



STATEMENT

of Prof. Viliانا Marinova Vasileva, PhD, Institute of Forage Crops - Plevn, professional field 6.1. Crop Production, scientific specialty "Crop Production", Member of the Scientific Jury appointed pursuant to order No. 16-17/14.01.2020 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Concerning the competition for occupation of the academic position "Professor", in the professional field 6.1. Crop Production, scientific specialty "Crop Production", announced in the State Gazette No. 93 of November, 26, 2019 by the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev, PhD from the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria

The documents submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition meet the requirements and procedure for occupying the academic position of "Professor", defined in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (promulgated in the State Gazette No. 38 of May 21, 2010, its amendments and supplements in the State Gazette No. 30 of April 3, 2018), The Rules for its implementation (promulgated in the State Gazette No. 75 of September 24, 2010, its amendments in the State Gazette No. of July. 6, 2018) and the procedure laid down in the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv (adopted at a meeting of the Academic Council of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv on April, 10, 2012, modified at a meeting of Academic Council of November, 5, 2018). All documents, incl. the evidence are carefully arranged. I met with them in detail.

1. Brief introduction of the applicant.

In brief for Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD. He graduated in Agronomy from the Higher Agricultural Institute (now Agricultural University) - Plovdiv in 1993. In 1993-1994 he worked as an Agronomist in an Agricultural cooperative in the village of Dubovik, Dobrich region. In 1994-1996 he was a teacher in the Agricultural College. In 1996, after winning a competition, he entered the Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute - General Toshevo as a Research assistant. In 2002 he was enrolled at a PhD at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. He successfully defended his PhD thesis and was awarded the educational and scientific degree of "Philosophy Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Crop Production". In 2006 he was appointed as a senior assistant at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, where he passed the stages of career advancement, as follows: Chief assistant - 2009, Associate professor - 2012. Teaching (lectures and exercises in crop production disciplines for Bulgarian and foreign students, training of students and PhD students) and research (field trials performing, publishing) are the main activities of the applicant. The teaching experience of Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD at the beginning of 2020 is 13 years.

2. General description of the scientific production.

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD participates in the competition with a total number of 132 scientific works, grouped as follows: 1. Works, covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Philosophy Doctor" – 9 issues (30.6 points), all of which under indicator G8 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - scientific publications submitted in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes (non-peer-

reviewed); 2. Works, covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" - 59 issues (391.3 points), 10 of which under indicator B4 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - papers and reports submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases (191 points) (non-peer-reviewed), and 49 issues under indicator G8 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria – scientific publications submitted in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes (200.3 points) (non-peer-reviewed).

The works with which the candidate participates in the current competition for the occupation of the academic position "**Professor**", covering the national minimum scientometric requirements are as follows: monograph - 1 issue (indicator B3 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 100 points), papers and reports submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases - 1 issue (indicator D 7 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 15 points), scientific publications submitted in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes - 44 issues (indicator G8 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 188.6 points). The candidate also presents 7 scientific-applied articles (do not form points), 2 published University textbooks (E22 indicator of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 8 points), 3 published University study guides (E23 indicator of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 42.2 points) and 6 training programs issues - (do not form points).

To prepare the statement, **46 scientific works** are subject to analysis. Thus, the personal participation of the candidate in them is: single author in 8 issues (17.4%); first author – 13 issues (28.3%); second author - 11 issues (23.9%); third and next author - 14 issues (30.4%).

The monograph is written on 112 pages and complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. It is structured properly and the triticale species are described in detail - from its creation to the cultivation in the practice, incl. varietal composition. The work is distinguished by its relevance and considerable both, theoretical and practical application.

Scientific works (31 issues) have been published in the following scientific issues: Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans (6), Research Journal of Agricultural Science (5), Scientia Agriculturae (4), The Journal of Management and Sustainable Development (4), Agricultural Sciences (2), International Journal for Research in Agricultural and Food Science (2), one each at Advanced Research in Life Sciences, Global Journal of Scientific Researches, International Journal of Farming and Allied Sciences, Journal of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, Bulgarian Journal of Crop Science, Science & Technologies, Scientific Papers Series Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development; and in proceedings of international conferences (14 issues). Of the 46 works, 31 issues, or 67.4% are in English, 14 issues, or 30.4% in Bulgarian, and 1 issue, or 2.2% in Russian.

3. Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD has 13 years of teaching experience at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, of which as assistant (3 years) and associate professor (7 years). He teaches the disciplines of "Crop Production", "Field Crops", "Tobacco Production" to "Bachelor" and "Master" degree students in the specialty of Agriculture, Zoo Engineering, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Agrarian Economics and Agribusiness.

Student employment training.

For the last five academic years (2014-2019), Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD has direct auditorium of lectures equated to exercises and extracurricular work for a total of 2953.8 hours (379.3 - 783.0 hours). The teaching activity is complemented by the supervision of three successfully defended PhD students (two of them major scientific supervisors, one of them - one scientific supervisor). Currently, Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD is the supervisor of four PhD students, three of them foreign students, who are in the process of training. In addition, 23 are the number of successfully graduated students under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev, respectively "Bachelor" degree (13) and "Master" degree (10) (2012-2018 periods).

Study materials published.

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD is the co-author of two published University textbooks on Crop production (2013 and 2019) and three University guides, respectively Cereal crops - a practical guide (2017), Legume crops - a practical guide (2017) and a Guide to Crop production Exercises (2019). They are valued as a significant contribution to the educational process.

Development of training programs.

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD develops 6 training programs for the disciplines "Crop Production", "Grain Production", "Field Crops" for the educational qualification degrees "Bachelor" and "Master", full-time and part-time education.

4. Research activities.

Areas of publication.

All research is focused on crop production with an emphasis on the study of biological and economic characteristics and elements of the technology of field crops. Logically, crop production is also a major area of publication by the applicant, with more than 1/3 of the work being devoted to triticale, the importance of which is known. Other crops - the subject of studies, respectively publication of the results obtained are wheat, barley, winter oats, maize, sunflower, sorghum, soybeans, coriander, basil and Kazanlak rose. The studies are methodologically properly conducted, the experimental results from them were thoroughly and at a high scientific level discussed, to which the work of the applicant as a researcher before his teaching activity contributed. He has also 7 scientific-popular articles published - part of his applied-oriented activity.

Eight scientific-theoretical and nine scientific-applied contributions have been formulated. They accurately reflect the results of the studies carried out and I fully accept the candidate's report prepared.

Citation and abstracting of scientific production.

The applicant and the results of his research are recognizable to the scientific community. For participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD submits 43 citations, almost 2/3 of them (28, or 65.1%) in scientific publications, submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases (Scopus and Web of Science). The cumulative Impact Factor (IF) is 52.165 according to InCites, Journal Citation Report – Clarivate Analytics and Scopus Journal Ranking (SJR). This is also a serious certificate for the scientific profile of Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD.

The high project activity of the applicant should also be noted. He participates in 5 scientific projects, and in two of them, co-financed by the EU - as an academic mentor. In the "Mobility projects in the higher education and science", component "Mobility of teachers, researchers and administrative staff in the higher education and science", Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD has passed a scientific specialization at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

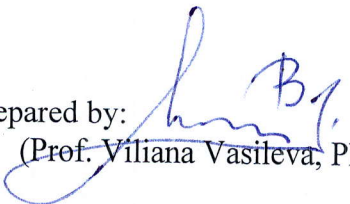
He has also participated in the project "Introduction of electronic distance learning forms at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv", as well as in the Global Yield Gap Atlas project (funded by the Gates foundation). This opportunity enriches the knowledge and contributes to enhancing his teaching skills and approaches.

5. Remarks and Recommendations. I do not have.

6. Conclusion

The analysis of the teaching, research, scientific-applied and publishing activities shows that Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev, PhD meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the Rules of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv for its implementation. He is the author of a monograph, author/co-author of 45 scientific publications, submitted in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes. He co-authored two textbooks and three manuals for practical training in the scientific specialty in which the competition was announced. Under his supervision, three PhD students were awarded the educational and scientific degree of "Philosophy Doctor" and four are undergoing training. Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev, PhD is recognizable in the international research and scientific space, which is supported by the large number of citations. All of this convinced I give a **positive** assessment of his overall activity. Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev, PhD is a contemporary University lecturer who provides high-level training in the three educational degrees of "Bachelor", "Master" and "Philosophy Doctor". It contributes to the provision of quality training of specialists in the agricultural sector, and thus to validate the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as the national center of agricultural science and education in Bulgaria. I venture to recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury also giving their positive assessment, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Crop Production at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev, PhD as a "**Professor**" in the scientific specialty "Crop Production".

February, 8, 2020.
Town of Pleven

Statement prepared by: 
(Prof. Viliama Vasileva, PhD)