

Opinion Template

Recommended length: two to three pages

OPINION

By: Erol Balkan, Professor of Economics, Hamilton College

Regarding: The application of the following candidate for habilitation as **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** according to the Bulgarian legislation at the American University in Bulgaria in Area of Higher Education *Social Science, Economic Science, and Law* in Professional Field 3.8 *Economics*. The procedure has been announced in the State Gazette issue 75 dated September 9, 2014.

Candidate: **Dr. Didar Erdinc, American University in Bulgaria**

I present the evaluation below in my capacity as a member of the Habilitation Jury appointed for the above mentioned procedure by a letter of the AUBG President dated November 6, 2014 and according to a Decision of AUBG dated August 19, 2014. This evaluation is based on the *Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act*, the Rules for its implementation, the internal AUBG rules, regulations, and policies, including the *Habilitation Procedure* and the habilitation procedure advertisement on the AUBG website.

Evaluation of the Candidate

*The evaluation is carried out according to the **Primary Indicators** and **Additional Indicators** included in the document **Guidelines for the Habilitation Jury**.*

I. Basis for Evaluation

Please indicate on what information this evaluation is based - documents submitted by the Candidate, professional activities, publications, e.g.:

- monograph(s);
- articles in refereed journals specialized in the area;
- non-refereed publications; conference reports;
- other publications (*book review*);
- citations (by publications in Bulgaria/abroad);
- professional memberships;
- theoretical and applied works;
- other activities (Editorial Board for Scientific Journals).

II. Eligibility

1. Please fill it out the enclosed **Eligibility Checklist** (Enclosure 1) and submit together with your Opinion. It combines eligibility conditions set forth in the Law and the University regulations.
2. Please state your opinion with regard to the Candidate's eligibility.

I find the candidate to be eligible to apply for habilitation and I fully support her candidacy.

III. Areas of Research of the Candidate. Evaluation of the Contributions of the Candidate.

1. Please describe the principal areas of the Candidate's research.

The primary focus of the candidates research areas are: European Monetary policy, Economic growth, banking and credit and financial crisis, economic development and foreign direct investments in emerging markets. In all her work she utilizes cutting edge techniques in panel date estimations in econometrics. She has important contributions in several research areas. Below I will highlight some of her overall major findings.

In a series of papers using panel data on the Bulgarian banking system she analyzes the financial fragility, credit booms and the efficiency of the banking sector. The results have been published in high quality journals. The research also attempts to quantify the determinants of the banking and financial fragility, credit booms and profitability of the banking sector.

In a related area of research she has already published several articles on the risk management issues in the banking sector.

And finally she has published several articles focusing on the monetary transmission, bank lending channel and currency board in Bulgaria.

A second focus of her research has been on the economics of ethnicity with an emphasis on the Turkish minorities in Bulgaria. This research has produced several articles already published including a co-authored paper on the

Bulgarian-Turkish economic and political relations in the post accession period.

Another co-authored paper focused on the corporate culture in Bulgaria.

She has worked on several theoretical papers as well on the relationship between deflation and business cycles.

In summary, it is clear that she has been a very productive scholar with a diversity of research interests who made several valuable contributions to those fields. This is evident from both the number of publications in high quality journals as well as the high quality of those publications.

IV. Evaluation of the Candidate's teaching

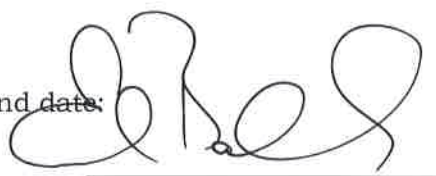
1. Please find below a short evaluation according to the Additional Indicators related to teaching, with emphasis on teaching in recognized liberal arts institutions and student-centered approach.
2. It is my opinion that the Candidate's areas of teaching correspond to the **Additional Requirements** (Enclosure 2) set forth by AUBG for this procedure.
3. *I have served as Dr. Erdinc's chair while she taught part time at Hamilton College and had first-hand experience with her teaching. She was very dedicated to her students, always made herself available after office hours and cared about their learning. She was extremely well organized which was evident from her teaching materials including her syllabus. I was impressed by her ability to relate difficult economic concepts and material to her students by giving them real world examples. Her student evaluations were very good at Hamilton College. I believe Dr. Erdinc is an excellent teacher. She was well above the Hamilton's tenure criteria in terms of her teaching.*

VI. Conclusion:

1. *Recommendation “for” or “against” habilitation*

On the basis of her research and teaching I strongly support her candidacy for habilitation.

Signature and date:



02/06/2015

By signing here I also declare that writing this review does not represent conflict of interest.



American University in Bulgaria

Eligibility Checklist

Name of the Candidate: **Didar Erdinc**

Applying for habilitation as: **Associate Professor at the American University in Bulgaria according to announcement in State Gazette, issue № 75, dated 9 September 2014**

In the Professional Field: **3.8 Economics**

Check below what applies. Sign and submit together with your review or opinion.

- ☐ The Candidate has Ph.D; **YES**
- ☐ The Candidate has served five years as (Senior) Assistant Professor at a recognized academic institution; **YES**
- ☐ The Candidate has published a monograph or publications of equal standing in specialized journals. These should not repeat publications based on which previous degrees or ranks have been granted; **YES**
- ☐ The Candidate has experience from recognized academic liberal arts institution(s); **YES**
- ☐ The Candidate has experience in student-centered teaching approach; **YES**
- ☐ The Candidate has undergone at least one successful evaluation in teaching, research and service at a recognized academic liberal arts institution, including positive student evaluations of teaching. **YES**
- ☐ The Candidate has experience in teaching in English at a higher education institution with instruction in English language. **YES**
- ☐ AUBG can ensure teaching and research load according to its internal rules and regulations. **YES**

Signature and date:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Didar Erdinc', written over a horizontal line.

02/06/2015



Additional Requirements

For Associate Professor academic position in Professional Field 3.8 Economics

Additional specifications: Banking, credit, and monetary mechanisms, corporate culture, and FDI in emerging European economies; Economic development among religious or ethnic minority populations; Banking and financial crisis and macroeconomic uncertainty; Panel data econometrics.

Name of the Candidate: **Didar Erdinc**

Check below what applies. Sign and submit together with your review or opinion.

Research

The Candidate has conducted research in the following areas:

- ☐ Banking, credit, and monetary mechanisms in emerging European economies; YES
- ☐ Corporate culture in emerging European economies; YES
- ☐ FDI in emerging European economies; YES
- ☐ Economic development among religious or ethnic minority populations; YES
- ☐ Banking and financial crisis and macroeconomic uncertainty; YES
- ☐ Panel data econometrics. YES

Teaching

The Candidate has teaching experience in the following areas:

- ☐ Theoretical and applied econometrics; YES
- ☐ Macroeconomics; YES
- ☐ Managerial economics; YES
- ☐ Open economy macroeconomics; YES
- ☐ Financial markets and institutions; YES
- ☐ Economics of transition and regional economic integration; YES
- ☐ Microeconomics; YES
- ☐ Industrial organization; YES
- ☐ International finance. YES

Signature and date:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Didar Erdinc', written over a horizontal line.

02/06/2015