



## OPINION

regarding a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.8. Economics (Economics and Management) announced in the State Gazette, issue 97/21.11.2023 with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Petrova Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD by Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Georgiev Zlatinov, PhD, Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Member of the Scientific Jury following Order RD 16-42/19.01.2024 issued by the Rector of the Agriculture University – Plovdiv

### 1. General information about the candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, has a bachelor's degree in Macroeconomics and a master's degree in Accounting and Analysis from Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski. She defended a PhD in Economics and Management from the Agriculture University – Plovdiv. She is a full-time lecturer at the Agriculture University – Plovdiv since 2014. Since 2017 she has been a Chief Assistant Professor of agricultural economics. She declares excellent command of English, which is a prerequisite for active work with foreign students and is demonstrated by participation in international scientific and educational projects and publications.

### 2. General description of the scientific activities

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, presents an impressive number of publications, refereed, and indexed in Scopus/Web of Science, directly covering the topic of the competition. Out of a total of 28 publications, all of them in English, only 10 are not in journals with impact factor or impact rank. Meanwhile, all publications, as well as the competition thesis of Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, are co-authored. This shows both her ability for scientific collaboration and teamwork and makes it difficult to directly assess the author's contribution, for which no separation protocols are presented. Participation in the collective monograph exceeds the legal requirement of a

minimum of 100 pages, with a total of 322.77 points from publications (monograph, articles, and studies).

No information on published textbooks and teaching materials is provided.

### **3. Teaching**

A certificate on the number of classes of Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, during the last 5 academic years is presented. According to this document the average annual class work exceeds 340 hours, equated to exercises. The specific disciplines are not mentioned in the submitted document. However, considering the scientific degree and the scientific interests of the candidate for Associate Professor, one can assume that the teaching activity corresponds to the academic profile of Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD.

The teaching activities are complemented with the supervision of 18 successfully defended graduates, as well as with 2 Erasmus+ mobility for teaching in the Czech Republic and Belgium.

### **4. Research activities**

The research interests of Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, concern topical issues both from the scientific point of view and regarding the contemporary needs of society. The competition thesis is devoted to the bioeconomy in Bulgaria as regards global and local challenges and development potential. The presented publications address issues related to the EU Common Agricultural Policy guidelines and the effects for the Member States and Bulgaria in particular; structural characteristics and perspectives of the agricultural sector in Southeast Europe; family entrepreneurship in farming. Important economic issues related to the competitiveness, efficiency, and technological level of the agricultural sector in a comparative perspective within the EU are studied, which gives the research a topical sound.

A list of 9 citations is presented, all of which are in journals with impact factor or impact rank. This also demonstrates the resonance among the scientific community at home and abroad of the issues studied.

The participation in scientific research and educational projects of Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, is directly related to both research



activities and the development of teaching capacity, which shows her focused efforts to build high competence in the scientific field of the competition.

## 5. Remarks and recommendations

My recommendations to Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, are to show more convincingly her capacity and opportunities for developing independent research and publications, which is undoubtedly demonstrated by the volume and quality of the presented scientific production in globally recognized databases. Considering the topics covered in the field of agribusiness in Bulgaria, I believe that review publications in Bulgarian would also contribute to the better development and solution of current problems facing Bulgarian business in the sector.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific, and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, fulfils the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Rules of Procedure, and the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees in the Agriculture University – Plovdiv.

Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD, clearly demonstrates skills for research in the field of agricultural economics, applying economic concepts and tools. The rich teaching activity and the scientific supervision of graduates, as well as the foreign experience, are a prerequisite for successful academic development in the future.

All of this gives me reason to evaluate her overall activity **POSITIVELY**.

I take the liberty to propose to the Honourable Scientific Jury to vote positively and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Chief Assistant Professor Rosica Petrova Beluhova-Uzunova, PhD**, as "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty of **Economics and Management**.

1 February 2024

Sofia



Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Zlatinov, PhD