentals of Finance, which constitutes sufficient evidence of compliance with the regulatory requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2, 3 and 5 of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Appendix to Art. 1a of the Implementing Regulations of the same Act.

These teaching materials reflect Assoc. Prof. Blagoeva's scientific research and accumulated teaching experience, providing a modern and systematized foundation for the education of students in economic specialties.

In the documents submitted for the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva has presented a report on the courses delivered in the educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" – six (6) courses (Corporate Finance; Banking and Insurance; Business Diagnostics and Valuation; Municipal Finance; Tax Systems; Fundamentals of Finance) and in the educational and qualification degree "Master" – eight (8) courses (Fundamentals of Finance; Banking Management; Corporate Finance; Financial Management; Financial and Economic Analysis; Taxes and Tax Policy; State and Municipal Finance; Financial Management of the Tourism Enterprise).

As evidence of compliance with the regulatory requirements, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva has submitted reports confirming the supervision of three (3) successfully defended PhD students, registered in the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID), and forty-four (44) graduates at the "Bachelor" and "Master" educational and qualification levels.

According to the submitted report on teaching and methodological contributions, Assoc. Prof. Blagoeva has developed new and updated existing curricula in the field of finance for students enrolled in the "Bachelor" and "Master" degrees in the specialties Business Economics; Bioeconomy; Agrarian Tourism; Economics and Management of Regional Development; Financial Management and Accounting; Tourism Management; Agrarian Marketing; E-commerce; Economics and Management of European Agriculture and Rural Areas.

5. Significance of the Results Achieved, Demonstrated by Citations

The publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva have received broad recognition in specialized academic literature, which serves as evidence of their scientific significance and of the interest shown in the candidate's work by the academic community at both national and supranational levels.

The list of citations submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva provides the following information: a total of 77 citations, of which 46 are in scientific publications indexed in internationally recognized databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes; 9 are in peer-reviewed monographs; and 22 are in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals.

The reported citation data comply with the regulatory requirements and constitute sufficient evidence of the candidate's academic visibility and recognition.

6. Significance of the Contributions to Science and Practice

The analysis of the publication activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva demonstrates consistency between the thematic focus of the publications submitted for the competition and the Report on scientific and applied scientific contributions presented by the candidate.

Her research activity is characterized by clearly defined thematic continuity and interdisciplinarity, with a focused emphasis on public sector finance, tax policy, agricultural economics, and environmentally sustainable development.

In this regard, the Report on scientific and applied contributions submitted by the candidate outlines the contribution-related aspects of her research work, which contribute to the development of economic theory and practice in the fields of sustainable development, green tax policy, waste management, and state aid in the agricultural sector.

I accept the scientific and applied scientific contributions identified by the candidate, which in synthesized form may be presented as follows:

- Contributions of the Monographic Work *Environmental Taxes in the Republic of Bulgaria – Trends and Challenges*:
 - Scientific contributions: A comprehensive theoretical, historical, and legal analysis of the development and classification of environmental taxes in Bulgaria and the EU has been carried out. An original combined definition of environmental tax has been developed, facilitating the distinction between taxes and fees and improving their statistical reporting. The socio-economic effects have been analyzed through the calculation of the implicit tax rate on energy, and a model for assessing the “double dividend” has been proposed. A comparative review of European practices has been conducted with a view to their applicability in Bulgaria.
 - Scientific-applied contributions: Recommendations have been formulated for improving and harmonizing environmental taxation in accordance with European requirements. Measures have been proposed to enhance administrative efficiency, accountability, and the integration of environmental taxes into sustainable development policies. Their role has been substantiated as an instrument for implementing the “polluter pays” principle, for reducing social inequalities, and for encouraging environmentally responsible behavior.
- Contributions of Other Authorial Publications in the Thematic Area “Environmental Taxes”:
 - Scientific contributions: A concept of environmental taxation has been developed, combining economic efficiency and environmental sustainability, including an analysis of the “double dividend.” An analytical framework has been constructed for assessing the impact of green taxes on competitiveness, socio-economic indicators, and behavioral responses. A critical review of European practices and their applicability in Bulgaria has been carried out, addressing issues of tax fairness, institutional barriers, and the interaction between national and European regulations. The role of green taxes as an instrument for the internalization of environmental costs and their synergy with other sustainable development policies has been analyzed.
 - Scientific-applied contributions: Recommendations have been formulated for the introduction and improvement of environmental taxes and for the targeted use of their revenues for green programs and investments. Measures have been proposed to enhance transparency and administrative efficiency, as well as compensatory mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable groups. Guidelines have been developed for integrating green taxes and state aid in support of the objectives of the Green Deal and for applying good European practices under Bulgarian conditions.
- Contributions of Authorial Publications in the Thematic Area “Waste Management”:

