



OPINION

regarding the competition for "Associate Professor" in field of higher education 3.0 Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture), announced in State Gazette No. 99 of 21.11.2025 with candidate Chief Assistant Dr Krum Hristov Hristov

from Associate Professor Dr Vanya Georgieva, Associate Professor at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv in field of higher education 3.0 Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Accounting, Control and Analysis of Economic Activity, appointed according to Order No. RD-16-134/26.01.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as member of the scientific jury

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Krum Hristov Hristov was born on 07.08.1981 in Bulgaria. He completed his secondary specialised education at the Agricultural High School in the town of Sadovo during the period 1996-2000 with a specialisation in "Agricultural Economics".

The candidate obtained his higher education entirely at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. He began his education with a Bachelor's degree in the specialty "Agrarian Economics" (2000-2004), after which he consecutively completed two Master's programmes in the specialties "Management of Agribusiness Organisations" (2004-2006) and "Accounting and Control" (2006-2007). During the period 2015-2018, he obtained an educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional direction 3.8 Economics, specialty "Economics and Management (agriculture)". The candidate has expanded his qualifications through participation in international training programmes, including a seminar on social security and poverty reduction policies in developing countries at the International Poverty Reduction Centre of the Ministry of Commerce of China in 2019 and a course on precision agriculture and communication skills at Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia in 2022.

The professional development of Chief Assistant Hristov began in the practical sphere of agrarian statistics and policies. During the period 2006-2007, he worked as an expert in the "Agrostatistics" Department of the Regional Directorate "Agriculture and Forests" – Plovdiv, where he collected, systematised and processed statistical information in the field of agriculture and implemented the Farm Accountancy Data Network at regional level. In 2007-2008, he continued his career as an expert in the "Agrostatistics" Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Sofia, where he coordinated the Farm Accountancy Data Network at national level and participated in working groups for preparing measures from the Rural Development Programme.

From 2010 to the present, Chief Assistant Hristov has been a lecturer at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, where he conducts academic classes in a wide range of disciplines, including Rural Development, World Agricultural Economy, Project

Development and Management, Project Evaluation, Agrarian Economics, Economic-Mathematical Modelling, Regional Economics and others. Concurrently with his teaching activity, from 2008 to the present, Chief Assistant Hristov has been a member of the board of trustees of the Foundation "The Land – Source of Income" – Plovdiv, a non-governmental organisation registered for public benefit, where he applies an integrated model for supporting small business in rural areas, provides financial support for local economic initiatives and conducts training for agricultural producers.

2. General description of the scientific output.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Chief Assistant Krum Hristov participates with a total output of 25 works, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty – 25 in total, of which:
- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 4 in total, which are not subject to review;
- Publications in journals with impact factor (refereed and indexed in SCOPUS) – 2 in total
- Publications in refereed journals (refereed and indexed in Web of Science) – 15 in total;
- Publications in other journals (refereed in other databases) – 2 in total;
- Monograph – habilitation work – 1 in total
- Published book based on defended dissertation work – 1 in total;

The personal participation of Chief Assistant Krum Hristov in the indicated 21 works is illustrated by the fact that 2 are independent, in 5 he is first author, in 4 he is second author, and in the remaining 10 he is third and subsequent author.

For the preparation of the opinion, **21 works** are subject to analysis.

3. Teaching activity.

The teaching activity of Chief Assistant Dr Krum Hristov began in 2010 in the Department of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, where he continues to work to the present day. As of 31.12.2025, his total teaching experience at the Agricultural University amounts to fifteen years and eleven months.

Within his academic activity, Chief Assistant Hristov conducts academic classes in a wide range of disciplines in the educational qualification degrees "Bachelor" and "Master". Among the main disciplines taught are Rural Development, World Agricultural Economy, Project Development and Management, Project Evaluation, Agrarian Economics, Economic-Mathematical Modelling, Regional Economics and other related courses in the field of agrarian economics and regional development.

The analysis of the candidate's teaching workload for the last five academic years (2021/2022 - 2025/2026) shows a considerable volume of teaching work and stable commitment to the educational process. In total, for the five-year period under review, the volume of teaching work performed amounts to 5520.7 academic hours, which represents an average of approximately 1104 hours per year. The structure of the academic workload includes an average of approximately 224 hours of lectures, 461 hours of exercises, 44 hours of classes in a foreign language, 168 hours under the Erasmus programme and 207 hours of extra-curricular work per year. These indicators testify to a significant exceeding of the minimum regulatory requirements and demonstrate active and systematic engagement of the candidate with the educational process.

It is important to note that Chief Assistant Hristov conducts academic classes not only in Bulgarian, but also in a foreign language (English), and actively participates in the

international Erasmus programme, which further enriches his teaching profile and demonstrates his ability to work in an international academic environment.

The teaching activity of Chief Assistant Hristov is complemented by his active participation in the supervision and consultation of students in the preparation of their graduation theses. As of the date of preparation of the present review, the candidate has successfully supervised 24 graduates in the educational qualification degrees "Bachelor" and "Master". His graduates include both Bulgarian students and foreign Master's students, including students from China, studying under the Erasmus programme and specialised Master's programmes. The subject matter of the graduation theses that Chief Assistant Hristov supervises is closely related to his scientific interests and covers issues of agrarian economics, regional development, project management and sustainable development of rural areas.

