



OPINION

Regarding a competition for the acquisition of the academic rank of Professor in the higher educational area 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine; professional field 6.3. Animal husbandry; scientific specialty “Aquaculture, fish breeding, fish farming and industrial fishery”, announced in State Gazette, issue 62 of 21.07.2023, with a candidate Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefka Nikolova Stoyanova, specialty “Fish breeding, fish farming and industrial fishery”, elected a member of the Academic Jury by Order № RD – 16-897/ 25.09.2023 of the Rector of the University of Agriculture-Plovdiv

1. Brief presentation of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova graduated the Zooveterinary Academy in Kharkiv, Ukraine in 1988 as a Master in Zooengineering. In 1995 she acquired a degree in Biology and Chemistry from the Faculty of Biology at Sofia University. In 2003 she became a Doctor of Trakia University – Stara Zagora, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry of Non-ruminant and Other Animals, in the specialty “Fish breeding, fish farming and industrial fishery”. She has completed several specializations in Moscow, France and Spain, which enriched her professional experience. The documents submitted by Assoc. Prof. Nikolova attest to her substantial background as a researcher and lecturer in the area of aquaculture. She has participated in a great number of research projects and international scientific forums, while authoring and co-authoring many scientific publications in aquaculture. At present she is an associate professor at the Department of Animal Husbandry with the University of Agriculture, Plovdiv and since 2020 she has served as Head of the department.

2. General description of the scientific production

The candidate in this competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolova, significantly exceeds the national minimal requirements for acquisition of the academic rank of Professor. The submitted scientific materials per main criteria amount to 1533,9 points against the necessary 550. The greatest number of points have been awarded for criterion Д (citations), related to the visibility of her scientific activity among the international scientific community: her

scientific publications account for 550 points out of the minimal 100. The total scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolova over her entire career can be summarized into 101 research works, of which: 91 scientific publications, 1 monograph, 2 studies, 1 textbook, 4 sections of an almanac, 1 teaching manual. The candidate has presented a total of 39 scientific publications for the purposes of this competition, 10 of which appeared in IF and IR journals, to two of which she was the sole author.

The personal involvement of the candidate in the mentioned 39 research publications is distributed as follows: sole author of 7, of which two were published in IF and IR journals, first author in 13, second author in 8, and third and consecutive author in 11 scientific works.

3. Lecturing activity

Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolova has taught for 13 years, and during this period she grew from a part-time lecturer to a head of department and member of the Faculty Council of the University of Agriculture – Plovdiv. She has made many contributions through her lecturing activity as a co-author of a textbook and a teaching manual, and a developer of 41 curricula in various areas and professional fields at UA-Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolova was the scientific adviser of two successful doctoral candidates and 20 successful BSc and MSc graduates.

4. Research activity

The research experience of Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolova spans over 24 years. Her main scientific interests lie in the area of sustainable aquaculture, where she has placed a special focus on environmental and organic technologies in warm water fish breeding. Assoc. Prof. Nikolova was the manager of 4 research projects, 2 project tasks, a participant in 7 national research and educational projects, one national programme and three international research projects. As a project manager, she has obtained original results and applied research contributions, related to the growth of various fish species in polyculture, the impact of separate factors of the water ecosystem on fish productivity, the clarification of a number of questions on the complex interaction of their main factors in warm water basins in Bulgaria, and issues on the cultivation and reproduction of main carp species in warm water basins in Kazakhstan. Assoc. Prof. Nikolova has experimented with sturgeon fish cultivated under hyperintensive industrial stocking technologies. Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolova has participated in the development of innovative solutions for environmental and organic warm

water fish breeding; Integrated fish and duck farming, which is an innovative approach to increasing the environmental and organic carp breeding; Studying the possibilities of applying environmental and organic technologies to monoculture and polyculture fish farming and introducing organic production; Strategic planning of aquaculture in Bulgaria; Innovative approaches to feeding cultivated fish; Diversifying of aquaculture species in Bulgaria.

The importance of the obtained results from the research activity of the candidate is expressed in the scientific interest among the international academic community and the high number of citations.

5. Remarks and recommendations.

I have no remarks, nor recommendations to the candidate with respect to the presented research production.

6. Conclusion.

On the basis of the performed analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and applied research activity of the candidate, I have found that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova complies with all of the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the respective Rules of the University of Agriculture. The minimal national criteria for the academic rank of Professor in all groups have been met, and for some groups they have been exceeded.

All of the above allows me to give my overall **POSITIVE** evaluation on the research and lecturing activity of the candidate.

I would like to urge the honorable Academic Jury and the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Agriculture – Plovdiv to vote in favor of conferring the rank of Professor in the scientific specialty “Aquaculture, fish breeding, fish farming and industrial fishing” to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova.

Date: 13.10.2023

Stara Zagora

Reviewer



(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefka Stoyanova)