



## STATMENT

on a competition procedure for the academic position "ASSOC. PROFESSOR" at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, in the area of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agriculture)", announced in the State Gazette, № 7 from 23.01.2024, with candidate Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariyana Ivanova Shishkova,

by Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov Atanasov, appointed by Order № RD-16-404/20.03.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury.

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Mariyana Shishkova was born in 1986. She completed her secondary education in 2006 at the High School of Mathematics in Plovdiv. She continued her education at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, majoring in "Agrarian Economics". In 2009, she graduated as "Bachelor", went to the Plovdiv University to study "Financial management", and successfully graduated as "Master" in 2011. During the period from 2013 to 2018, she was a PhD student at the Department of economics, Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

She gained serious practical experience in the period 2009 – 2017, as an intern, associate and financial manager at the Foundation "Earth – source of income".

After winning a competition, in 2017, Mariyana Shishkova was appointed as an assistant professor at the Department of economics, the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, where at present she is Chief. Assistant professor and teaches the disciplines: "Agricultural Economics"; "Agricultural Policy"; "Labor Economics"; "Economics of the EU", "Business Economics", "Sustainable Development and Circular Economy", "European Economic Integration" etc.

### 2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition procedure for "ASSOC. PROFESSOR", Mariyana Shishkova participates with 25 scientific papers, which do not repeat the ones provided for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and the academic position "assist. professor". They are grouped as follows:

- Publications, referenced and indexed in SCOPUS, with SJR – 4;
- Publications, referenced and indexed in Web of Science – 15;
- Publications, referenced in other databases – 5;
- Monograph – 1.

In the scientific works described above, Mariyana Shishkova is an independent author of 4 publications, In the rest of them is either second or third author.

To prepare the opinion, I have analyzed precisely these 24 articles and 1 monograph.

### **3. Teaching activities**

The teaching experience of assist. prof. Dr. Mariyana Shishkova is about 7 years. As an assistant professor, she conducted tutorial exercises with students, and as a chief assistant professor, she mainly delivered lectures and seminars. The main disciplines she teaches to students in Bachelor's and Master's studies are from the area of economics and agricultural policy. All these disciplines are taught in English to Erasmus students or other international students from universities outside Bulgaria.

#### ***Academic employment of the candidate.***

During 2018 – 2023, Mariyana Shishkova has conducted 4225 teaching hours, equivalent to tutorial exercises. Her scientific and teaching activity is complemented by the guidance of graduates, developing diploma works. Until now, she has 12 students, successfully defended their diploma works. In addition, in recent years, Chief. Assistant Professor Dr. Mariyana Shishkova was tutor of the students majoring in "Business Economics" as well as mentor of the team from AU-Plovdiv in the European Bio-Based Innovation Students Challenge (BISC-E).

### **4. Scientific and research activities**

The scientific interests of the candidate in this competition cover a wide research perimeter. This can be seen in her publications.

#### ***Areas of publication.***

The publishing activity and scientific production of Mariyana Shishkova are almost entirely of an economic nature - agricultural economics, sustainable development, social capital, agricultural policy, bio economy, circular economy, etc.



The contributions in the scientific works with which the candidate participates in the current competition can be grouped into three areas: social capital and sustainable development; bioeconomy; influence of the European agricultural policy on Bulgarian agriculture. On the other hand, the contributions are divided into those with a theoretical-methodological nature and those with a practical-applied aspect.

In summary, it can be said that the theoretical contributions are in the direction of research and synthesis of opinions, theories and publications on significant topics in the field of the candidate's scientific interests. Based on her, methodological approaches and tools have been adapted for the analysis and assessment of processes, phenomena and trends at the micro and macro level.

The practical contributions are in several directions:

- Revealing the potential of social farming to achieve sustainable development of rural areas.
- Identification of the key factors that influence the number of funded initiatives under Community-Led Local Development (CLD) strategies.
- Establishing and systematizing the difficulties in the application of the VOMR approach in Bulgaria and analysis of cause and effect relationships, as well as making recommendations for overcoming them.
- Presenting of opportunities for the use of biomass from agriculture, in accordance to the principles of the circular bioeconomy.

#### ***Citation and referencing of scientific production.***

Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariyana Shishkova has provided 12 citations of 7 of her publication. 11 of them are in publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes. 1 is cited in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

#### ***Participation in scientific projects.***

According to the presented report, Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariyana Shishkova has participated in 4 projects – 3 national and 1 international. Three of the projects are with scientific nature and one is educational.

### **5. Administrative activity**

Chief. Assistant Professor Dr. Mariyana Shishkova has a serious administrative commitments, both at faculty and university level. For the past 4 years, she has been a member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and at the Academic Council of AU-Plovdiv.

## 6. Notes and recommendations.

My recommendation to the candidate in the competition is to continue with her active educational and scientific work. To strive for the maintenance of high quality of education and the promotion of AU-Plovdiv in a national and international aspects.

## 7. Conclusions

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and administrative activities, as well as her project work and publications, as well as the successful supervision of students, developing their diploma thesis I believe that Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariyana Ivanova Shishkova meets the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulation for the Application of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for its application. She can hold the academic position of **"Assoc. professor"** in the area of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific speciality "Economics and Management (Agriculture)".

All this gives me a reason to evaluate her overall activities **POSITIVELY**.

I would like to propose to the Scientific Jury to vote **POSITIVELY** and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agrarian University – Plovdiv to elect **Assist. Prof. Dr. Mariyana Ivanova Shishkova** as **"ASSOC. PROFESSOR"** in the area of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific speciality "Economics and Management (Agriculture)".

Date: 29.04.2024

REVIEWER: .....

(Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov)