



## STATEMENT

Regarding the competition for "Associate Professor" in the scientific speciality of Ecology and Ecosystem Protection, announced in State Gazette No. 94/05.11.2024, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Maria Krasimirova Chunchukova, from Associate Professor Dr. Gana Minkova Gecheva, Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski," appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. RD 16-12/07.01.2025 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

### 1. Brief Introduction of the Candidate.

Maria Krasimirova Chunchukova obtained her Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees from the Agricultural University (AU). She started working as an assistant at AU in 2013, and since 2018, she has held the position of Chief Assistant Professor. She has excellent proficiency in English. Her teaching experience spans 11 years. She actively participates in scientific conferences, with 17 poster presentations abroad and one oral presentation at a national forum.

### 2. General Overview of Scientific Output.

For the "Associate Professor" competition, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Chunchukova participates with a total of 27 works, grouped as follows:

- **Scientific publications in the specialized field – 27 in total, including:**
  - Publications related to her doctoral dissertation – 3 (not subject to review);
  - Publications with impact factor – 2;
  - Publications in peer-reviewed and referenced scientific journals – 22;
  - Publications in conference proceedings – 0.

Dr. Chunchukova's individual contribution to the 24 eligible works is illustrated by the fact that she is the first author in 12, the second author in 11, and the third author in one.

- **Textbooks – 0.**
- **Teaching manuals – 0.**

A total of 24 works is subject to analysis for the evaluation.

### 3. Teaching Activity

#### Teaching Workload of the Candidate

According to the provided report, the candidate has completed **3,412 teaching hours** during the period **2019–2024**. Each academic year within this period, Chief Assistant Professor Chunchukova has delivered over **200 hours of lectures**.

Her teaching activities also include supervising **8 successfully graduated Bachelor's students** and **9 Master's students**.

#### Published Teaching Materials

None.

#### Developed Curricula

The candidate has developed curricula for **two mandatory and three elective courses** in Bachelor's and Master's programs. One of these courses is taught in **English**.

#### **4. Research Activity.**

##### *Fields of Publication*

The candidate conducts research and publishes primarily in the field of **helminth fauna of fish in Bulgaria**. She has made significant scientific and applied contributions, including the **first recorded occurrences** of certain parasite species, hosts, and habitats in the country, as well as studies on the **accumulation of heavy metals**.

Dr. Chunchukova has a well-defined research profile, which is reflected in both her **teaching and scientific-applied activities**.

##### *Citations and Referencing of Scientific Work*

The candidate has **16 citations** in journals indexed in **Scopus and Web of Science**, **8 of which are in impact factor journals**.

##### *Participation in Scientific Projects*

She has participated in **four externally funded projects**, acting as an **academic mentor in two** and a **postdoctoral researcher in two**.

Additionally, she has been involved in **two projects funded by the Agricultural University**.

#### **5. Remarks and Recommendations.**

The candidate actively engages with students, having supervised 17 successfully graduated students. Dr. Chunchukova also has a significant number of participations in scientific forums. In this regard, I recommend that she continues her work with students and maintains her active participation in conferences, including oral presentations.

#### **6. Conclusion.**

Based on the analysis of the candidate's **teaching, scientific, and applied research activities**, I conclude that **Maria Krasimirova Chunchukova** meets the requirements of the **Higher Education Act (ZRASRB)**, its implementing regulations (**PPZRASRB**), and the **Rules of the Agricultural University for its application**.

The total number of points **exceeds the minimum national requirements**, with the candidate achieving **585 points** in the mandatory categories **A, B, G, and D**. Dr. Chunchukova demonstrates **strong teaching and pedagogical activity** and has made **undeniable contributions** to the **Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology**.

All of the above provides me with sufficient grounds to **give a POSITIVE evaluation** of her overall work.

I respectfully propose that the esteemed **Scientific Jury** also vote positively and that the **Faculty Council of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv** elect **Maria Krasimirova Chunchukova** as **Associate Professor** in the scientific field of **Ecology and Ecosystem Protection**.

Date: 03.02.2025

Plovdiv



.....  
(Assoc. Prof. Gana Gecheva)