АГРАРЕН УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
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Получено на 03.11.2026

OPINION

Concerning the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Crop Production", announced in State Gazette No. 65 of 17 July 2026, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva Georgieva from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

Prepared by: Prof. Dr. Viliana Marinova Vasileva - Field of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.1. Crop Production, Scientific Specialty "Crop Production", appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. RD 16-902 of 17 September 2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Rumyana Georgieva obtained her Bachelor's degree (Agronomist in Field Crop Production) from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv (October 2007 - July 2011) and her Master's degree (Plant Protection) from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria (February 2012 - October 2013). During the period June 2011 - September 2011, she completed an internship at Iskra Cooperative, Kapinovo village, General Toshevo Municipality, and from 1 August 2013 to 31 August 2013 at AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, Vienna. From 1 April 2014 to 22 February 2017, she held the position of Technical Agronomist at SGS Bulgaria, Varna.

From 21 January 2020 to 1 July 2022, she held the academic position of Assistant Professor, and since 1 July 2022, she has been Chief Assistant Professor in the Department of Crop Production at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. At the end of 2019, following the successful defence of her doctoral dissertation, she was awarded the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD). The candidate has actively participated in numerous seminars and training courses, including: a seminar related to the concept of corporate learning for sustainable development, particularly educational practices, methodology and the significance of the concept of sustainable development, held at ENTER, Aeres University of Applied Sciences, Wageningen (15 November 2018); a seminar aimed at enhancing the professional skills and competencies of academic staff in relation to education for sustainable development, organised by ENTER, Aeres University of Applied Sciences, Wageningen, and the University College for Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy, Vienna (19 September 2019); training in the acquisition of new pedagogical methods and approaches related to education for sustainable development, as part of the project ACROSS – Across Disciplines, Borders and People in Rural Development, Humboldt University of Berlin (1–6 April 2019); and Training of Trainers in the field of sustainable development, comprising three additional qualification modules (soil science, water resource management, and health and safety at work), as part of the Agritrain PECO project (19-22 February 2020).

Dr. Georgieva's professional development continued with training leading to the acquisition of pedagogical qualification as a teacher of vocational subjects at Trakia University, Stara Zagora (12 July 2022 - 15 July 2023). Her membership in ENOAT since 2021 and her appointment in 2022 to the prestigious position of Secretary General on the ENTER Board are also noteworthy.

Dr. Georgieva demonstrates strong language competencies: A1 level in Spanish, B2 in English and C1 in German.

In summary, Dr. Georgieva's professional biography is remarkably rich, particularly considering her age.

2. General overview of the scientific output.

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva participates with a total scientific output of 25 works, distributed as follows:

Scientific publications in the relevant scientific specialty - 25 works, of which:

- *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 4, which are not subject to evaluation in this competition;*
- *Publications in journals with an Impact Factor - 12;*
- *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals - 8;*
- *A published book based on a successfully defended doctoral dissertation leading to the award of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD) - 1.*

A total of 21 works are therefore subject to evaluation in the preparation of this opinion. The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva to these 21 works is demonstrated by the fact that she is sole author of 8 publications (38.1%), first author of 8 (38.1%), second author of 3 (14.3%), and third or subsequent author of the remaining 2 (9.5%). Thus, she is sole or first author of 76.2% of her scientific output. Among the 12 articles published in journals with an Impact Factor, she is sole or first author in 11, representing 91.7%.

According to the individual report on compliance with the minimum national requirements under Article 2b, paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Appendix to Article 1a of the Regulations for its Implementation (points by indicators), the candidate has achieved the following results: Under Indicator B2: Scientific publications (at least 10) in journals refereed and indexed in internationally recognised databases of scientific information, against a required minimum of 100 points, the candidate has accumulated 206 points; Under Indicator G3: A published book based on a defended doctoral dissertation leading to the award of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD) - 40 points; Under Indicator G4: Articles and reports published in scientific editions refereed and indexed in internationally recognised databases of scientific information, against a required minimum of 200 points, the candidate has accumulated 270 points; Under Indicator D5: Citations or reviews in scientific publications refereed and indexed in internationally recognised databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 90 points.

Thus, the total number of points achieved is 616, compared with the required minimum of 400 points for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor.

The co-authorship of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva with colleagues from both the Agricultural University and foreign institutions is particularly noteworthy. This demonstrates her ability to work effectively in research teams.

3. Teaching activities.

Teaching workload of the candidate

For the period 2021-2026, the teaching workload of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva amounts to a total of 2366.6 hours, including lectures, practical classes, Erasmus activities and extracurricular teaching activities. The activities are distributed as follows: delivery of lectures (54 hours), practical classes (1324.5 hours), Erasmus activities (514.4 hours) and extracurricular teaching activities (473.7 hours).

Her teaching activities are complemented by the supervision of six students who have successfully defended their graduation theses (four Bachelor's degree students and two Master's degree students). At the time of issuing the report, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva was supervising four students (three Bachelor's degree students and one Master's degree student).

Development of academic curricula. Two academic curricula have been developed, covering the following subjects: 1) Biological and Conventional Production of Industrial Crops, with 30 hours of lectures and 30 hours of practical classes; 2) Climate-Smart Agriculture, with 20 hours of lectures and 20 hours of practical classes.

4. Research activities

Areas of scientific publication.

The publication activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva is focused on the following main scientific areas: agronomic practices related to the cultivation and enhancement of the productivity of field crops (maize and triticale) and essential oil crops (oil-bearing rose, lavender, coriander and sage); assessment of the productivity, quality parameters and environmental adaptability of varieties and hybrids under different soil and climatic conditions; the effects of organic and mineral fertilisation, foliar fertilisers and biostimulants on the growth, development, yield and quality of the studied crops; biological and environmentally friendly plant protection methods and control of economically important pests in essential oil crops; investigation of the content, yield and chemical composition of essential oils; and studies of natural arbuscular mycorrhizal associations and the influence of agronomic practices on mycorrhizal colonisation.

