



Opinion

Regarding the competition for "professor" in the field of higher education 3.0 Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture), announced in State Gazette No. 62 of 21.07.2023 with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov Atanasov

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Georgieva, associate professor at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the field of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty Accounting Reporting, Control and Analysis of Business Operations, appointed according to Order No. RD-16-899/25.09.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov was born on 16.03.1975. He completed his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Atanasov built his academic career at the same university, holding the successive academic positions of assistant, chief assistant and associate professor since 2007. He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Economics, demonstrating his management skills. In addition to teaching and research activities, he has gained practical experience through work on a family farm and abroad in the dairy farming sector. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov has made a significant contribution to promoting and expanding the Erasmus+ program at the Agricultural University as its long-standing coordinator. In this capacity, he supports the mobility of students, doctoral students and teachers. He also leads and participates as a researcher in many national and international educational and research projects. He contributes to the introduction of innovative curricula and courses at the Agricultural University. He also participates in the editorial boards of specialized scientific journals.

2. General description of research output.

For the competition for "Professor", Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov participates with a total research output of 62 papers, grouped as follows:

- ❖ Scientific publications on the subject area – 62, of which:
 - Related to the doctoral dissertation – 3, which are not subject to review;
 - Used for the associate professor competition – 34, which are not subject to review;
 - Used for the current professor competition – 25, subject to review.

Of these:

- ✓ Monograph – 1
- ✓ Publications referenced and indexed in SCOPUS – 5
- ✓ Publications referenced and indexed in Web of Science (with impact factor – 1) – 14
- ✓ Publications referenced in other databases – 5

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov's personal contribution in the indicated 25 papers is illustrated by the fact that 2 (8%) are independent publications, in 9 (36%) he is first author, in 8 (32%) second author, and in the remaining 6 (24%) third and subsequent author.

25 papers are subject to analysis for this opinion.

Assoc. Prof. Atanasov meets the minimum scientometric criteria for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific field 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, and some (D and E) significantly exceed them:

Group of indicators	Minimum requirements (points)	Candidate's result (points)	Fulfillment (%)
A	50	50	100
B	-	-	-
B	100	100	100
Г	200	222.76	111.38
Д	100	675	675
E	100	365	365
	550	1412.76	256.86

The candidate's research output is fully sufficient in volume and relevant in content to the announced competition.

3. Teaching activities.

As of September 2023, the candidate has 16 years and 5 months of teaching experience, including 8 years as an associate professor. He teaches courses in Business Logistics, Agricultural Economics, Investment Policy, Eco-economics, European Agricultural Policy to bachelor's and master's students at AU-Plovdiv.

For the period 2018-2023, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov's classroom hours averaged 930 hours per year, which is significantly above the required annual minimum.

His teaching is complemented by the supervision of 3 successfully defended doctoral students and 4 current doctoral students.

He has developed 2 e-textbooks and 1 e-study guide.

He participated in the development and accreditation of three new specialties: "Bioeconomics" for the bachelor's degree; "Bioeconomics" for the master's degree and "E-Commerce" for the master's degree at AU-Plovdiv.

He is the head of the Master's course "Bioeconomics" at AU-Plovdiv.

4. Research activities.

Areas of publication.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov works in the following main research areas:

- Agricultural economics and policy – research on markets, prices, incomes, costs and profitability in agriculture; analysis of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and its implementation in Bulgaria. His contributions are related to assessing the effectiveness and balanced distribution of direct payments.
- Sustainable development of rural areas – research on the economic, social and environmental aspects; regional imbalances and models for overcoming them.
- Modern technologies and innovations in agriculture – assessment of new technologies and techniques, fertilizers and cultivation methods; their impact on efficiency, productivity, quality and sustainability.

- Organic farming – research on the economic results of organic crop cultivation; the advantages of organic farming.
- Risk management in agriculture – theoretical models and practical approaches for risk assessment and control in the agricultural sector.
- Structural changes in agriculture – analysis of the causes and consequences of changes in specialization, production concentration and market positions.

Based on the presented list of contributions, I can summarize that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov has significant scientific contributions in the field of agricultural economics, which can be divided into three groups:

- ✓ Theoretical contributions in clarifying and further developing the concepts of economic growth and sustainable development of agriculture.
- ✓ Methodological contributions in adapting and creating approaches and tools for analyzing and evaluating the parameters in the operation of agricultural systems.
- ✓ Practical and applied contributions by developing useful methods for farmers to analyze, evaluate and optimize the technical and economic efficiency of production.

Citations and referencing of research output.

The total number of citations of Assoc. Prof. Dimo Atanasov's papers is 66, which is a good indicator of the dissemination and use of his research by the scientific community. Many of the citations are in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases such as Scopus and Web of Science, which shows that his work has reached and is recognized by the international scientific community. There are citations in monographs and collected volumes, indicating that his results are also used in larger and more comprehensive scientific papers. The topics of the citing publications correspond to Assoc. Prof. Atanasov's main research areas.

Participation in research projects.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov participates as a manager or coordinator on behalf of the Agricultural University in many international projects under programs such as Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, European Innovation Partnership and others. This highlights his organizational skills and contribution to expanding the university's international cooperation. He also engages as a researcher in national research projects funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund, the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as from internal university sources, thus contributing to the development of applied research in the field of agricultural economics. The topics of the projects are closely related to his research interests and publications - sustainable development of rural areas, modern technologies in agriculture, agricultural policy, organic farming, etc.

5. Comments and recommendations.

I have no comments. I can only recommend that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov continue in the same spirit as both a lecturer and a researcher.

6. Personal impressions.

I have the pleasure of knowing the candidate personally and my impression is that he is an intelligent, non-confrontational, well-organized and responsible colleague. He not only demonstrates high professionalism in his field, but also cooperates effectively with his colleagues, creating a favorable environment for teamwork and mutual assistance.

7. Conclusion

Based on the materials presented and the analysis of the pedagogical, research and applied research activities of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov, I believe that he meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementation Regulations and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for holding the academic position of "Professor".

This gives me reason to POSITIVELY assess his overall activity and confidently vote IN FAVOR of awarding the academic position of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov.

I would like to recommend to the esteemed Academic Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov as "Professor" in the scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture).

24.10.2023
Plovdiv

PREPARED

THE OPINION:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Georgieva)

