



STATEMENT

regarding the competition for "associate professor" ("docent") in the scientific specialty "Ecology and ecosystem protection", announced in SG no. 102 of 23.12.2022 with candidates Maria Krasimirova Chunchukova and Plamen Ivanov Zorovski by Dilian Georgiev Georgiev, associate professor, DSc, appointed according to Order No. RD 16-245/22.02.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief presentation of the candidates.

Both candidates work as "chief assistant" in the Department of "Agroecology and Environmental Protection", Agricultural University Plovdiv. They both obtained their doctorate degrees at the same institution. P. Zorovski has been an university teacher for 12 years, and M. Chunchukova for 8 years.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "docent" Maria Chunchukova participated with a total production of 34 papers, grouped as follows:

Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty - 34 issues, of which:
- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 2 issues, which are not subject to consideration;
- Publications with an impact factor – 2 items
- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 22 issues;
The candidate is an independent author of one publication, first author in 16, and in the rest in a different place in collectives.

To prepare the statement, 32 scientific articles are subject to analysis.

Plamen Zorovski participated with a total production of 42 works, grouped as follows:

Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty - 42 issues, of which:
- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 7 issues, which are not subject to consideration;
- Publications with an impact factor – 2 issues (and one out of the deposited materials);
- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 21 issues;
- Publications in conference proceedings – 13 issues;
- Book – 1 issue.

The personal involvement of Plamen Zorovski in the mentioned works is illustrated by the fact that one is independent, first author in 9, and the others are co-authored – with one or more co-authors.

To prepare the statement, 34 scientific articles, 1 book are subject to analysis.

3. Teaching activity.

Teaching occupation.

P. Zorovski: a total of 2463.75 hours (lectures, exercises and extracurricular activities).

M. Chunchukova: a total of 3494.9 hours (lectures, exercises and extracurricular activities). It is noteworthy that 36 hours of them were produced in a foreign language.

Published study materials.

Both candidates have not submitted published study aids - textbooks and manuals.

Guidance of successfully defended graduates.

P. Zorovski: 3 theses in OKS "Bachelor" and 3 in OKS "Master".

M. Chunchukova: 6 theses in the "Bachelor's College" and 9 in the "Master's College". It is noteworthy that the second candidate has more than three times more graduates.

Developed university disciplines programs.

P. Zorovski developed 1 program.

M. Chunchukova developed a total of 8 programs.

4. Research activity.

Areas of publication.

Both candidates work in the field of Ecology and environmental protection.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

P. Zorovski: 21 citations from a total of 35 publications of the candidate are presented, of which 6 are in non-referenced editions, and the rest are in world-renowned databases.

M. Chunchukova: 69 citations from a total of 32 publications of the candidate are presented. Here, the significantly larger number of citations compared to the total number of published articles is striking.

Participation in scientific projects.

P. Zorovski: 16 national and 1 international.

M. Chunchukova: 8 national projects.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I recommend that, as soon as possible, another competition for an associate professor in the Department of "Agroecology and Environmental Protection" of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv be announced. In order to have a maximally good working environment and teamwork, it is necessary to avoid similar situations in which two colleagues from the same department compete for the occupation of an academic position.

6. Conclusion.

Both candidates fulfill the requirements for occupying the position of "Associate Professor" of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application.

With Maria Chunchukova, the scientific-metric indicators, in terms of the number of points collected according to the national minimum requirements, citations and number of articles with an impact factor are higher than those of the other. With this candidate, the displayed hours are also about 1000 more, and the developed study programs are eight, compared to one of the other, Plamen Zorovski, there are also more than three times more graduates. At the same time, P. Zorovski has more years of experience, he has two more scientific articles (but with lower indicators and is the lead author in fewer of them) and participation in more projects, he is also an author of a book.

All this gives me reason to **POSITIVELY** assess the overall activity of both candidates. At the same time, it is necessary to choose one of them.

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activities of the candidates, I believe that **Maria Krasimirova Chunchukova** should occupy the academic position of "associate professor" at the Department of "Agroecology and Environmental Protection" of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

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Plovdiv

**AUTHOR OF THE
STATEMENT:**

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(Assoc. Prof. D. Georgiev, DSc)