



## OPINION

regarding the competition for "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the scientific specialty  
Economics and Management, announced in SG no. 97 of 21.11.2023 with candidate  
Chief Assistant Professor Rositsa Petrova Beluhova - Uzunova, PhD  
by Assoc. Prof. Boryana Ivanova, PhD,  
appointed according to Order No. РД-16-42 / 19.01.2024 of the Rector of the  
Agricultural University - Plovdiv as chairman of the scientific jury

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Chief Assistant Professor Rositsa Beluhova-Uzunova completed her secondary education at the Vocational High School of Economics and Tourism in Velingrad in 2004. The same year, she continued her education at the University of Plovdiv, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Macroeconomics, after which she continued in a master's program at the same university and graduated with a master's degree in "Accounting and Analysis" in 2010. In 2011, she began doctoral studies in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management" at the Agricultural University and successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in 2014. The same year, she was appointed as an assistant in the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University. Since 2017, she has held the department's academic position of Chief Assistant. The candidate is fluent in English and German, has good computer literacy, and has established herself among her colleagues as an organized and communicative person.

### 2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Chief Assistant Professor Rositsa Petrova Beluhova – Uzunova participated with a total production of 34 papers, grouped as follows:

- ❖ *Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty - 34 and of them:*
  - *Publications related to the PhD thesis - 5 issues that are not subject to consideration;*
  - *Publications with an impact factor – 2 issues;*
  - *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 24 issues;*

- *Publications in conference proceedings – 2 issues;*
- *Monographs – 1 pc.*

The personal participation of Ch. Assist. Prof. Uzunova, PhD, in the mentioned 29 works is illustrated by the fact that in 19 of them she is the first author, in 6 she is the second, and in the remaining 4 she is the third and subsequent author.

*To prepare the opinion, 29 items are subject to analysis.*

*The scientific production submitted for participation in the competition significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements and corresponds to 587.77 points.*

### **3. Teaching activity.**

The teaching activity of Ch. Assist. Prof. Rositsa Uzunova, PhD, started in 2014 and as of 01.02.2024 her teaching experience amounts to 9 years, 2 months and 28 days. Chief Assistant Professor Uzunova is an established teacher in the Department of Economics and regularly gives lectures and exercises in the disciplines "Principles of Economics", "Microeconomics", "Environmental Economics", "Resource Economics" and others.

*Academic employment of the candidate.*

Over the past five years (2018-2023), Chief Associate Professor Uzunova had direct classroom employment in the amount of 4401.2 hours, equated to exercises, which equates to an average of over 880 hours per year. The candidate's educational employment is formed by taking courses at the Bachelor's and Master's degrees, incl. classes conducted in English.

The teaching activity is complemented by the supervising of 18 successfully defended diploma graduates, graduating from the Bachelor's and Master's courses.

No data has been provided about developed study materials and/or study programs, but it should be noted that within some of the projects indicated by the applicant, the subject of activity is precisely the development of study materials and programs, which gives me reason to consider that Chief Associate Professor Uzunova has practical experience in this field as well.

### **4. Scientific research activity.**

*Publication Areas.*



The scientific production of Chief Assistant Professor Uzunova gravitates around 5 main thematic areas: bioeconomy, competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture, analysis of the CAP impact on Bulgarian agriculture, restructuring of the agrarian sector and precision agriculture and innovations.

The directions formed show the candidate's orientation towards current thematic areas, discussion and analysis of the problems of modern Bulgarian agriculture in line with global trends in the development of the sector. The presented publications, as well as the noted citations, categorically confirm the high competence, theoretical and practical training of Rositsa Uzunova.

In the documents for participation in the competition, the candidate presents a report on the theoretical-methodological and practical-applied contributions of her work, which objectively reflect the value and importance of the presented scientific production.

#### *Citation and referencing of scientific production.*

In connection with the participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted a reference for 9 scientific articles that have been cited 11 times in prestigious journals, the rating of which is as follows: 5 citations are in journals falling into Q1, 5 - in journals of Q2 and 1 third quartile journal citation. This is a definite testimony to the quality of the scientific production of Chief Assistant Professor Uzunova, PhD, as well as for her positive image and recognition not only in Bulgaria, but also at the international level.

#### *Participation in scientific projects.*

The candidate, Dr. Uzunova, has considerable experience in project activity. She participated in 8 projects, of which 2 national science programs; 1 project funded by FAO; 1 project financed by Scientific Research Fund and 4 projects financed by the Erasmus+ program. Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Uzunova was the coordinator of 1 project financed under the Erasmus+ program.

#### **5. Notes and recommendations.**

I have no objections to the candidate. As a recommendation, one can note the orientation towards a more active individual publication activity, as well as the publication of study materials corresponding to her interests and her teaching activity.

## 6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activities, I believe that **Chief Assistant Professor Rositsa Petrova Beluhova – Uzunova meets the requirements** of the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Uzunova has the necessary teaching qualification and experience. She has established herself as a competent and respected teacher in the team of the "Economics" department and among the students of the Agricultural University. With her active work, she has contributed to the personal and professional growth of many students, who prefer her as a teacher and supervisor for coursework, theses and joint publications.

Chief Assistant Professor Uzunova not only significantly exceeds the minimum scientometric criteria, but is recognizable and reputed as an authoritative and competent scientist not only in Bulgaria, but also internationally.

The accumulated experience of participating in various projects forms her as a specialist, researcher and teacher, who possesses the necessary knowledge and skills for independent preparation and management of scientific projects, the development of curricula and programs, as well as the administration of a number of processes at the university.

All this gives me reason to **POSITIVELY** evaluate her overall activity.

I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Chief Assistant Professor **Rositsa Petrova Belukhova - Uzunova, PhD, as an "associate professor"** in the scientific specialty **Economics and Management**.

Date:01.02.2024

Plovdiv

**PREPARED**

**THE OPINION:**.....

(Assoc. Prof. Boryana Ivanova)