



OPINION

Regarding the competition for the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Ornamental Plants" announced in SG No. 62 of 21.07.2023 with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeriya Stefanova Ivanova

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimka Ignatova Haytova, Agricultural University - Plovdiv, scientific specialty Vegetable Production, appointed according to Order No. RD 16-901/25.09.2023 of the Rector of Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeriya Stefanova Ivanova was born on February 23, 1963. She graduated in Viticulture and horticulture at Agricultural University - Plovdiv in 1986. In 2003 she obtained a PhD in the scientific specialty "Ornamental Plants", after successfully defending his doctoral thesis on "Optimization of plant load and nitrogen fertilization in cultivation of chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum indicum* L.) for cut flower in plastic greenhouses".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeriya Stefanova Ivanova started his career in 1986 at the Institute of Floriculture - Negovan, as an agronomist-programmer in the Scientific Production Laboratory. In 1989-1991 she was a research assistant at the same institute. In 1991, she was appointed as assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, where she has been working since that time. Over the years, she successively held the following academic positions - Senior Assistant Professor (1993-1996), Chief Assistant professor (1996-2007). Since 12.02.2008 she is Associate professor. He speaks excellent English and Russian and has good computer competency.

Assoc. Prof. Valeriya Ivanova has been Vice Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journals "Agricultural Sciences" and "Scientific Works of the Agricultural University". In the present days she is the Chairwoman of the General Assembly of the Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "professor" Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeriya Ivanova participated with a total production of 39 works. They meet the minimum scientific-metric requirements in line with the requirements of the Law on Development of academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria, grouped as follows:

❖ Scientific publications in the nomenclatural specialty - 38, of them:

- Publications related to the doctoral thesis - 3 issues (out of competition),
- Publications with impact factor – 10 issues;
- Monograph - 1 issue;
- Chapter of a collective monograph - 1 Issue;
- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals - 15 issues;
- Publications in conference proceedings - 5 issues;

- A list of additional 45 scientific articles with the participation of the candidate in the current competition is presented.

The personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ivanova in these 35 works is illustrated by the fact that 4 are independent, in 15 - is the first, in 9 - is the second, and in the remaining 7 - is the third and next author.

❖ Textbooks - 0 issues.

❖ Training Manuals - 1 issue.

All 36 publications are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.

3. Teaching activity

The total teaching experience of Assoc. Ivanova is 32 years and 8 months. Her teaching activity is impressive. She conducted classes with Bachelor's and Master's degree students in a large number of majors at the Agricultural University in full-time and part-time study. She teaches a number of courses in the field of ornamental plants. In the field of ornamental horticulture she has lectured at foreign universities in Germany, Greece and Lithuania. She is the head of the bachelor course "Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping". She is the founder and head of the MC "Ornamental Plants and Landscape Design". She is the head of the PhD program in the scientific specialty "Ornamental Plants".

Candidate's teaching employment

For the last five academic years she has completed a total of 3832 hours (direct classroom employment - lectures, exercises and out-of-classroom employment). Teaching activity is complemented by the scientific supervision of a total of 66 successfully defended graduate students and two successfully defended PhD students.

Published study materials

Assoc. prof. Dr Valeria Ivanova is the author of the "Manual for floriculture exercise", published in 2022. ISBN: 978-619-7703-11-5.

Developed educational curricula

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeriya Ivanova has developed 29 curricula for 16 disciplines (including 1 program in English), included in the curricula of the Bachelor and Master degree programs, as compulsory, elective and optional for the different specialties at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv.

4. Research activity

Fields of publication

Scientific research activity on a number of theoretical and applied problems of ornamental plants is in the following main areas:

- Study of in vitro reproduction of ornamental plants. Protocols for in vitro reproduction of *Campototheca acuminata* and *Ginko biloba* have been developed.
- Study of biotechnological and conventional reproduction methods for a range of ornamental species;
- Different technological aspects in the cultivation of different ornamental crops, incl. possibilities to increase seed germination of some ornamental species;
- Assessment of physiological aspects of growth and development of ornamental species;
- Research on the use of ornamental trees and bushes in landscape design;

The mentioned fields of scientific work are in line with modern trends of horticultural science and practice.

I accept the statement of original scientific contributions of the candidate. All contributions are presented in detail and fully. They are correctly reported and according to studies performed.

Citation and abstracting of scientific research

The significance of the obtained results of the scientific research work is proved by 10 citations. It is remarkable that all of them are in refereed journals with a high impact factor. The established facts show that the Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ivanova is recognizable in scientific community and works on significant up to date problems in which foreign researchers are interested.

Participation in research projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ivanova has participated in 16 projects with funding from the Agricultural University Science Fund, most of which she has been the project leader, 3 national and 2 international projects.

5. Remarks and recommendations.

There are no significant disadvantages in the candidate's scientific works. There are not would negatively affect the overall assessment of her scientific and research activity and the scientific contributions.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeria Ivanova meets the requirements of the Law on Development of academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its implementation. The reasons for this statement are her systematic and detailed scientific research work, her teaching activities, and her professional competences.

All this gives me a reason to appreciate **POSITIVELY** her overall work.

I would like to suggest that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeriya Stefanova Ivanova as "Professor" in the scientific specialty of Ornamentals plants.

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Plovdiv

PREPARED THE OPINION:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimka Haytova/