

# OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Juliana Galabinova, PhD

New Bulgarian University, Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management  
On scientific works presented by applicant in competition for occupation of academic position "Associate Professor" in Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management (management and regulation in the energy sector) with a candidate Chief Assistant Victor Stanislavov Avramov, PhD

## **I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements**

For participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" Chief Assistant Vicor Avramov, PhD presents self-assessment and evidence that are in full compliance with the provisions of the national legislation and with the requirements of the normative documents of the NBU.

In my opinion with his activity Avramov, PhD has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for the scientific and teaching activity for the Higher education field 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management, determined by the Implementing Rules to the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (IRDASRBA), which the candidates for the academic position " Associate Professor " must meet. The total number of points on all indicators exceeds the minimum number of points - evidence is presented for 818.3 points with a required minimum of 570 points, and for some groups of indicators the excess is significant.

In 2012 Victor Stanislavov Avramov obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor/PhD" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy in the Professional field 3.3. Political Science, which is certified by the Diploma of Sofia University 2012 - 17/15.03.2012. The topic of the dissertation is: "The process of developing the energy policy of the European Union: actors, communication and interaction." In 2014, after a successful competition, Victor Stanislavov Avramov was appointed to the academic position of "Assistant Professor" at the New Bulgarian University, professional field 3.7. Administration and Management. The information about the dissertation of Chief Assistant Victor Stanislavov Avramov, PhD as well as the one for his academic position with applied scientometric indicators is available on the website of the National Center for Information and Documentation at: <https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/38824>.

## II. Research activities and results

### 1. Assessment of the monograph work, including an assessment of the scientific and applied contributions of the author

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", as a habilitation thesis, Chief Assistant Victor Stanislavov Avramov, PhD presents a monograph "Liberalized Electricity Market: Competition, Consumption and Market Structure" with a volume of 223 pages, NBU Publishing House, 2021, scientific editor: Prof. Evgenia Stoimenova, MD; reviewers: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Kostov, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Georgi Iliev, PhD, ISBN 978-619-233-107-8. The information about the candidate's monograph is available in the COBISS platform at: <https://plus.bg.cobiss.net/opac7/bib/49215496>.

The monograph examines in detail the main economic characteristics of electricity markets, their components, general competition models and the principles of market regulation. The topic of the monographic work of Chief Assistant Victor Avramov, PhD is significant. The author sets and achieves the goal to study and analyze in depth two specific characteristics of the electricity market – the cyclical variation of consumption (annually and weekly, including according to the cycle of working days and weekends and within the day) and the relationship between "market design" and market structure.

Avramov's research has both theoretical and applied orientation. My assessment of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author in the presented monographic work is positive, as I believe that the most significant of them are:

- analysis of the development and evaluation of the results of the policies for liberalization of the electricity markets in the European Union;
- argumentation of the central role of market design (regulation) for the proper functioning of markets;
- the thesis that market results depend mainly on the market structure, are sensitive to the time interval and cyclicity of consumption and to the costs of emission allowances;
- analysis of variations in consumption (electricity load), which are determined by many factors taken into account by the author (social and economic activity of consumers, the need for heating and cooling, the calendar and the annual cycle of time);
- analysis of the role of the market structure for market results, including a study of the behavior of a group of market participants in an oligopolistic market in the absence of regulated prices.

## 2. Evaluation of the contributions to the other attached publications

In the self-assessment and the evidence materials Viktor Avramov presents publications after the appointment of the academic position "Chief Assistant", whose total amounts to 313.3 points with a required 200 points.

Avramov participates in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" with:

- published book on the basis of a dissertation: "The process of developing the energy policy of the European Union: actors, communication and interaction", volume: 204 pages, ed. Asconi, Sofia, 2019, ISBN 978-954-383-130-2.
- 23 articles and reports in non-peer-reviewed publications with scientific peer-reviewed or edited collective volumes, two of which are co-authored.

The main contributions of Chief Assistant Viktor Avramov, PhD in the publications attached to the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ analyzes of the political decisions on the liberalization of the non-energy sector, the major energy projects, the RES crisis and the problem of the independence of the energy regulator have been carried out.
- ✓ new and already identified risks for the electricity, fuel or natural gas markets are studied;
- ✓ measures for management impact on the identified risks are proposed with the help of approved or established methodologies;
- ✓ the time series of prices and quantities of stock exchange trading are analyzed and the modeling of the competition on the stock exchange electricity markets is performed.
- ✓ management problems related to the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic are studied, alternative methods for assessing employee behavior are proposed, the role of outsourcing to improve the quality of public services, the role of incentives arising from a policy to accelerate technological change .

In my opinion Avramov's publications reflect the scientific potential of the author and support the promotion of contributions and achievements in his work among the scientific and professional community. They demonstrate consistency in the scientific development of the candidate, are based on representative literature, formulate and prove author's theses, are characterized by practical and applied results and are in accordance with the direction of the competition: 3.7. Administration and management, with a focus on management and regulation in the energy sector.

