



REVIEW

regarding the competition for "associate professor" in the scientific specialty-Economics and management (agriculture), announced in SG no. 97 of 21.11.2023 with candidate chief assistant Dr. Rositsa Petrova Belukhova-Uzunova
by Prof. Dr. Ivan Penov, appointed according to Order No. RD 16-42/19.01.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Ivan Penov, Agricultural University - Plovdiv; Department of "Economics"; field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional field 3.8. Economics; scientific speciality Economics and Management (by branches) appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order No. RD-No. RD 16-42/19.01.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University.

1. General information for the candidate's career and thematic development

Dr. Rositsa Petrova Belukhova-Uzunova was born on November 26, 1985. In 2004, she graduated the Professional High School of Economics and Tourism "Aleko Konstantinov", Velingrad, majoring in Tourism Management. In 2009, she graduated Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" with a bachelor's degree, majoring in Macroeconomics, and in 2010, she received a master's degree in Accounting and Analysis from the same university.

From 2011-2014, she was a full-time doctoral student at the Economics Department of the Agricultural University-Plovdiv. She defended her doctoral degree in scientific field 3.8 "Economics", the scientific speciality "Economics and Management" (by industry).

She started her career in 2014 as an assistant at the Department of Economics of the Agricultural University-Plovdiv, and since 2017, she has been the chief assistant. She lectured nine disciplines and worked on nine international and national research projects.

2. General description of the presented materials.

In the competition for "associate professor", chief assistant Dr Rositsa Petrova Belukhova-Uzunova participated with a total output of 29 papers, grouped as follows:

- Monograph – 1 pc.; 2023 "Potential and prerequisites for the development of the bioeconomy in Bulgaria" ISBN 978-954-517-322-6, Academic Publishing House of the Agricultural University, 2023
- Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 18 articles
- Scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes - 10 articles

In addition, information is provided on:

- Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or monographs and collective volumes - 11 citations of 9 articles
- Certificate of participation in a national scientific or educational project - 2 projects
- Reference for participation in an international scientific or educational project – 1 project

Group	Name of the group	Point
A	Dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor."	50
B	Habilitation thesis - monograph	100
Г	Publications including	223
	Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information	183
	Scientific publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes	40
Д	Citations or reviews in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or monographs and collective volumes	165
E	Projects	
	Participation in a national scientific or educational project	30
	Participation in an international scientific or educational project	20
Total		588

The presented scientific production is sufficient in quantity for the academic position of "associate professor".

3. Main directions in the candidate's research work.

29 scientific publications are presented, 27 in English and 2 in Bulgarian. Of these, 11 are publications in scientific journals and forums in Bulgaria, 17 are publications in scientific journals and forums abroad. The review of the presented scientific works allows me to group them into three fields:

- New concepts and/or trends in agriculture
- Competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture
- Impact of CAP and restructuring of the agricultural sector

The first field is related to new concepts and/or trends in agriculture (bioeconomy, biodynamic agriculture (monograph, 2, 10, 20, 22, 23, 27)); precision agriculture and innovation (4, 11, 24). Based on a broad literature review, the definitions, visions, concepts and evolution in developing these directions have been derived. Their connection with sustainable development, the circular economy and the prospects for the green transition are revealed. The capacity of agriculture (by sectors and crops) to generate biomass, which is a possible alternative to fossil fuels, has been assessed. The level of digitization in Bulgaria was evaluated, and recommendations were made for its increase, as well as the possibilities for support under the CAP. In this regard, the industry's contribution to achieving the Green Pact's goals was also evaluated. Changes in the institutional environment to coordinate policies, priorities and measures are also proposed.

The second field is related to the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture (8, 12, 13, 17, 25). The primary approach here is the policy analysis matrix. The country's competitiveness challenges at several levels (production, industry) are examined. The level of competitiveness in viticulture and cereals was studied. Based on a methodological framework, three groups of indices characterizing the competitiveness of sunflower production were analyzed. Recommendations have been made for changes in the institutional environment and production organization to increase the industry's competitiveness.

The third field is related to the impact of the CAP and the structural changes in Bulgarian agriculture and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The primary method used in this group of articles is the Lorenz curve (1, 9, 14, 26, 28) and a

comparative analysis of the processes taking place in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe after 2007 (3,5,6,7,15,16,18,19,21). The Common Agricultural Policy was reviewed after Bulgaria's accession to the EU. Challenges to implementing direct payments and their distribution among agricultural producers during the different planning periods are examined. The attitude of farmers towards CAP was investigated.

4. Evaluation of the pedagogical preparation and activity of the candidate.

Chief Assistant Dr Rositsa Petrova Belukhova-Uzunova is lecturing the following courses: Principles of Economics; Microeconomics; Investment Policy; Economics of Tourism; Eco-economics; Economy of SMEs; Environmental Economics; Land Economic Valuation; Economic Theories.

Year	Lectures	Tutorials	Consultations/Exams	Total
2018/2019	374	210	209,3	793,3
2019/2020	418	341	141,6	900,6
2020/2021	356	282	145,8	783,8
2021/2022	314	374	245,3	933,3
2022/2023	390	381	219,2	990,2
Total	1852	1588	961,2	4401,2

5. Significance of the obtained results

- Information on 9 citations of 11 publications is presented.
- 2 publications are in journals referenced in SCOPUS;
- 12 publications are in journals referenced Web of Science core collection
- 4 publications are in journals referenced Web of Science -CABI
- 10 scientific publications are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals

The places where the presented publications are referenced speak enough about their quality.

6. Significance of contributions to science and practice.

Scientific and methodological contributions.

- A critical literature review was done in the three scientific fields described in point 3, and the definitions, concepts and evolution in understanding the ideas were derived.
- Methodological approaches for studying the state and ongoing processes have been adapted.

Scientific and applied contributions

- Proposals have been made to change the institutional environment to achieve coordination between policies, interventions and their implementation.
- The level of competitiveness of essential productions for the country was studied: sunflower, the viticulture sector, and grain production.
- The distribution of direct payments among agricultural producers during different program periods in Bulgaria was analyzed and compared with that of other Central and Eastern European countries.
- The role of different types of family farms in the development of agriculture is discussed. The question was raised about the imbalances and polarization in the structure of agricultural holdings, which limits the possibilities for balanced and sustainable development of the regions.

7. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no critical notes or recommendations

8. Personal impressions and opinion of the reviewer

My impressions of the work of chief assistant Dr. Rositsa Petrova Belukhova-Uzunova are excellent. Her theoretical background is at a high level. Since joining the department in 2011, she has worked systematically to increase her knowledge and skills.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activities, I believe that chief assistant Rositsa Petrova Belukhova-Uzunova MEETS the requirements of ŽRASRB, PPZRASRB (ЗРАСРБ, ППЗРАСРБ) and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application: the quality of the presented materials is at a high level; collects the required number of publications and points.

All this gives me a reason to evaluate her overall activity positively.

I take the opportunity of proposing to the honourable Scientific Jury also to vote positively and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Dr Rositsa Petrova Belukhova-Uzunova as an "associate professor" in the scientific speciality of Economics and Management (Agriculture)

Date: 30.01.2024

City, Plovdiv

REVIEWER: 

(Prof. Dr. Ivan Penov)