



OPINION

REGARDING: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN THE SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "SWINE BREEDING," ANNOUNCED IN No. 65/08.08.2025, WITH CANDIDATE **ASS. PROF. IVELINA ASENOVA ZAPRYANOVA, PhD,** FROM THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY – PLOVDIV, DEPARTMENT OF "ANIMAL SCIENCES"

OPINION PREPARED BY: ASSOC. PROF. **STANIMIR GEORGIEV DIMITROV, PhD,** TRAKIA UNIVERSITY – STARA ZAGORA, FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 6. AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE, PROFESSIONAL FIELD 6.3. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, SPECIALTY "BREEDING OF FARM ANIMALS, BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION," APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY ACCORDING TO ORDER RD 16-1037/10.10.2025 OF THE RECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY – PLOVDIV

1. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Ass. prof. Ivelina Zapryanova PhD, is the sole candidate in the announced competition for the academic position of ass. prof. in Swine Breeding. She has submitted all required documents in accordance with the Act for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and its regulations as applied at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Ass. prof. Ivelina Zapryanova completed her higher education at Trakia University – Stara Zagora, where she obtained the degrees "Master" during the period of 1992–1997. In 2012 she defended her dissertation and obtained the educational and scientific degree "pHD" in the scientific specialty "Swine Breeding." In 2000, after passing a competitive examination, she joined the Department of Animal Sciences as an ass. prof. Since 2007 she has held the academic position of ass. prof., performing teaching activities, scientific work, participation in projects, scientific conferences, and others.

She has good command of English and Russian (written and spoken) and works with the operating system WINDOWS, MS OFFICE and the statistical software package SPSS 24.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

Ass. prof. Ivelina Zapryanova participates in the competition at the Department of "Animal Sciences" for "Associate Professor" with a total output of **30** works, grouped as follows:

Works in the nomenclature specialty

Works used to obtain the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" – **5**

Published in impact-factor journals – **4**

Published in peer-reviewed journals – **20**

Published in other journals – **5**

Popular science articles and works outside the nomenclature specialty

Works outside the nomenclature specialty – **2**

Papers at world and European congresses and international symposia

Poster presentations – **9**

Papers at scientific forums in Bulgaria

Oral presentations – **3**

Poster presentations – **5**

Her personal contribution to the listed publications can be illustrated as follows: single-author papers – **5**, first author – **10**, second author – **17**, and in the remaining **4** publications as third or subsequent author.

The candidate has participated in **7** international scientific forums with **9** poster presentations. Participation in national scientific forums is reflected in **6** contributions: **3** oral presentations and **5** poster presentations.

3. TEACHING ACTIVITY

Teaching workload

According to the provided report from AU-Plovdiv, the candidate has a total of **2,644.65** hours of direct teaching workload for the period 2020–2025, including practical classes, lectures, and extracurricular activities with Bachelor's and Master's students.

Development of curricula

In the report, ass. prof. Ivelina Zapryanova states participation in the development of **7** curricula for Bachelor's degree programs and **6** curricula for Master's degree programs.

The certificate issued by AU-Plovdiv indicates a total academic experience of **25.07** years.

4. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Areas of publication

The research activity of ass. prof. Ivelina Zapryanova is primarily in the field of swine breeding – ecological aspects of production, ethological observations of animals, study of zoo-hygienic parameters in pig rearing, examination of blood values, biochemical indicators and semen production in boars, use of biologically active substances in pig nutrition, analysis of the state and development trends in swine breeding, and the influence of various factors on the reproductive functions of sows.

Citations and referencing of scientific output

In the available literature, **7** citations were identified in Bulgarian impact-factor journals and foreign journals, and **1** citation in a Bulgarian journal.

Participation in scientific projects

The provided report confirms leadership of **1** university-level scientific project for the period 2023–2024.

5. REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I have no remarks.

As a recommendation, considering the extensive scientific information the candidate has gathered, I suggest that in the future she publishes more popular science articles in specialized journals/newspapers aimed at disseminating her results among farmers and producers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the scientific output, teaching activity, and research activity of the candidate, I consider that ass. prof. Ivelina Asenova Zapryanova meets the requirements of ADASRB, its implementing regulations, and the rules of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for holding the academic position of “ass. prof.” in the scientific specialty “Swine Breeding.”

All this gives me grounds to give a **POSITIVE** evaluation of her overall activity.

I take the liberty to propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect ass. prof. Ivelina Asenova Zapryanova as ass. prof. in the scientific specialty “Swine Breeding.”

Date: **01.12.2025**

Stara Zagora

Prepared by:


assoc. prof. Stanimir Dimitrov, PhD