



OPINION

on the competition for "associate professor" in the field of higher education "Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics", professional direction 4.4. Earth Sciences and the scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Protection", announced in the State Gazette No. 48 of 26.05.2026 with candidate Senior Assistant Professor Dimitrinka Banova Kuzmanova

by Prof. Mariana Genova Doncheva - Boneva, appointed according to Order No. RD 16-770/22.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Senior Assistant Professor Dimitrinka Kuzmanova graduated from the Higher Agricultural Institute "Vasil Kolarov" - Plovdiv (now the Agricultural University) in 1993 with the qualification of engineer "Agronomist". In the period 2002-2005 she was a doctoral student at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, and in 2006 she obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor". The candidate's work is also related to the Agricultural University, and in the period 2010-2015 she held the position of "Expert" in the Scientific Research Center, and since 2015 she has been elected as a chief assistant.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "associate professor" chief assistant, Dr. Dimitrinka Kuzmanova participates with a total production of 35 works, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 35 pieces, of which:

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 4 pieces, which are not subject to consideration;
- Publications with an impact factor - 1 piece;
- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 29 pcs;
- Publications in conference proceedings – 1 pc;
- Published book based on a defended dissertation - 1 pc.

The personal participation of Senior Assistant Professor Dimitrinka Kuzmanova in the indicated 31 works is illustrated by the fact that 2 pcs. are independent, in 4 pcs. - she is the first author, in 3 pcs. - she is the second, and in the remaining 22 pcs. - she is the third and subsequent author. Of the scientific works, 29 are published in English.

- Textbooks and study guides – none

31 pieces are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.

Regarding the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, the following is established:

The candidate has not submitted a monograph, therefore, 9 of the scientific works, all published in peer-reviewed publications in Web of Science, in category Q4, are separated in group of indicators "B". The total number of points from the publications is 104 and meets the minimum national requirements.

Of the scientific works in the group of indicators "G" - 1 pc. is a published book based on a defended dissertation (20 points); 1 pc. in an edition with an impact factor (0.47), in category Q3 and 20 pcs. are published in peer-reviewed and refereed editions, including 17 pcs. in Web of Science, of which 13 pcs. in category Q4. The total number of points from the group of indicators "G" is 241 and are in accordance with the minimum requirements.

The candidate has participated in scientific forums, where she presented 21 poster reports.

3. Teaching activities.

Senior assistant Dimitrinka Kuzmanova has over 11 years of teaching experience in the Department of "Chemistry, Phytopharmacy and Ecology, and Environmental Protection", Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

The candidate's academic employment.

During the academic years from 2021/2022 to 2025/2026, the candidate has an annual teaching workload of between 807 and 428 hours, or a total of 3097 hours for 5 years (average annual 619 hours). The indicated number of hours is more than the norm for the university. Senior Assistant Professor Kuzmanova conducts lectures in 4 disciplines (Protected Areas, European Environmental Standards, Ornithology, Biogeography) for the educational and qualification degree "bachelor", part-time and full-time education and in 3 disciplines (Forest Ecosystems and Sustainable Nature Use, Protected Areas and Landscape Ecology) for the master's courses - "Sustainable Nature Use and Ecological Tourism" and "Engineering Ecology".

Teaching activities are complemented by the supervision of 12 successfully defended diplomas, 8 - bachelor's and 4 - master's.

Developed curricula.

Senior Assistant Professor Kuzmanova has developed curricula for the following disciplines:

- "Protected Areas", an elective in the curriculum of the specialty "Ecology and Environmental Protection", for the educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" - full-time and part-time form of study.
- "European Environmental Standards", an elective in the curriculum of the specialty "Ecology and Environmental Protection", educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" - full-time and part-time form of study.
- "Protected Areas", an elective in the curriculum of the specialty "Plant Protection", for the educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" - full-time and part-time form of study.
- "Forest Ecosystems and Sustainable Nature Use", mandatory in the curriculum of the master's course "Sustainable Nature Use and Ecological Tourism" - full-time form of study.

4. Scientific research activity.

Areas of publication.

Most of the presented scientific works are in the following scientific areas:

- Study of biodiversity, structure of parasites and parasitic communities in different fish species, and their application in ecological assessment of freshwater ecosystems;
- Study of pollution with heavy metals and metalloids and application of parasites as bioindicators in monitoring freshwater ecosystems;

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

Senior Assistant Professor Kuzmanova has presented a list of 16 citations in foreign publications, of which 9 are in publications with an impact factor. Nine of the citations are from foreign authors, which shows the interest of the international scientific community and confirms the significance of the results obtained. The total number of points from the group of indicators "D" is 80.

Participation in scientific projects.

Senior Assistant Professor Kuzmanova has participated in 3 scientific projects, including 2 funded by the university and 1 with external funding.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I have one recommendation for the candidate:

1. To expand the field of her scientific research in the disciplines she teaches.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activities, I believe that Senior Assistant Dr. Dimitrinka Banova Kuzmanova fully meets the requirements of the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application, which are the minimum national requirements for acquiring the academic position of "associate professor".

All this gives me reason to evaluate her 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 "Plant Protection and Agroecology" at the Agrarian University - Plovdiv elect Senior Assistant Dr. Dimitrinka Banova Kuzmanova as "associate professor" in the field of higher education "Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics", professional direction 4.4. Earth Sciences and the scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Protection".

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Plovdiv

PREPARED BY OPINION:

(Prof. Dr. Mariana Doncheva-Boneva)