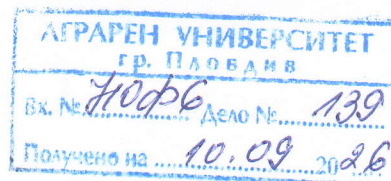


## OPINION



Regarding the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Ornamental Plants" announced in SG No. 48 of 26.05.2026 with candidate Chief Ass. Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev Panchev

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimka Ignatova Haytova, Agricultural University - Plovdiv, Professional field 6.1 Plant production, appointed according to Order No. RD 16-812/29.06.2026 of the Rector of Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

The candidate accepted to participate in the competition is Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Valentin Panchev. He was born on June 16, 1982. He graduated with a degree in Agronomy (Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture) from the Agricultural University of Plovdiv in 2005. In 2007, he completed a master's degree in "Landscape Design." On March 1, 2015, he was accepted as a part-time doctoral student in the Department of Horticulture, scientific specialty "Ornamental Plants." He successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in 2018.

His professional career began in 2006 at the private company "Trakart – Georgi Ivanov" in Plovdiv. For seven years (2008–2015), he taught at the "Arch. Kamen Petkov" High School of Architecture and Urban Planning in Plovdiv. After winning a competitive selection process, he was appointed as an assistant in the Department of Horticulture in 2015, and since 2019 he has held the position of chief assistant.

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

In the competition for the position of 'Associate Professor', Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Valentin Panchev Panchev is participating with a total production of 36 works, grouped as follows:

- ❖ Academic publications in the relevant discipline – 36 in total, of which:
  - Publications related to the doctoral thesis – 7, which are not subject to consideration;
  - Publications with an impact factor – 6;
  - Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals – 22;
  - Publications in conference proceedings – 6;
  - A book published on the basis of the doctoral dissertation – 1;

A total of 29 works are subject to analysis for the purposes of this assessment.

The personal participation Ch. Ass.t Prof. Dr. Valentin Panchev in these 29 works is illustrated by the fact that in 10 (34.48 %) are single author, in 5 (17.24 %) he is the first author, in 9 (31.03 %) he is the second author, and in the remaining 5 (17.24 %) he is the third or next author.

- ❖ Textbooks – 0.
- ❖ Training Manuals – 0.

The research publications presented do not duplicate those for the the academic degree of 'Doctor' and the academic position of Chief assistant.

It is clear from the attached scientometric report that, across all criteria, the candidate meets the minimum scientific-metric requirements in line of the Law on Development of academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria. It necessary pointed, that

across all criteria, their personal scientific production is significantly over the minimum scientific requirements.

My summary assessment of the materials submitted is that, in terms of content, they objectively represent the scientific research carried out and are consistent with the professional field and scientific area of the competition.

The research work is of a high level, with clearly formulated aims and the tasks arising from them. Modern methods and approaches have been used to achieve them.

The publications are written in an elegant academic style, the results are interpreted in depth, and the conclusions made are scientifically based.

The significance of the researches is additionally enhanced by the fact that a great part of it has been carried out in co-authorship and published in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals.

### **3. Teaching activity**

Chief Assistant Professor Dr Panchev has a total of 11 years and 3 months' teaching experience. During this time, he has established himself as a well-read and competent lecturer who is held in high regard by both his students and colleagues.

#### *- Teaching activities*

Over the last five academic years, the number of lecture hours taught by the candidate has ranged from 108 to 246, and the number of practical exercise hours taught from 223.5 to 438.5. The total number of hours taught on 3,680.35. These are distributed as follows:

- Courses at Bachelor's degree level: Teaching practical exercises in 13 disciplines in the field of ornamental horticulture. Teaching lectures in 5 disciplines in the field of ornamental horticulture – Floriculture, Ornamental Dendrology, Bouquet and Flower Arrangement, Quality Assessment and Storage of Vegetables and Flowers, Ornamental Nurseries. Teaching activities are further complemented by the conduct of practical training: in 3 subjects in the field of ornamental horticulture).

- Courses at Master's level: Conducting exercises and lectures in six disciplines in the field of ornamental horticulture – Flower Arranging, Ornamental Nurseries, Ornamental Dendrology, Assessment and Storage of Vegetables and Flowers, Organization of Ornamental Nurseries, and Computer Design of Landscape Objects.

Chief Assistant Professor Panchev is the academic mentor to 23 students (12 at the "Bachelor's" level and 11 at the "Master's" level) who have successfully completed their graduation theses.

#### *Developed educational curricula*

Chief Assistant Professor Panchev has developed 3 curricula for 3 disciplines of the Bachelor degree programs.

### **4. Research activity**

#### *Fields of publication*

Throughout his career, Senior Assistant Professor V. Panchev's research has focused on ornamental horticulture, mainly in three areas:

- Testing the use of ultrasound to stimulate germination in the seeds of some ornamental species;
- Technological approaches to the cultivation of ornamental plants;
- Methods of reproduction ornamental plants – micro reproduction and vegetative reproduction.

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 and extended academic information 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 5 citations. It is remarkable that 3 of them are in indexing and refereed journals and 2 are in non-indexed but peer-reviewed journals. The established facts show that the Ch. Ass. Prof. Panchev is recognizable in scientific community and works on significant up to date problems in which researchers are interested.

*Participation in research projects*

Ch. Ass. Prof. Panchev has participated in 12 projects, in three of them he has been the project leader.

**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 his 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 Chief Assistant Professor Dr Valentin Panchev Panchev 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. This opinion is based on his systematic and in-depth scientific research work, his teaching activities, and his professional competences and personal skills.

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

I would like to suggest that the honorable Scientific Jury also vote positively and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr Valentin Panchev Panchev as "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty of Ornamentals plants.

Date: 02.09.2026r.

Plovdiv

PREPARED THE OPINION:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimka Haytova/