



OPINION

regarding the competition for "associate professor" in the scientific speciality Economics and Management (Agriculture), announced in SG no. 7 of 23.01.2024 with the candidate Mariyana Ivanova Shishkova, Ch. assistant professor, PhD by Prof. D.Sc. Julia Markova Doitchinova – University for National and World Economy determined according to Order No. 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.

Dr Mariyana Shishkova graduated with a speciality "Agrarian Economics" at the Agrarian University of Ukraine (2009) and "Financial Management" at the University of Plovdiv with a Master's degree in "Financial Management" (2011). In 2018, she defended the educational and scientific degree "doctor" at the Agricultural University. In 2017, Shishkova was appointed to the academic position of assistant, and in 2018, was selected as the main assistant in the Department of Economics of the Agrarian University.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "docent" chap. Assistant Professor Marijana Shishkova participated in productions grouped as follows:

- ☐ Scientific publications on the nomenclature speciality - 28 issues, of which:
 - ✓ Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 3 issues, which are not subject to consideration;
 - ✓ Monograph – 1 issue;
 - ✓ Publications with an impact factor/impact rank – 19 items;
 - ✓ Publications in peer-reviewed publications – 5 issues;

To prepare the opinion, all 25 mentioned publications are subject to analysis.

The candidate participates in the teams of three national projects (NNP "Healthy foods for a strong bioeconomy and quality of life" 2019 - 2023, Ministry of Education and Innovation models for increasing the competitiveness of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria (AGROIN), DN 15-11/18.12.2018 2018 - 2020, FNI: National Program "Young scientists and postdoctoral students", period 2018-2019/ 2020-2021, financed by the Ministry of Education and Science) and an international European alliance "UNIGreen" Project Number 101089386.

The candidate's scientific output scores 658.75 points and significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2, 3 and 5 of the RRSP and Annex to Article 1a of the RRSP.

3. Teaching activity.

Dr. Shishkova gives lectures and leads exercises in OKS Bachelor and OKS Master.

The competition documentation does not contain information about published study materials and developed study programs.

4. Scientific research activity.

The scientific works presented can be grouped into three thematic areas, as follows: social capital and sustainable development; Bioeconomy; and Influence of the Common Agricultural Policy on Bulgarian agriculture.

Six publications (No 1, 4, 6, 7, 12, 15) are presented under the first thematic direction. The author's achievements in them are reduced to adapting a methodology for assessing the level of social capital and constructing networks based on the identified formal and/or informal connections between the studied objects. On this basis, the potential of social farming for achieving sustainable development of rural areas has been revealed and the main challenges to its implementation in our country have been outlined.

The developments in which the key factors that have an impact on the number of funded initiatives under the strategies for community-led local development and the main difficulties in implementing the VOMR approach in Bulgaria during the 2014-2020 program period are systematized also deserve a positive assessment.

In the second direction, "Bioeconomy", 7 publications are presented (monograph, No. 2, 14, 20, 21, 23). The results are related to an assessment of the possibilities of applying a methodology for determining the theoretical, technological and bio-economic potential of Bulgaria for the production of biomass from basic cereals and technical crops. The theoretical potential of the residues of major cereal and technical crops for the production of biomass has been determined.

On the basis of a spatial analysis carried out at the level of planning areas, maps were constructed revealing the theoretical and technical potential of wheat, corn for grain and sunflower for biomass production. The initiatives in the field of the true bioeconomy for the period 2016-2021 have been mapped through the combined application of two GIS software.

The territorial distribution of the technical and theoretical potential of wheat, corn for grain and sunflower for the production of biomass from plant residues in Bulgaria was analyzed. The main clusters have been identified and evaluated from the point of view of the technical potential of the three crops considered.

The main challenges and opportunities in the use of *R. damascena* plant residues in distilleries by applying the principles of the bioeconomy are analyzed and evaluated.

The largest number of publications – 13 are dedicated to the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on Bulgarian agriculture (No. 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24). The achieved results and contributions are reduced to:

- ✓ Performed critical review of the meaning of direct payments and their distribution for agricultural development.
- ✓ The methodology for assessing the attitudes of agricultural producers towards the Common Agricultural Policy and its effects on their activities is adapted.
- ✓ The methodological framework for researching the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and its specific sub-sector has been further developed and implemented.
- ✓ The assessed role and importance of small and family farms in the EU and in Bulgaria for achieving sustainable development of rural areas, as well as the analysis of the place

of young farmers in the country and the problems related to the continuity between generations in the family business.

The candidate's scientific output has received public recognition. Six scientific articles were cited 12 times in specialized scientific publications.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I have no significant remarks on the candidate's scientific output. I recommend that he use the results of his scientific research to develop aids and textbooks, as well as to publish independent articles and studies, including in Bulgarian.

6. Conclusion.

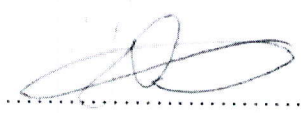
Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that chap. assistant professor Mariyana Ivanova Shishkova, PhD, meets the requirements of the ŽRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application. She is an established teacher in the field of economics and agricultural management, and for participation in the competition, she submits a significant number of scientific publications published in authoritative scientific publications, which contain results of the nature of scientific contributions in current scientific fields;

All this gives me a reason to positively evaluate her overall activity.

I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agrarian University - Plovdiv to elect ch. Assistant Dr. Ch. Assistant Professor Mariyana Ivanova Shishkova, Ph.D., as an "associate professor" in the scientific specialty of Economics and Management (Agriculture).

Date: 23.04.2024

MADE IT

THE OPINION:.....

(Prof. Doctor of Science Julia Doitchinova)