Some of the candidate's research results have been presented at international scientific forums in the form of one oral presentation and six posters.

The oral presentation entitled "Use of Some Products for Foliar Application for Improving the Productivity, Quality and Essential Oil Content of Coriander Seeds (Coriandrum sativum L.) under South-Eastern Bulgaria Conditions", for which she was the first author, co-authored with Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova and Prof. Dr. Petar Chavdarov, was presented at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the AAIC (Bologna, Italy, 5–8 September 2021). The research was subsequently published in Industrial Crops and Products (Scopus and Web of Science, Q1).

The candidate was the sole author of four poster presentations, as follows: The poster entitled "Assessment of the Productive Potential and Essential Oil Quality of Salvia sclarea after Leaf Treatment", presented at the International Conference of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, "Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture", 6–8 June 2024, Bucharest, Romania. The research was published in Scientific Papers. Series A. Agronomy (SJR 0.183, Q3); The poster entitled "Management Practices Influence the Natural Arbuscular Mycorrhizae Community of Maize", presented at the International Conference of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, "Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture", 5–7 June 2025, Bucharest, Romania. The research was published in Scientific Papers. Series A. Agronomy (SJR 0.183, Q3); Two posters entitled "Agricultural Performance of Oil-Bearing Rose under Organic Fertilization" and "Reaction of Corn Hybrids to Biostimulator Application", presented at the international conference "Trends in European Agriculture Development", held within the framework of the multidisciplinary conference "Multidisciplinary Conference on Sustainable Development" on 15–16 May 2025, organised by the University of Life Sciences "King Michael I" of Timişoara, Faculty of Agriculture, Romania. The research materials were published in Research Journal of Agricultural Science [CABI (Web of Science)].

At national scientific forums, the candidate participated with two co-authored poster presentations: 1. Georgieva R., Manolov I., Manhart S., Steinkellner S., Möth S. "Sucking Insect's Pest Management in Organic Rose Production", presented at the scientific and practical conference "40 Years of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology", organised by the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv (7 November 2025). The research was published in Agricultural Sciences/Agrarni Nauki [CABI (Web of Science)]; 2. Georgieva R., Petkova M. and Dyakova T. "Comparative Field Evaluation of a Native Beauveria

bassiana Strain and the Commercial Product Naturalis® for the Control of Macrosiphum rosae", presented at the anniversary conference "80 Years Agricultural University – Plovdiv: Traditions Meet Innovations", held on 28–31 October 2025 and organised by the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. The research was published in Scientific Works [CABI (Web of Science)].

Citation and referencing of scientific output.

For participation in the competition, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva has submitted six citations; however, the actual number of citations is undoubtedly higher. All citations are in foreign journals with an Impact Factor, and half of them are in Q1 journals. The citation of some of her scientific publications demonstrates the candidate's recognition within the scientific community and the interest in the subject matter of her research.

Participation in research projects

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva demonstrates a particularly strong involvement in research projects. Since 2020, she has been a project leader or participant in five projects, as follows: 1) Erasmus+ Programme: "Good Teaching Practices for Effective Education in Embedded Food Systems" (GOODFOOD), Project No. 2020-1-PL01-KA203-082209, in which the Agricultural University – Plovdiv was a partner of Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS-SGGW), the University of Gastronomic Sciences (UNISG), the Higher Institute of Agriculture Rhône-Alpes I.S.A.R.A. (ISARA), Münster University of Applied Sciences (MUAS) and the University of Oradea (UO) (2020–2022); 2) "Perspectives for Combating Diseases and Pests in Organic Rose Production" (National Science Fund), with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria, as a partner institution (2021–2024); 3) "Agronomic Performance of High-Yielding Maize Hybrids", Project No. 10-25, funded under the National Programme Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers (2022–2025), in both project stages as project leader; 4) "Investigation of the Effect of Different Forms of Potassium and Magnesium Fertilisers on the Yield and Quality of Table Grapes and Lavender", funded by K+S Minerals and Agriculture GmbH (2024); 5) "Evaluation of Quantitative and Qualitative Parameters of Amaranth (Amaranthus hypochondriacus L.) Depending on Fertilisation Regime, Row Spacing and Weed Control", funded by the Agricultural University – Plovdiv (2025–2028), as a project participant.

5. Remarks and recommendations.

I have no remarks concerning the candidate. I have followed Dr. Georgieva's professional development since the period following the defence of her doctoral dissertation. I confidently express a strongly positive opinion of her as a consistent, highly hardworking, ambitious and ethical researcher and university lecturer. Her academic experience of slightly more than six years and her participation in the present competition provide more than sufficient grounds for the positive assessment expressed herein.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's teaching, scientific and applied research activities, I consider that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for their implementation.

Against the required minimum of 400 points for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva has accumulated 616 points. She demonstrates active teaching, scientific and applied research activities.

Her authorship and co-authorship of 21 scientific works published in reputable scientific journals, in collaboration with Bulgarian and international co-authors; the supervision of 10 graduation students, six of whom have successfully defended their theses; her recognition within the scientific community; her language skills; her participation in numerous training seminars; and her involvement in and leadership of five research projects, including international projects, provide me with sufficient grounds to give an **OVERALL POSITIVE ASSESSMENT** of the candidate's professional and academic activities.

I would also like to recommend that the distinguished Scientific Jury cast a positive vote and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva Georgieva to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Crop Production".

Date: 30 October 2026
Plovdiv

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