4. Research activity.

Areas of publication

The research activity of Chief Assistant Dr Krum Hristov is focused on current problems of agrarian economics, regional development and sustainability of rural areas. The main thematic directions of his research include structural changes in the Bulgarian agrarian sector and their impact on the development of rural areas, family farms as a driver of rural development, the application of the EU Common Agricultural Policy in Bulgaria with particular emphasis on direct payments and their distribution among agricultural producers, regional differences and opportunities for balanced territorial development, innovations in agriculture including precision agriculture and the use of GIS technologies, as well as issues of sustainable development and greening of agriculture in the context of the European Green Deal and renewable energy in rural areas.

The scientific output of Chief Assistant Hristov includes one monograph, entitled "Impact of structural changes in the agrarian sector on the development of rural areas in Bulgaria" (2025), and one book based on his dissertation work "Opportunities for development of family farms" (2023). He is author and co-author of over twenty scientific articles published in renowned international and national journals. A significant part of the publications are in journals indexed in Scopus, such as Scientific Papers Series Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, Trakia Journal of Sciences, Agris On-Line Papers in Economics & Informatics and others. The candidate's publications are concentrated around key topics such as the structure of Bulgarian agriculture after accession to the EU, the distribution of direct payments among agricultural producers, family farming in the context of global challenges, the prospects of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2023, the regional dimensions of changes in Bulgarian agriculture, as well as the socio-economic challenges facing regions and agriculture in the new EU member states.

The scientific results of Associate Professor Hristov have been presented at over twenty international and national scientific conferences in Bulgaria, Romania and other European countries, including his regular participation in the annual international conference of the University of Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest "Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture", the international scientific conferences "Business and Regional Development" in Stara Zagora, as well as specialised conferences on agrarian economics and rural development.

Citation and refereeing of scientific output

The scientific publications of Associate Professor Hristov enjoy recognition in the scientific community, which is confirmed by their citations in renowned international publications. The analysis of citations shows that the candidate's works are referenced in scientific journals with high impact factor, indexed in prestigious databases. His joint publications in the field of structural changes in Bulgarian agriculture, distribution of direct payments and regional development represent a particularly significant contribution. The publications of Chief Assistant Dr Hristov, devoted to the analysis of direct payments in Bulgarian agriculture, the structure of the Bulgarian agrarian sector ten years after accession to the EU, family farming and the prospects of the Common Agricultural Policy, have been cited multiple times in scientific publications such as the Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science, Scientific Papers Series Management Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, Agris On-Line Papers in Economics & Informatics and other renowned journals. The citations cover a wide geographical scope, including researchers from Romania, Poland, Hungary and other European countries, which testifies to the international recognition of his scientific contribution.

Participation in research projects

Chief Assistant Hristov possesses rich experience in the development and implementation of research projects at national and international level. He has participated as a member of the research team in numerous significant projects financed by various donor organisations. At national level, he has been a participant in the project "Innovative models for increasing the competitiveness of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria" (AGROIN), financed by the Scientific Research Fund for the period 2018-2020, as well as in the project "Impact of structural changes in the agrarian sector on the development of rural areas in Bulgaria" for the period 2018-2021.

At international level, Chief Assistant Hristov has been a member of the research team in a series of European projects under the Erasmus+ programme, including the projects CUPAGIS (New curricula in Precision Agriculture using GIS technologies and sensing data) and NICOPA (New and Innovative Courses for Precision Agriculture) for the period 2018-2022, which are aimed at developing new curricula in the field of precision agriculture. He also actively participates in projects related to the green transformation of higher education, such as the projects U-GREEN (University cooperation for promoting the GREEN transition and sustainable practices in education and training) for the period 2022-2024 and European Green University (UniGreen) for the period 2023-2026, in which he is a member of the research team of a work package devoted to diversity, inclusion and multiculturalism.

Particularly significant is the participation of Associate Professor Hristov in the project of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) for mapping and documenting cases of family farming in the Europe and Central Asia region with the aim of improving knowledge exchange through good practices, implemented during the period 2022-2023. This project demonstrates the international recognition of the candidate's expertise in the field of family farming and sustainable development of rural areas.

5. Comments and recommendations.

I recommend that Chief Assistant Dr Hristov direct his efforts towards developing and publishing textbooks or teaching aids for the disciplines he teaches, which would enrich the educational process and would complement his significant scientific

contribution. I encourage the candidate to continue his active research activity with a focus on publications in journals with higher impact factor and expansion of his international scientific collaborations.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis carried out of the pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activity of the candidate, I consider that **Chief Assistant Dr Krum Hristov** meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Regulations and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application, as he possesses solid academic training, long-standing and intensive teaching experience with an academic workload significantly exceeding the regulatory requirements, active research activity with publications in renowned publications and numerous citations, as well as rich experience in national and international research projects.

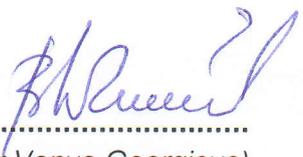
All of this gives me grounds to evaluate **POSITIVELY** his overall activity.

I take the liberty of proposing to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Chief Assistant Dr Krum Hristov Hristov** for "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty **3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (agriculture)"**.

Date: 20.02.2026

Plovdiv

PREPARED THE
OPINION:.....


(Assoc. Prof. Dr Vanya Georgieva)