



Evaluation

by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Toskov,

Associate professor at the University of Food Technologies - Plovdiv, regarding the competition for the academic position of "Professor" at the Agricultural University, announced in Official Gazette No. 99/28.11.2023, in the professional field 3.8. "Economics" and scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production (Agriculture and Subsectors)", with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dinkova Dirimanova, for the needs of the Agricultural University, Faculty of Economics, Department of Management and Marketing, according to Order No. RD - 16-44/19.01.2024 by the Rector of the Agricultural University.

I. Biographical Data for the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dinkova Dirimanova was born on September 27, 1973. In 1996, she obtained a master's degree from the Technical University branch in Plovdiv. In 2007, she successfully defended her dissertation on the topic "Economic Effects of Land Fragmentation: Property Rights, Land Markets, and Contracts in Bulgaria." In 2000, she assumed the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

II. Professional Experience

Since January 10, 2000, she has been a lecturer at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, conducting exercises and lectures in disciplines such as "Agricultural Management," "Organization and Management of Agricultural Production," "Planning and Forecasting," "Entrepreneurship," "Organizational Behavior," "Organizational Culture," "Economic Analysis," and "Branding." From 2004 to 2007, she conducted exercises and lectures at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany, in the disciplines of "Resource Economics" and "Institutional Economics." Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova has also worked as a consultant commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Advisory Service in Agriculture.

Throughout her extensive teaching career, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova has excelled as an educator, instructing both students and doctoral candidates. She has successfully supervised 6 doctoral students who have obtained their doctoral degrees in the scientific specialty of "Organization and Management of Production."

III. Teaching Work

I acknowledge the official note issued by the Educational Information Center of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv regarding the workload of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova. Over the past 5 academic years, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova has conducted a total of 4,310.6 instructional hours in both bachelor's and master's courses. She has also taught foreign language classes to students from South Africa. Her average annual workload during this period was approximately 862 hours, which is more than twice the standard direct classroom workload

for university professors in Bulgaria. The total accumulated teaching experience of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova up to the announcement of this competition is 24 years.

IV. Research Work

For participation in the competition for the academic position of "professor," Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova has submitted a list of scientific works, totaling 40 in number. They are grouped into the following categories:

Habilitation work/monograph – 1 piece, which is 2.5% of the total presented for review scientific works of the candidate;

Scientific publications in journals that are peer-reviewed and indexed in globally recognized databases with scientific information – 18 pieces, which is 45% of the total presented for review scientific works of the candidate;

Scientific publication in non-peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes – 17 pieces, which is 42.5% of the total presented for review scientific works of the candidate;

Published chapter from a collective monograph – 1 piece, which is 2.5% of the total presented for review scientific works of the candidate;

Published educational aids, manuals, and textbooks – 3 pieces, which is 7.5% of the total presented for review scientific works of the candidate.

V. Design and Implementation Activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova demonstrates significant expertise, primarily in the field of managing the competitiveness of agricultural production under the conditions of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). She participates in various national and international projects, providing practical assistance to active economic organizations. Her contributions not only have a scientific nature but also stand out for their practical applicability.

VI. Scientific Contributions

1. Development of a model for the "Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System" (AKIS) and establishment of the AKIS network for Bulgaria:
 - Created and analyzed the AKIS model in Bulgaria, with participation in the analysis of Romania.
 - Identified participants from the public sector, private trade organizations, industry associations, agricultural cooperatives, and the academic community.
 - Analyzed the functioning of AKIS and its impact on agricultural producers.
 - Developed an AKIS model for Bulgaria and other EU members, demonstrating the connections in agricultural consultancy service networks.
2. Development of consultancy services in Bulgarian agriculture and their role for small-scale agricultural producers:
 - Emphasized the importance of consultancy services in planning and applying for measures under the Rural Development Program (RDP).

- Analyzed the role of agronomic and economic consultations for the strategic planning of agricultural producers.
 - Developed a monograph presenting the history of advisory activities and their impact on the AKIS system.
3. The role of property rights in the successful development of agricultural organizations:
- Identified changes in Bulgarian agriculture and analyzed the impact of land relations.
 - Analyzed the impact of land ownership fragmentation on the benefits of agricultural land.
 - Investigated relationships between owners and producers, including analysis of land contracts and agreements.
 - Conducted a scientific-theoretical review of institutional economics and analyzed costs and relationships in agriculture in Bulgaria and Moldova.
4. Analysis of transaction costs and land relationships:
- Identified high transaction costs in transactions, reducing market efficiency in Bulgaria.
 - Highlighted activity in land leasing or renting transactions.
 - Identified factors influencing the choice between buying and selling and leasing, including the institutional environment and transaction costs.
 - Used Discrete Structural Analysis (DSA) to analyze agricultural contracts and their impact on transaction costs.
5. The role of the concept of "multifunctional agriculture" in Bulgarian agriculture:
- Established the impact of farm size on the adoption of multifunctional agriculture.
 - Proven that large-scale agricultural producers have better opportunities for managing and implementing multifunctional agriculture.
 - Examined factors influencing the choice between different types of agriculture depending on financial possibilities and farm conditions.
6. Development and management of organic production in Bulgarian farms:
- Identified reasons for the growth of organic production in Bulgaria and the benefits of this type of production.
 - Analyzed programs supporting organic producers and the state of organic beekeeping in the country.
 - Studied the domestic and international market for bee products from organic beekeeping.

- Analyzed policies to stimulate the quality and competitiveness of organic production.
- Developed strategies and recommendations.

VII. Critical Notes and Recommendations

Some specific issues could be identified for in-depth exploration, with the addition of analysis and discussion. Additionally, new and contemporary research approaches or methods could be incorporated to enrich the topic and provide additional perspectives. Furthermore, exploring related themes and expanding the scope of the research could enhance the overall study.

VIII. Conclusion

The scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova undoubtedly contribute significantly, both theoretically and practically. The documents and materials submitted for review fully comply with the Regulations on the Structure, Content, and Procedure for Defense of Academic Qualification Works, the Internal Rules of the Agricultural University, and the Regulations for its application.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova is an established scholar and university lecturer with scientific achievements and authority in the academic community.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works for the competition and conducting their assessment, I confidently and objectively provide a POSITIVE EVALUATION. I recommend that the Scientific Committee propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dirimanova to the academic position of "professor" in the professional field 3.8. "Economics" and scientific specialty - "Organization and Management of Production."

Date:

Prepared by: 

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Krumov Toskov/