АГРАРЕН УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
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OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of *Professor* in the field of higher education 6. Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional area 6.1. Crop Science, scientific specialty: *Fodder Production and Meadow Management*, announced in the SG, issue 65/ 17.07.2026, with a single candidate **Assoc. Prof. Atanas Veselinov Sevov, PhD.**

Opinion reviewer: Prof. Radka Veleva Ivaniva, PhD, professional area 6.1. Crop Science, scientific specialty: Crop Science, assigned a member of the scientific jury according to Order № РД 16-901/17.09.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Ploviv.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Atanas Veselinov Sevov was born on April 21, 1976, in Sofia. In 2002, he completed his higher education at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, earning a Master's degree as an agricultural engineer (agronomist). In 2011, following a successful defense, he was awarded a PhD degree in the field of "Forage Production and Grassland Management." Between 2008 and 2017, Assoc. Prof. Sevov advanced through various academic ranks—Assistant (2008) and Chief Assistant (2012)—and since 2017, he has served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Production at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. His teaching activities include the subjects "Forage Production and Grassland Management" and "Grass Mixtures," delivered to full-time and part-time students across various specializations, at both the Bachelor's and Master's degree levels. In addition to working with Bulgarian students, Assoc. Prof. Sevov also instructs international students and supervises students working on their diploma theses and doctoral dissertations. His research work involves conducting field experiments aimed at addressing significant challenges related to forage production and grassland management in Bulgaria. Since 2020, Assoc. Prof. Sevov has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy. He possesses an excellent command of English and Russian, and is proficient in the use of computers.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for the position of "Professor," Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov participated with a total scientific output in the designated specialty—68 items—grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications meeting the national minimum scientometric requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" – 2 items, which are not subject to review;
- Scientific publications meeting the national minimum scientometric requirements for the acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor" – 37 items, which are not subject to review;
- Scientific publications meeting the national minimum scientometric requirements for the acquisition of the academic rank of "Professor" – 29 in total, submitted for the current competition:
  - Publications with an impact factor – 7;
  - Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals – 27;
  - Publications in conference proceedings – 1, plus 1 in the journal *Zemedelie*

For the purpose of preparing an expert opinion regarding the appointment to the academic position of "Professor," 29 scientific publications are subject to analysis; these do not duplicate the works submitted for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" or the academic position of "Associate Professor."

Minimum points required by indicator groups for the academic position of "Professor":

- **Indicator A** – Dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor"; minimum requirement: 50 points; materials submitted: 50 points;
- **Indicator B4** – Articles in refereed and indexed publications in internationally recognized scientific databases – 10 items – 120.28 points (against a requirement of 100 points). Of these, 5 are in journals with a quartile, impact rank, and/or impact factor;
- **Indicator G7** – Publications in refereed and indexed journals included in internationally renowned scientific databases – 17 in total, 5 of which are in journals with a quartile, impact rank, and/or impact factor – 207.5 points;
- Indicator G8 – Publications in non-indexed, peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes – 2 items – 7.5 points.

  Total points from Indicators G7 and G8 – 215, against a requirement of 200 points.

  The candidate's personal contribution to the 29 cited works is as follows: sole author – 1; first author – 8; second author – 9; third or subsequent author – 11.
- **Indicator D** – Citations in scientific publications refereed and indexed in internationally renowned databases (Scopus and Web of Science) with an impact factor and/or impact rank; minimum requirement: 100 points; materials submitted: 150 points.
- **Indicator E** – Supervision of a doctoral student who has successfully defended their thesis, participation in a national scientific or educational project, or a published university textbook (or a textbook used within the school system); minimum requirement: 100 points; submitted materials: 114 points.

In accordance with the minimum national requirements set forth in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the regulations for its implementation, and the regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Assoc. Prof. Sevov has accumulated 649.28 points—surpassing the required minimum of 550 points. This demonstrates that the materials he submitted not only fully meet but also exceed the minimum national scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor."

3. Teaching activities.

Candidate's teaching workload.

Assoc. Prof. Sevov has over 18 years of teaching experience, gained entirely within the Department of Plant Production at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. His teaching workload for the 2021–2026 period totals 2,875.3 hours of practical exercises, averaging 575.06 hours per academic year.

During this period, he has delivered lectures and conducted practical exercises for both full-time and part-time students across various Bachelor's and Master's degree programs. Assoc. Prof. Sevov also serves as the program director for the Master's course "Digitalization and Management of Plant Production." His teaching activities are complemented by his supervision of 24 students who have successfully defended their theses, as well as two doctoral candidates who have successfully completed their PhD studies at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv.

Published teaching materials.

During this period, Assoc. Prof. Sevov co-authored a textbook and a manual on "Crop Science"

Syllabus development.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov developed 17 syllabuses: 15 for the Bachelor's degree level and 2 for the Master's degree level.

4. Research Activity.

Areas of Publication.

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Sevov focuses on current and strategically significant areas within modern forage production, the management of pastures and meadows, issues related to sustainable agriculture and organic farming, as well as the implementation of new technologies and the automation of agricultural processes. Based on the findings from his studies, the candidate has formulated 10 scientific-theoretical and 11 scientific-applied contributions.

Citation and indexing of the scientific production.

According to the report provided by Assoc. Prof. Sevov, there are 10 citations in total. All of these appear in scientific publications that are refereed and indexed in internationally recognized databases—Scopus and Web of Science and possess an impact factor and/or impact rank. Nine of these citations are in journals with assigned quartiles, four of which are in sources classified as Q1.

Participation in scientific projects.

Assoc. Prof. Sevov has participated in two national scientific programs: "Intelligent Crop Production" and "Intelligent Livestock Production." He served as a participant in four of the work packages and as a lead for one.

5. Conclusion.

Taking into account the analysis of the candidate`s teaching, research and applied activities I consider that Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations for its application, as well as the Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

The submitted materials are substantial in volume and significantly exceed the scientometric requirements for the academic position of "Professor." His scientific research is topical and methodologically sound; the results obtained have been analyzed and synthesized in line with contemporary scientific advancements regarding the issues under investigation. Through this work, the candidate has produced a significant number of scientific publications in the fields of forage production and grassland management, disseminating these findings through participation in academic forums both in Bulgaria and abroad. As an educator, Assoc. Prof. Sevov has developed numerous curricula and has co-authored one textbook and one study guide. Under his supervision, 24 students have completed their diploma theses, and two doctoral candidates have successfully defended their dissertations.

All this gives me grounds to evaluate **POSITIVELY** the candidate`s overall work.

I allow myself to propose to the honorable scientific jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov, PhD**, for the academic position of ***Professor*** in the scientific specialty: ***Fodder Production and Meadow Management***.

Date: 20th October 2026
Place: the city of Plovdiv

Opinion reviewer: .....
(Prof. Radka Ivanova, PhD)