



STATEMENT

on a competition procedure for the academic position "PROFESSOR" at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, in the area of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agriculture)", announced in the State Gazette, № 62 from 21.07.2023, with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov Atanasov

by assoc. Prof. Dr. Minko Atanasov Georgiev, appointed by Order № RD-16-899/25.09.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov was born in 1975. He graduated from the Technical School of Mechanization and Automation in Haskovo in 1994 and the Agricultural University – Plovdiv in 2000, majoring in Agricultural economics. He obtained a second diploma – "Professional Pedagogy" from the Centre of long-life learning at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv during his university period. During his studies, he worked on the family farm in his free time. He gained serious practical experience from 2001 to 2005 in Ireland, where he worked in a large livestock farm - Alan Gillis Dairy Farm, Ballyhook, Wicklow, as supervisor of "Dairy cows" and "Animal selection".

In 2007, Dimo Atanasov was appointed as an assistant professor at the Department of Economics, Agricultural University – Plovdiv. His teaching activity runs parallel to the development of a PhD dissertation in the field of sustainable agricultural systems. In 2013, he successfully defended it and was appointed to the position of chief assistant professor. In 2015, he obtained his habilitation after as "associate professor" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. From 2008 to 2016, Dimo Atanasov was Erasmus's coordinator for the Faculty of Economics. In 2016, he was elected Dean of the Faculty of Economics, and in 2020, he was re-elected to this position for a second time.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition procedure for "PROFESSOR", Dimo Atanasov participated with 25 scientific papers, which do not repeat the ones provided for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and the academic position "associate professor". They are grouped as follows:

- Publications, referenced and indexed in SCOPUS, with SJR – 5;
- Publications, referenced and indexed in Web of Science – 14;
- Publications, referenced in other databases – 5;
- Monograph – 1.

In the scientific works described above, Dimo Atanasov is the independent author of the monograph, the first author of 10 publications, the second author of 8 publications, and the third and following author of the remaining six publications. To prepare the opinion, I have analyzed precisely these 24 articles and 1 monograph.

3. Teaching activities

The teaching experience of assoc. prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov is over 16 and a half years. As an assistant, he conducted tutorial exercises with students, and as a chief assistant professor and associate professor, he mainly delivered lectures to bachelor and master students. The main disciplines he teaches are Agricultural Economics, Sustainable Development, Eco-Economics, Agricultural Policy, Business Logistics, Economics of Precision Agriculture, Economics of Animal Husbandry, etc. All these disciplines are taught in English to Erasmus students or other international students from universities outside Bulgaria.

Academic employment of the candidate.

During 2018 – 2023, Dimo Atanasov has conducted 4652,9 teaching hours, equivalent to tutorial exercises. His scientific and teaching activity is complemented by the guidance of graduates, developing diploma works and doctoral students. To date, he has more than 40 successfully defended graduates and 8 PhD students. Three PhD students have successfully defended their doctoral theses, one has been dismissed, and four are still studying.

Developed curricula.

Associate Professor Dr. Dimo Atanasov has developed and accredited one new Bachelor's degree program, "Bioeconomy" and one Master's degree program - "Bioeconomy". Training of students in these two programs started in 2022-2023 academic year. He participated in the development and implementation in practice of one more Master's degree program – "E-commerce".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov is the head of two master courses which are running and already have successfully graduated students: "Bioeconomy" and "European Agriculture and Rural Development" in English.

4. Research activities

Areas of publication.

The candidate in the competition has diverse publication activities, almost entirely of an economic nature. His scientific outputs are published in articles related to economics, sustainable development, agriculture, agricultural policy, bioeconomy, circular economy and ecosystems, law, innovation, etc.

His ***scientific contributions*** are theoretical, methodological and practical. The theoretical ones aim to clarify, enrich, and further develop the theoretical statements and concepts regarding the economic, ecological, social and technological aspects of the agricultural production systems and the institutional frameworks for their development. The methodological ones are related to creating tools for research, analysis and evaluation of the parameters in the production systems. A methodology for risk assessment in agriculture has also been developed. It helps entrepreneurs assess the factors creating risks for their business, to take proactive (preventive) or reactive actions to minimize dangers and ensure sustainable development. Methodologies for analysing and evaluating the technical and economic efficiency of various technologies in agriculture have been created and adapted. The practical-applied contributions are noticeable in using the created methodologies in practice. Conventional and innovative policies for developing agriculture and rural areas in the country have been put forward. The transformations in Bulgarian agriculture during the transition to a market economy have been tracked and analyzed. The main policies affecting both the structure of agriculture and socio-economic and demographic changes in rural areas are defined in a positive or negative direction.

I believe that those scientific works in which agriculture is indirectly affected and the candidate goes out of the field of traditional discussion, which he has defined as his scientific profile, are also worthy of attention. In some of them, it is a matter of human resources management. In others, the relationship between agriculture and forest territories and the relationship between socio-economic and technological factors explain modern political-economic concepts.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

The citations of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov in publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information are 33, in monographs and collective volumes are 3, in non-refereed journals with scientific review are 30.

Participation in scientific projects.

According to the presented report, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov participated in 10 projects, one national and two international projects with an educational focus and one national and four international projects with a scientific focus. In six projects, he is the head or coordinator of their administration and management, impressing the total number of points - 245 points in connection with the conditions under the ZARAS and its regulations.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I recommend Dimo Atanasov to develop new textbooks and teaching materials for the disciplines he teaches.

6. Conclusions

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and practical activities, as well as the successful supervision of PhD students, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov Atanasov meets the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulation for the Application of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for its application. He can hold the academic position of **"professor"** in the area of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific speciality "Economics and Management (Agriculture)".

All this gives me a reason to evaluate his overall activities **POSITIVELY**.

I would like to propose to the Scientific Jury to vote **POSITIVELY** and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agrarian University – Plovdiv to elect **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov Atanasov** as **"PROFESSOR"** in the area of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific speciality "Economics and Management (Agriculture)".

Date: 23.10.2023


REVIEWER:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Minko Georgiev)