### 3. Citation by other authors

The publications of Viktor Avramov, presented for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", are cited in monographs, collective volumes and journals with scientific review. Among the sources are fourteen references to publications by the candidate, three of which are cited in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases. I consider the citations of the works as evidence of the high appreciation received by his research from other researchers in the field of energy.

### **III. Teaching activities**

1. Lectures and extracurricular commitment, work in the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU", providing student internships, activities with students

Chief Assistant Victor Avramov, PhD is a full-time lecturer at the New Bulgarian University. His teaching activities are entirely related to the subject of the competition, and the accumulated teaching experience and his qualifications fully meet the standards for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management. In the period 2014/2015 - 2021/2022, for which the self-assessment of the candidate was developed, he significantly exceeds the norm for both extracurricular and extracurricular employment.

In his capacity as Director of the Program Council at the Department of Administration and Management, Victor Avramov is the initiator and participant in the establishment of BP "Business Management and Entrepreneurship" - full-time and distance learning, author of MP "Sustainable Management and Development energy sector" and of MP "Business development in network industries: energy, telecommunications, transport". Actively participates in the development of new and improvement of the existing courses in order to update their content in the context of business requirements.

His teaching activity is assessed by the students as excellent – the average assessment of the students for their satisfaction with the courses led by Chief Assistant Viktor Avramov, PhD, is 4.61 with a maximum of 5 (according to a reference from the Center for Quality and Evaluation of NBU).

In the electronic training platform MOODLE - NBU Chief Assistant Viktor Avramov has published numerous and varied study materials for each of the courses he teaches.

In the last 5 years, Viktor Avramov has been the research supervisor of 54 students, has developed 105 reviews of bachelor's and master's theses, has participated in 227 examination commissions. He has participated and is participating in the provision of practical training of students through internships in Corporate

Advisors Ltd., carries out together with students from the programs of 3.7. Administration and management a number of studies jointly and presents their results at national and international scientific forums.

Victor Avramov actively participates as a trainee in the training programs of the teaching and administrative staff of NBU at the Center for Training Resources of New Bulgarian University. In 2019, he joined the training program for teachers and administrative staff of NBU as a trainer.

#### **IV. Administrative and public activity**

Since 2019, Victor Avramov has been administratively engaged in the New Bulgarian University as Director of the Program Council at the Department of Administration and Management. In this capacity, he actively participates in candidate-student campaigns and in commissions for admission of candidate-students. He participates regularly in the meetings of departmental and program councils, observes his office hours as an administrative and academic person, conducts his classes regularly. Avramov participates in organizing and conducting scientific events, training and practical seminars, student discussion forums, public lectures, workshops at NBU.

In the period November 2012 - January 2019 Chief Assistant Avramov, PhD was a program consultant at the Department of Business Administration/Administration and Management, and from 2016 to 2020 he was a member of the Accreditation Committee at the Bachelor's Faculty of NBU.

Dr. Avramov was also a Chief Expert at the Energy and Water Regulatory Commission and an expert at the Center for Risk Analysis and Management.

Currently Chief Assistant Viktor Avramov, PhD is Director of the Laboratory of Quantitative Methods and Modeling at the New Bulgarian University and as an energy expert participates on behalf of the NBU in television formats on issues in the field of energy market analysis and liberalization processes.

#### **V. Personal impressions of the applicant**

My personal impressions of the research, teaching, administrative and public activities of Chief Assistant Viktor Avramov PhD are entirely positive - he is a thorough researcher, erudite and valuable teacher of students, committed to the quality of curricula in the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management Director of the Program Council and has many professional appearances as an expert and consultant in the field of energy sector.

## **VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activities and achievements of the candidate**

I would like to make the following recommendations for the future activity of the candidate:

1. to continue to successfully combine his academic work with that of a consultant and expert on the issues of industrial organization and analysis of energy markets;
2. to work actively and purposefully on the implementation of the goals set in its research program, emphasizing:
  - the analysis of the business environment in the energy sector and the elaboration of measures for its improvement with a view to the transformation of the energy sector in the coming years;
  - the development of methodologies for long-term forecasting of the short-term forecasting of the stock exchange price of electricity;
  - the creation of algorithms and software products for automation of market monitoring and monitoring of the dynamics of the stock market price of electricity in order to identify market distortions;
  - the creation of business simulations and their integration into the curriculum.

### **Conclusion**

The candidate for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" Victor Avramov fully meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the rules for its implementation and the normative documents of New Bulgarian University.

On the basis of the aforementioned, I give a positive assessment of the research, teaching, administrative and social activities of the candidate and support the occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" at NBU by Chief Assistant Victor Stanislavov Avramov, PhD in Professional field 3.7 Administration and management (management and regulation in the energy sector).

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