



STATEMENT

regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty Ecology and Ecosystems Conservation, announced in the State Gazette issue 48 of 26.05.2026, with candidate Chief Assistant Prof. Dimitrinka Binova Kuzmanova, PhD

by Prof. Georgi Georgiev Beev, PhD, appointed pursuant to Order No. RD 16-770 / 22.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a chairman/member of the scientific jury

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Chief Assistant Prof. Dimitrinka Kuzmanova, PhD, was born in 1968. She completed her higher education in 1993 at VSI "Vasil Kolarov" (currently Agricultural University - Plovdiv) with the qualification "Agronomist-Engineer". She acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) in 2006 in the specialty "Sheep and Goat Breeding". In the period 2010–2015, she worked as an expert in "Academic Staff Development" and in the Scientific Research Center at AU-Plovdiv. From August 24, 2015, to the present, she has held the academic position of "Chief Assistant Professor" in the scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystems Conservation". She has 11 years of teaching experience. She is proficient in English (B2) and Russian.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Chief Assistant Prof. Dimitrinka Kuzmanova participates with a total production of 34 works, grouped as follows:

Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 32 items, of which:

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 4 items, which are not subject to review;
- Publications with impact factor - 4 items;
- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals - 22 items;
- Publications in conference proceedings - 2 items;

The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Prof. Kuzmanova in the mentioned 28 works is illustrated by the fact that in 5 she is the first author, in 3 she is the second, and in the remaining 20 she is the third and subsequent author (Note: The candidate presents 1 monograph related to her PhD, as well as an independent article - G 18, which are outside the profile of the competition).

Textbooks – 0 items.

Study guides – 0 items.

28 items are subject to analysis for the preparation of this statement.

3. Teaching activity.

Chief Assistant Prof. Kuzmanova has a very high teaching workload, which significantly exceeds the required norm. She teaches on average over 500 academic hours per year. She conducts lecture courses for the "Bachelor" degree in the disciplines: "Biogeography", "Protected Areas", "European Environmental Standards", and "Ornithology". For the "Master" degree, she teaches: "Forest Ecosystems and Sustainable Nature Management", "Protected Areas", and "Landscape Ecology". She teaches both full-time and part-time students.

The teaching activity is complemented by the supervision of 12 successfully graduated students (8 bachelors and 4 masters).

Published teaching materials.

The candidate currently has no published textbooks or study guides.

Developed curricula.

She has developed curricula for the disciplines "Protected Areas" (elective, for specialties EEC and PP), "European Environmental Standards" (elective, specialty EEC), and "Forest Ecosystems and Sustainable Nature Management" (mandatory, for the master's program "ESNM").

4. Research activity.

Areas of publication.

The candidate's research work has a clearly defined profile in the field of ecological parasitology and the functioning of freshwater ecosystems. The main directions cover the study of biodiversity and the structure of parasite communities in freshwater fish; their application as bioindicators for ecological assessment; analysis of the circulation and bioaccumulation of heavy metals (lead, cadmium) and metalloids (arsenic) in food chains.

Citation and referencing of the scientific production.

The results have received a wide response in the scientific community. A total of 58 independent citations are noted in the Web of Science databases, 6 of which are in prestigious Q1 journals. The candidate's H-index (according to WoS) is 6, which proves the relevance of the research.

Participation in scientific projects.

The candidate has participated in a total of 3 scientific projects. One of them has external national funding (NRP "Critical and Strategic Raw Materials for a Green Transition and Sustainable Development", 2024-2028), and two are funded by the CRTTIP at AU-Plovdiv and are directly related to the ecological and parasitological monitoring of aquatic ecosystems.

5. Remarks and recommendations.

I would recommend the candidate to continue her research in the main thematic direction, expanding the scope of studied biomarkers and ecosystems, which would facilitate publishing in scientific journals with an even higher impact factor (Q1/Q2). Also, considering the accumulated significant pedagogical experience, I recommend active participation in the compilation of textbooks and teaching aids for the lecture courses she teaches.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific, and applied-scientific activities, I believe that Chief Assistant Prof. Dimitrinka Kuzmanova, PhD, fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its implementation. Her scientometric indicators (437 points) exceed the minimal national requirements (400 points) for holding the academic position. Her active work with students, the significant volume of publications in refereed databases, and the clearly defined scientific contributions prove her high professional level. All this gives me reason to evaluate her overall activity POSITIVELY. I take the liberty to propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Chief Assistant Prof. Dimitrinka Binova Kuzmanova, PhD, as "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty Ecology and Ecosystems Conservation.

Date:

STATEMENT PREPARED BY:

Stara Zagora

(Prof. Georgi Beev, PhD)