STATEMENT

by **Prof. Biser Yordanov Krastev**, **PhD**
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of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for borrowing at **the academic position of "associate professor"** in the field of higher education **3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences"**, professional field **3.8. "Economics"**, scientific specialty **"Audit and Financial Control**"

In the competition for the academic position of "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 89 of 24.10.2025 and on the website of the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development - Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Economics and Finance in the Faculty of Economics and Management, **Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov Dimitrov, PhD** participates as a sole candidate.

1. Brief biographical data

Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov Dimitrov, PhD was born on 11.01.1989 in the city of Plovdiv. He completed his higher education at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics - Svishtov, where in 2014 he obtained the Master's degree in "Economic and Financial Control". In 2018, he defended his dissertation work on the topic: "Bank Lending in Bulgaria after EU Accession" and obtained a PhD in the scientific specialty "Finance, Insurance and Social Insurance" at the University of Insurance and Finance - Sofia.

The participant in the competition has extensive professional experience in the field of bank lending, financial control, audit and risk management. It was acquired in three commercial banks, in which he worked during the period 2011-2020, as well as in the auditing company "Audit Correct" OOD from January 2020 to October 2023. Currently, Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov, PhD is the financial controller of three state-owned companies. He has been the manager of the accounting and auditing company "Macrofinance" EOOD since June 2022 and of the consulting company DZZD "International Consulting" from April 2023 to the present. From the beginning of 2024, he started working as an assistant professor, and from 01.07.2024 he has occupied the academic position of "Chief assistant professor" at the UARD - Plovdiv.

2. General description of the materials presented

The candidate Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov Dimitrov, PhD participates in the competition with the following publications:

- Monographs – 2 issues;
- Book based on a defended dissertation work – 1 issue;
- Articles – 1 issue;
- Scientific reports – 8 issues.

The two monographs, as well as the book based on the defended dissertation work, have been published in Bulgarian. Of the remaining scientific publications, 1 article and 6 reports have been published in Bulgarian, and 2 of the reports have been published in English. The candidate for the occupying the academic position of "associate professor" is an independent author of each of the publications submitted for participation in the competition.

The quantity and quality of the candidate's scientific output fully complies with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor". I did not find any plagiarism in the submitted from him scientific works. Complied are entirely the requirements of Chapter Three, Section III of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff at the UARD.

3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

The candidate for the academic position of "associate professor" has submitted a report on the citations of his publications by other authors. The total number of citations is 9, 3 of which are made by Bulgarian authors, and 6 - by foreign authors. One of the publications has been cited 8 times, and another - 1 time. One of the publications has been cited 1 time in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. Two of the publications have been cited 8 times in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

4. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

4.1. Educational and pedagogical activities (work with students and doctoral students)

In recent years, Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov, PhD has conducted lectures and exercises at the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development - Plovdiv in the following academic disciplines: "International Auditing Standards", "International Accounting Standards", "Project Audit", "Financial Statement Audit", "Accounting in the Intangible Sphere" and "Bank Accounting".

4.2. Scientific and applied scientific activities

After a detailed introduction to the scientific and applied scientific activities of the candidate for occupying the academic position "associate professor" I believe that it can be defined as successful. This conclusion is based on the following circumstances:

First, Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov, PhD has presented a sufficient volume of scientific production, which exceeds the minimum national requirements for professionally field 3.8. Economics. At minimal required 400 points, he scored a total of 470 (50 points under group of indicators "A" due to a successfully defended PhD thesis, 100 points under group of indicators "B" due to presented habilitation work – monograph, 265 points from other publications under indicator group "C" and 55 points from citations under indicator group "D").

Secondly, the publications presented by Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov, PhD have examined current and significant for science and practice problems related to the evolution of auditing in the context of accelerating digital transformation of business, the development of the audit of crypto-assets and blockchain transactions, the application of international auditing and accounting standards in Bulgaria, the challenges facing bank lending and internal control in banks. The relatively good level of citation of the candidate's publications indicates that his scientific achievements and results are recognizable among the scientific and professional community in the country and abroad.

Thirdly, Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov, PhD holds management positions in a consulting company and an accounting and auditing firm. He applies the management experience gained in them to the educational process in the teaching of students.

