

OPINION

Regarding the competition for the academic position “Professor” in major “Aquaculture, fisheries, fish farming and industrial fishing”, announced in the State Gazette № 62 from 21.07.2023 with applicant Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolaeva Nikolova, PhD, submitted by Prof. Teodora Lyudmilova Popova, PhD, Engr. from the Institute of Animal Science-Kostinbrod appointed for a member of the Scientific jury according to Order 16-897/25.09. 2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University in Plovdiv

1. Brief introduction of the applicant

In the present competition for awarding the academic position “Professor”, documents were submitted by only one applicant – Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova, from the Agricultural University in Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Nikolova was born on 05.11.1965. In 1988 she graduated from the Zooveterinary Institute Borisenko, a part of the Zooveterinary Academy in Harkov, Ukraine, as MSc in Animal engineering. In 1995, the applicant acquired MSc in Pedagogics from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, and in 2003 successfully defended PhD thesis in the Agricultural faculty of Trakia University, Stara Zagora. In the period 1995-1998, Assoc. Prof. Nikolova is an animal engineer in the Department of Animal Husbandry at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv. From 1998 until 2014, the applicant worked as a research associate in the Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture- Plovdiv, as in the period 2013-2014, she is also director *ad interim* of the Institute. From 2014 to date, she is Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science in the Agricultural University in Plovdiv.

2. General description of the academic production

The total scientific production, presented by Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolova contains 99 works, of which 60 regarding the PhD thesis, the previous competition for associate professor and others in the area of the major that are not subjected to review in this opinion. In the present competition, Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Nikolova participates with 41 works that are divided as follows:

- Habilitation work- scientific publications in journals peer reviewed and indexed in the world data bases with scientific information – 12 pcs.
- Papers and reports published in scientific journals with peer review, indexed in the world databases with scientific information – 17 pcs.
- Papers and reports published in scientific journals without peer review or edited collective volumes – 10 pcs.

The personal participation of Assoc. prof. Lyudmila Nikolova in the works presented above is illustrated by the fact that she is a single author of 6 of the papers, in 13 she is the first author, in 8 she is the second, and in the rest she is the third or next author.

Ten of the papers are published in journals with SJR, two of which with IF.

3. Teaching activity

The candidate demonstrates extensive teaching activity. Assoc. Prof. L. Nikolova participates in the training of students from 10 majors (BSc) - Agriculture – Animal Engineering, Animal Engineering with Information Technology, Agroforestry Systems and Mountain Agriculture, Agronomy (Hydromelioration), Agribusiness, Plant Breeding, Agronomy-Grain-production, Plant Biotechnology, Tourism, Agricultural tourism, and 7 majors in MSc - Animal Husbandry, Management of the systems for the production of safe and high quality food, Selection and reproduction of animals, Poultry, Waterfowl and non-traditional birds, Digitization in animal husbandry, Poultry breeding and processing of poultry products. The academic disciplines in which the candidate conducts training are: Aquaculture, Biological foundations of aquaculture, Aquaculture technology, Fish farming and fishing, Fisheries, Marine work and fisheries, Organic aquaculture, Recreational aquaculture and fisheries, Production of safe and quality food from hydrobionts, Good fish farming practices, Basics of aquaculture, Genetic resources and selection in fish farming, Fish reproduction, Technologies for integrated rearing of hydrobionts and birds, Integrated rearing of 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. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolova is the author of the curricula for the mentioned disciplines.

From the reference of the candidate's educational employment, it is clear that it is significant and amounts to a total of 3321.1 hours, for the last 5 years. The teaching activity of the candidate abroad also makes an excellent impression - within the framework of the Erasmus + program Assoc. Prof. Nikolova was a lecturer in Aquaculture in the undergraduate course of students majoring in Animal Engineering at the Russian State Agrarian University MSHA. K.A. Timiryazeva (Timiryazevskaya Academy) - Moscow. The teaching activity is complemented by the supervision of twenty successfully defended graduates in the Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Assoc. Prof. Nikolova is the co-supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv, and from the National Agrarian Research University in Kazakhstan. In addition, the candidate supervises one doctoral student with the right of defense at the Agricultural University and 1 who started their studies in the doctoral program "Fisheries and industrial fishing" at the Kazakh National University Al Farabi.

For the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Nikolova presents 1 textbook ("Organic animal husbandry") and one manual ("Guide for laboratory practical classes in reproduction of farm animals").

4. Research activity

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolova, as a result of which important contributions to the science and practice have been made, is dedicated to sustainable aquaculture, ecological and biocompatible technologies in warm water fish farming, integrated breeding of birds and hydrobionts, research and application of innovative approaches in fish nutrition, strategic planning and diversification of aquaculture in Bulgaria, innovative approaches in establishing genetic diversity in local, spatially distant natural fish populations, research and application of innovative approaches in fish processing to obtain high-quality and healthy fish products.

Undoubtedly, the best certificate of the scientific production of any scientist is the citation of their works. For participation in the competition, the applicant submits 24 citations from scientific publications in works indexed in the world databases, 12 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, as well as 14 citations from papers and in non peer reviewed journal with scientific review.

Assoc. Prof. Nikolova is the head of one international educational project and a participant in three others under the COST program of the United Nations Development Program. Her participation in national research projects is as follows:

Head of 3 projects and 2 project tasks approved for funding by the Agricultural Academy;

Head of 1 project approved for funding by AU-Plovdiv;

Participant in 5 projects funded by Agricultural Academy;

Participant in 1 scientific project approved for funding by the National Science Fund;

Participant in 1 national scientific program funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture;

Participant in 1 national educational project financed by the Ministry of Education and Culture

As a recognized scientist, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolova is a member of a number of management committees and working groups for the development of strategic documents, participates in the composition of the editorial boards of prestigious international scientific publications, and is a member of the scientific committees of significant international forums in the field of animal husbandry.

5. Remarks and recommendations


I do not have any critical remarks concerning the documents submitted for the competition

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and research activities, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its implementation and Regulation of the Agrarian University for its application. This is evidenced by her rich teaching activity, the scientific publications included in prestigious journals, finding an echo in the international scientific community, as well as the participation in national and international research and educational projects. All this gives me reason to positively evaluate her overall activity.

I propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agrarian University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Dr. Lyudmila Nikolaevna Nikolova as "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Aquaculture, fisheries, fish farming and industrial fishing".

Date: 13.10.2023
Sofia

OPINION SUBMITTED BY: 
(Prof. Teodora Popova, PhD, Engr.)

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