- Scientific contributions: The relationship between economic growth and waste generation has been examined through econometric analysis. A model for adaptive institutional change and an integrated model for assessing the effectiveness of waste management systems have been developed, taking into account socio-economic and cultural factors. European practices and the compliance of local policies with sustainability requirements have been analyzed. Indicators for institutional effectiveness have been developed, and the analysis of the role of the circular economy and separate waste collection in reducing the environmental footprint has been expanded.
- Scientific-applied contributions: Recommendations have been formulated for reforming the municipal waste fee through linking it to the quantity of waste generated. Mechanisms have been proposed for more effective institutional cooperation, transparency, and monitoring, as well as opportunities for financing sustainable projects. Guidelines have been developed for the implementation of smart technologies, public-private partnerships, and increased civic engagement in waste management.
- Contributions of Authorial Publications in the Thematic Area “State Aid in Agriculture”:
 - Scientific contributions: An in-depth analysis of state aid mechanisms has been conducted, with a focus on the refund of excise duty on fuels and compliance with EU rules and the Green Deal. Potential conflicts between tax reliefs and environmental objectives have been identified, as well as risks of distortion of competition. The effectiveness of aid under conditions of green transition has been assessed, and a concept has been developed for integrating it with risk management instruments and sustainable investments, with analysis of the institutional factors influencing its effectiveness.
 - Scientific-applied contributions: Recommendations have been proposed for adapting state aid to EU green policy through environmental sustainability criteria, monitoring mechanisms, transparency, and digitalization. Instruments have been developed for assessing impacts on competitiveness and sustainability, as well as measures to stimulate green technologies, organic farming, and renewable energy. State aid has been substantiated as an instrument for balancing economic support and the environmental commitments of agriculture.

7. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

No critical remarks are formulated. As a recommendation, continued active development of new interdisciplinary research directions is encouraged, contributing to the strategic positioning of the Department of Economics in the sphere of educational innovation.

8. Personal Impressions and Opinion of the Reviewer

I know Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Blagoeva as an established scholar with high professional and moral qualities. She demonstrates profound scientific knowledge, analytical thinking, consistency in research, responsibility, and academic ethics.

Her teaching is characterized by competence, strong methodological preparation, and the ability to motivate students.

The analysis of the submitted materials provides sufficient grounds to conclude that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Georgieva Blagoeva fully meets the quantitative and qualitative criteria for the academic position of Professor.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of her teaching, scientific, and applied research activities, I conclude that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Georgieva Blagoeva meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementing Regulations, and the internal regulations of Agricultural University – Plovdiv for holding the academic position of “Professor” in Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.8. Economics, Scientific Specialty Finance, Monetary Circulation, Credit and Insurance, under the competition announced in State Gazette, issue no. 99 of 21.11.2025.

All of the above gives me grounds to evaluate her overall activity **POSITIVELY**.

I respectfully propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Georgieva Blagoeva to the academic position of “Professor.”

Date: 14.02.2026

REVIEWER:

Prof. Teodora Dimitrova Petrova, PhD