4.3. Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

The main scientific contributions of Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov, PhD can be divided into two groups: scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied.

The following are included in **the scientific-theoretical contributions:**

1. An in-depth theoretical analysis of the nature, characteristics and main manifestations of the digital economy has been carried out, clarifying its impact on audit processes, tools and organizational models of audit;
2. The evolution of auditing practices in the context of digitalization is analyzed, justifying the transition from traditional, periodic auditing to proactive, continuous and data-based auditing;
3. New requirements for the professional competencies of auditors have been identified, resulting from the implementation of technologies such

as artificial intelligence, big data analysis and blockchain;

4. A comprehensive analysis of the nature, characteristics and types of crypto-assets, as well as the principles of functioning of blockchain technology, has been carried out, clarifying their impact on financial reporting and audit procedures;
5. The regulatory regimes and international standards applicable to crypto-assets and blockchain transactions (IFRS, ISA, MiCA Regulation, FATF guidelines, etc.) have been systematized, identifying the main gaps and inconsistencies in the regulatory framework;
6. Audit risks arising from the specifics of crypto-assets have been identified and classified, including risks regarding existence, ownership, valuation, completeness, security and regulatory compliance;
7. The challenges and difficulties in the implementation of International Auditing Standards in Bulgaria are analyzed, taking into account the influence of the regulatory and institutional environment on the quality of the audit;
8. The problems related to the adaptation of international standards to the national economic and legal context and the resulting risks to the comparability and reliability of audit reviews have been studied;
9. The role of transparent and reliable financial reporting as a factor in building trust among investors and stakeholders is examined. Mechanisms for enhancing accountability and integrity in corporate practices are analyzed, including the role of internal control and audit.

Scientific-applied contributions can be divided into the following areas:

1. A conceptual model to assess the impact of digital technologies on the quality, effectiveness and reliability of audit reviews has been developed, which integrates technological, organizational and professional factors;
2. The ethical and regulatory challenges related to the automation of audit activities and the use of intelligent audit tools are analyzed, justifying the need for adaptation of professional standards and ethical rules;
3. An integrated methodological framework for auditing cryptoassets and blockchain transactions has been developed, covering the stages of planning, risk assessment, selection of audit procedures and collection of audit evidence;
4. Specific audit techniques for verifying blockchain transactions are proposed, including the use of blockchain explorers, cryptographic verification, smart contract analysis, and Proof of Reserves approaches;
5. The need for adaptation of internal and external audit to the decentralized financial environment is justified, and practical guidelines

for auditors, regulators and control bodies are formulated;

6. The impact of IFRS 9 on financial reporting and credit risk management was assessed, and the implications for auditing practice and internal financial control were analyzed;
7. Practical guidelines have been formulated to improve audit quality and more effectively implement international accounting and auditing standards;
8. The need to integrate the principles of sustainable development and ESG criteria into accounting and auditing practice is substantiated and the opportunities for using auditing as a tool for increasing corporate responsibility and the long-term sustainability of organizations are revealed.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

As a result of reviewing the materials provided by the participant in the competition for occupying the academic position of "associate professor", I can summarize that I give a very high assessment of his personal contribution to the development of theory and practice in the field of audit and financial control in the context of digital transformation of business, accompanying the process of implementing international auditing and accounting standards in our country.

6. Critical notes

I don’t have critical remarks about the candidate. I recommend in the future that he promote his researches in the chosen from him scientific area by publishing some of them in refereed and indexed publications, included in world-renowned databases of scientific information, such as Scopus, Web of Science, etc.

7. Conclusion

The candidate for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" fully meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the requirements specified in the Regulations for its implementation and in the Regulations for the implementation of the law on the development of the academic staff in UARD. Considering the above, I give my **positive assessment** to the participant in the competition **Chief Assist. Prof. Kiril Dimitrov Dimitrov, PhD** as I propose to the esteemed scientific jury that he **be elected as an "associate professor"** in the field of higher education 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", professional field 3.8. "Economics", scientific specialty "Audit and Financial Control" for the needs of the

Department of Economics and Finance in the Faculty of Economics and Management.

22.01.2026
Plovdiv

Member on the jury:
Prof. Biser Krastev, PhD