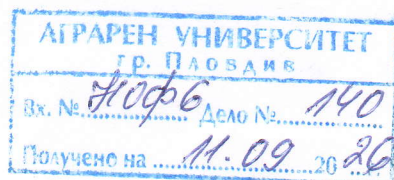


OPINION



on the competition for "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Ornamental Plants", announced in the State Gazette No. 48 of 26.05.2026 with candidate Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev Panchev from the Agricultural University of Plovdiv appointed according to Order No. RD 16 – 812 of 29.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Tanko Peev Kolev (retired), Agricultural University of Plovdiv; field of higher education 6. Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.1 "Plant Growing", the scientific specialty "Plant Growing" appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. RD-16–812/29.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University.

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev Panchev studied at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv in the period 2001-2006 and obtained the "Bachelor" qualification in Agronomy (tropical and subtropical agriculture). He continued his studies at the Agricultural University in the master's course "Landscape Design" in 2006-2007 and obtained the "Master" qualification. He worked as a teacher at the Vocational High School of Construction, Architecture and Geodesy - Plovdiv in 2008 - 2015. In 2015-2019 as a part-time doctoral student he developed and defended a dissertation for the "Doctor" qualification. From 03.06.2019 to the present he has been working as a senior assistant professor at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. He speaks English at a good level.

2. General description of the scientific production.

The scientific production presented by Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev meets the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Agrarian University for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". The total number of points on scientometric indicators exceeds the minimum required for awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the regulations of the Agrarian University.

In the competition for "Associate Professor" Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev participated with a total output of 29 works, grouped as follows:

- *Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty* - 35 pieces, of which:
 - *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation* - 7 pieces, which are not subject to consideration;
 - *Publications with an impact factor* - 6 pieces
 - *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals* - 10 pieces;
 - *Publications in conference proceedings* - 12 pieces;

The personal participation of Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev Panchev in the mentioned 35 works is illustrated by the fact that 10 are independent (34.48%), in 5 - he is the first (17.24%), in 9 (31.03%) - he is the second, and in the remaining 5 (17.24%) - he is the third and subsequent author.

- *Textbooks* - 0 items.
- *Study guides* - 0 items.

29 items are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.

3. Teaching activity.

In the field of education, he conducts exercises in bachelor's courses (13 disciplines in the field of ornamental horticulture), lectures (5 disciplines in the field of ornamental horticulture), practical classes (3 disciplines in the field of ornamental horticulture), seminars; in master's courses, he conducts exercises and lectures (6 disciplines in the field of ornamental horticulture). Teaches students in the disciplines of floriculture, decorative dendrology, park management, flower arranging, etc.

Academic employment of the candidate.

During the period from 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 in the Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs, Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev Panchev had direct classroom employment of lectures, exercises and extracurricular employment for a total of 3680.35 hours.

Teaching activities are complemented by the supervision of 23 successfully defended graduates in bachelor's and master's courses.

Course supervisor of I and II courses from 2016 to the present.

Responsible for maintaining the educational assortment in dendrology.

Published educational materials.

A book published on the basis of a defended dissertation for the Bachelor's degree is presented, entitled "Studies on different methods of propagation of species of the genus *Tilia*", 2025, Sofia, Intel Entrans, 146 pages, ISBN: 978-619-287-001-0

Developed curricula - 3 issues.

1. Bouquet arrangement
2. Grading and storage of vegetable and flower production - full-time education
3. Grading and storage of vegetable and flower production - part-time education

4. Scientific research activity.

Areas of publication.

The scientific activity of Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Panchev throughout his entire period of work has been in the field of ornamental horticulture, mainly in three areas: Methods of propagation of ornamental plants - micro- and vegetatively; Testing of ultrasound sounding of seeds of some ornamental species; Technological solutions for growing ornamental plants.

Related is the study of the possibilities for propagating ornamental plants vegetatively, through the application of stimulants and through micropropagation, such as: linden - an effective protocol for micropropagation has been created, ficus, petunia, aucuba, *Angelonia angustifolia*. Study of the influence of ultrasound on seeds of a number of flower crops: lupine, antirrhinum, colothia, caesalpinum and zinnia – the optimal period of sonication has been established. Determination of appropriate methods for overcoming dormancy of cherry laurel and lime seeds. Study of the distribution in

Bulgaria of some ornamental species of ginkgo biloba and Goniolimon dalmaticum. Seasonal and geographical differences in the content of ginkgolides A, B, C and bilobalides have been established. Research activity with gladioli: establishment of varietal response to the conditions of Bulgaria, determination of optimal fertilizer rates, sonication of seeds with ultrasound, survival of corms.

Participation in Scientific forums and conferences – 18; National – 2 and International 16 – Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Participation in the ERZON + Program - 4 mobilities (for the last 5 years) – Turkey, Jordan, Czech Republic and Poland.

Citing and referencing of scientific production.

The total number of citations noted is 5, of which 1 in Bulgarian publications, 3 in Bulgarian journals with an impact factor and in foreign publications, and 1 in dissertations.

Participation in scientific projects.

Participation in scientific projects: 12, of which as a Scientific Project Manager – 3

1. Participation in projects and contracts with external funding for the University of Sofia - 2.

2. Participation in projects funded by the Central Research and Development Center for Information and Communication Technology – 1 project manager; 10 project participants.

5. Comments and recommendations.

I have no comments on the submitted materials. I recommend that Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Panchev publish a university textbook.

6. Conclusion.

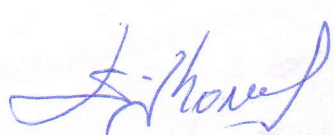
Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activities, I believe that Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Panchev meets the requirements of the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application. The candidate for "Associate Professor" has a total number of points of 616.65 in all groups of indicators with a required 400 points.

All this gives me reason to evaluate his overall activity POSITIVELY.

I would like to propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture at the Agrarian University - Plovdiv elect Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev as "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Ornamental Plants".

Date: 09.09.2026
City of Plovdiv

OPINION PREPARED BY:


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(Prof. Dr. Tanko Kolev)