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OPINION

regarding the competition for "associate professor" in the scientific specialty Economics and Management, announced in SG no. 97 of 21.11.2023 with candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Rositsa Petrova Belukhova - Uzunova, PhD by Prof. D.Sc. Julia Markova Doitchinova – University for National and World Economy determined according to Order No. RD 16-42 / 19.01.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

The candidate holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Plovdiv University, respectively, in "Macroeconomics" (2009) and "Accounting and Analysis" (2010). In 2014, she defended the educational and scientific degree "doctor" at the Agricultural University in Economics and Management (Diploma DR 67/03.11.2014). The same year, Dr. Belukhova-Uzunova was appointed to the academic position of assistant, and in 2017 was selected and appointed as the main assistant in the Department of Economics of the Agrarian University. The applicant's total work experience is 9 years, 2 months and 28 days.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "docent" chap. assistant professor Rositsa Petrova Belukhova – Uzunova 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 – 5 issues, which are not subject to consideration;
 - Monograph – 1 issue;
 - Publications with an impact factor – 18 issues
 - Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 9 issues;
 - Publications in conference proceedings – 1 issue;

The personal participation of the candidate in the specified 29 collective works is illustrated by the fact that in 19 - he is the first author, in 6 - he is the second, and in the remaining 4 - he is the third and subsequent author.

To prepare the opinion, all 29 mentioned publications are subject to analysis.

The candidate's scientific output scores 587.77 points and exceeds by 44% 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.

The candidate's educational employment in the last five years is 4,401 hours, which significantly exceeds the statutory limit. She gives lectures and conducts 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 presented scientific works can be grouped into five thematic areas, as follows: bioeconomy; competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture; impact of CAP on Bulgarian agriculture; restructuring of the agricultural sector; precision agriculture and innovation. Among them, the most significant are the results and contributions in the first direction. Based on an in-depth analysis of a wide range of literature, the definitions, visions and concepts of the bioeconomy are derived, the main sectors of the bioeconomy and their contribution to the development of the concept are clarified, and the relationship of the bioeconomy with sustainable development, the circular, green economy and the opportunities for a green transition. A methodological toolkit for assessing the contribution of individual sectors of the bioeconomy to the national economy has been developed, and a methodology for assessing the potential of individual crops for biomass generation has been adapted. The indicated scientific contributions and methodologies can be used in the development of strategic plans and other documents for the development of the bioeconomy.

The results and scientific contributions in the field of restructuring the agrarian sector deserve a positive assessment. A methodology has been developed for the analysis of the various directions of structural changes in the agrarian sector and the structural and sectoral level changes in the Bulgarian agrarian sector have been evaluated. The main socio-economic challenges to the development of agriculture in Bulgaria at the national and regional level have been assessed, and a complex comparative analysis has been made with Bulgaria's neighboring EU member states. On this basis, different models of family farms are derived, and recommendations are made for changes in policies for the development of family agriculture. These developments, together with the recommendations made regarding the reduction of imbalances and polarization in the structure of agricultural holdings and achieving a balanced and sustainable development of the regions, can be used in the development of the national agrarian policy and regional strategic documents.

In terms of the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture, a methodological framework was adapted for the analysis of three groups of indices characterizing the competitiveness of sunflower production. Indicators of the competitiveness of the viticulture sector, the economic results of various types of wheat grown under specific fertilization technologies and sowing rates, etc., have been critically evaluated.

A critical review of the development of the Common Agricultural Policy after Bulgaria's accession to the EU was made and a methodology for analysis and evaluation of the distribution of direct payments by groups of farms was adapted. On this basis, the distribution of direct was estimated payments during different program periods after Bulgaria's EU membership and a complex comparative analysis was made between the distribution of direct support in Bulgaria and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The connections of Agriculture 4.0 with digital technologies, intelligent agriculture, as well as the different visions and perspectives in the analysis of the concept deserve a high evaluation. At the same time, a methodology was adapted for the analysis and evaluation of the effect of the application of precise technologies in the production of soft fruits.

The candidate's scientific output has received public recognition. Nine scientific articles were cited 11 times in specialized scientific publications.

Along with his teaching activity, the candidate also develops active expert activity as a participant in two national projects (NNP "Healthy foods for a strong bioeconomy and quality of life" 2019 - 2023, Ministry of Education and Culture and Innovative models for increasing the competitiveness of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria (AGROIN), ДН 15-11/18.12.2018 2018 - 2020, FNI) and one international (New curricula in Precision Agriculture using GIS technologies and sensing data (CUPAGIS), 2018 - 2022, Erasmus+).

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.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Ch. assistant professor Dr. Rositsa Petrova Belukhova – Uzunova meets the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application, since:

- a teacher in the field of economics and management of agriculture has been established who in OKS Bachelor and OKS Master, annually significantly exceeds the normative academic employment of the Agrarian University;
- presents a significant number of scientific publications issued in authoritative scientific publications that exceed the minimum national requirements and those of the Agrarian University;
- scientific publications contain results of the nature of scientific contributions in current scientific fields;

All this gives me a reason to positively evaluate her/his 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. Rositsa Petrova Belukhova - Uzunova, assistant professor, PhD, as an "associate professor" in the scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture).

Date: 1.02.2024

Signature:.....



(Prof. Doctor of Science Julia Doitchinova)