

# OPINION



by Professor Plamen Pavlov Petrov from the Department of Animal Sciences at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

**Regarding:** competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" in the fields of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine; professional direction 6.3. Animal husbandry; scientific specialty "Aquaculture, fish farming, fish farms and industrial fishing", announced in DV, no. 62 of 21.07.2023

**Reason for drawing up the standpoint:** Order No. RD 16-897/ 25.09.2023 of the Rector of Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

**Candidate for the competition:** Assoc. Prof. Ludmila Nikolaevna Nikolova, Department of Animal Sciences at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

## Brief introduction of the candidate

**Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova** was born on 05.11.1965 in Kharkiv, Ukraine. In 1988, she graduated the Veterinary Institute - Borisenko / Veterinary Academy in the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine, as a master animal husbandry engineer. In 1995, she obtained a master's degree in pedagogy, by specialty "Biology and Chemistry" from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and in 2003 successfully defended her PhD thesis for the acquisition of a PhD degree at the Trakia University - Stara Zagora, by specialty "Fish farming, fish farms and industrial fishing". In the period 1995-1998, Assoc. Professor Nikolova was an Animal Husbandry engineer in the Animal Husbandry Department of AU-Plovdiv. She was a research assistant at the Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture - Plovdiv from 1998-2014, and acquired the academic position of "Associate Professor" in 2011. Assoc. prof. Nikolova was a temporary Director of the same institute in 2013-2014. She has been an associate professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv since 2014, head of the department since 2020.

## General description of the scientific production

Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Nikolova has a total output of 101 works, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications by professional direction – 91;
- Monographs – 1;
- Studios – 2;
- Textbooks – 1
- Manuals – 1.
- Almanac section – 4;
- Study guide – 1.

Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Nikolova participated with a total of 41 works in the competition for the academic position of "professor", including:

- Scientific publications in editions that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 29, incl. 10 in journals with impact factor and impact rank;
- Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – 10;
- University textbook – 1;
- University study guide – 1.

It should be noted that the candidate provided a list of 36 more scientific publications and 5 manuals that were not included for consideration in the current competition.

### **Teaching activity**

Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Nikolova gives lectures and classes in 19 disciplines with students in 10 specialties in Bachelor's degree and 7 specialties in Master's degree. She is the author of all study programs at the University, in the direction of the competition – Aquaculture; Biological foundations of aquaculture; Aquaculture technology; Fish farms and fisheries; Fish farming; Maritime and Fisheries; Biological aquaculture; Recreational Aquaculture and Fisheries; Production of safe and quality foods from hydrobionts; Good aquaculture practices; Fundamentals of Aquaculture; Genetic resources and features of selection in fish farming; Fish Reproduction; Technologies for integrated cultivation of hydrobionts and birds; Integrated waterfowl and Aquaculture; Biotechnology of reproduction in fish farming; Breeding programs in fish farming; Management of genetic resources in fish farming; Digitization in aquaculture. Assoc. Prof. Nikolova's teaching activity is complemented by giving lectures abroad within the framework of the Erasmus+ program. She supervised 20 graduates who successfully defended their diplomas, of which 10 in the "Bachelor's degree" and 10 in the "Master's degree". She supervised two successfully defended Ph.D. students - from the Agricultural University – Plovdiv and from the National Agricultural Research University in Kazakhstan, and is currently the supervisor of two more Ph.D. students, one of whom has the right to defend. She is a co-author of "Textbook of biological animal husbandry" and "Guide for laboratory-practical classes on reproduction of farm animals". According to the provided reference, the volume of her teaching work in the last 5 years is higher than the established standard - an average of 664 hours per year (with a standard of 360), incl. 354 hours of lectures.

### **Research activity**

The publications presented by Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Nikolova are entirely in the field of the scientific specialty in which the competition is held. The main scientific directions in which she works are: ecological and biocompatible technologies in warm water fish farming; research and application of ecologically and biocompatible technologies in polycultural and monocultural fish farming, possibilities for introducing biological production; studies of sturgeon fish cultivated under conditions of super-intensive industrial cage technologies; integrated fish and poultry farming; strategic planning in Bulgaria's aquaculture; research and application of innovative approaches in

feeding cultured fish; innovative approaches in establishing genetic variability in local, spatially distant natural fish populations; sustainable aquaculture and research and application of innovative approaches in processing fish into healthy quality products.

**Requirements fulfillment for occupying the academic position "Professor":**

**Group A:** The candidate has defended a dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic: "Study of some technological elements of ecological and biocompatible technology for integrated fish and duck breeding in fish breeding ponds" Defended 2003 - 50 points.

**Group C:** Habilitation work. Assoc. prof. Nikolova has presented 12 publications (of the required 10) in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information - **267** points, of the required 100.

**Group D:** The candidate has presented 27 scientific publications, of which 17 are in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases, the sum of points that the candidate collects under this group of indicators is **249.97** points, at 200 required.

**Group D:** Associate Professor Nikolova has submitted information on 50 citations - a total of **550** points, out of the required 100.

**Group E:** The candidate is the supervisor of two successfully defended Ph.D. students. She was the leader or participant in 14 national scientific or educational projects, as well as the leader of one international project. She co-authored one university textbook and one teaching guide – a total of **416.93** points out of the required 100.

I accept the presented habilitation reference and the scientific contributions indicated in it.

**In conclusion, I can summarize that according to all indicators in groups from A to E, the candidate significantly exceeds the requirements (1533.9 points out of the required 500) under ZRASRB, Art. 2b, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for occupying the academic position "Professor" by area of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, PN 6.3 Animal husbandry.**

**Conclusion**

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activities, I believe that Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova meets the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. The materials for the current competition present Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Nikolova as an established scientist and teacher, and the achieved results are a significant contribution to the science and practice in the field of aquaculture as a whole and raise both her authority and the authority of the Agricultural University.

This gives me reason to rate her overall activity **POSITIVELY**.

I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect **Assoc. prof. Ludmila Nikolaevna Nikolova** as "**Professor**" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary medicine, professional direction 6.3. Animal husbandry, scientific specialty "Aquaculture, fish farming, fish farm and industrial fishing."

Date: 16.10.2023 r.  
Plovdiv

**POINT**

**PREPARED BY:**.....

(prof. Pl. Petrov)

