

OPINION



regarding the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty “*Economics and Management (Agriculture)*”, announced in State Gazette issue 99 of 21.11.2026, with candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Krum Hristov Hristov, for the needs of the Department of Economics, Agricultural University – Plovdiv,

by Prof. Dr. Dimo Atanasov, area of higher education 3.0 Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty “*Economics and Management (Agriculture)*”, appointed by Order No. RD 16-134/26.01.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as a 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 education at the Agricultural High School – Sadovo, majoring in Agricultural Economics. He obtained his higher education at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, where he successively acquired the degrees of **Bachelor** in Agricultural Economics (2004), and **Master’s degrees** in Management of Agribusiness Organizations and in Accounting and Control (2007).

During the period 2015 – 2018 he was a PhD student at the Department of Economics of AU-Plovdiv. He successfully defended a doctoral dissertation entitled “*Opportunities for the Development of Family Farms*” and in 2018 obtained the PhD degree in the scientific specialty *Economics and Management (Agriculture)*.

His professional career began in 2006 as an expert at the Regional Directorate “Agriculture and Forestry” – Plovdiv, Department of Agrostatistics. During 2007–2008 he worked as an expert in working groups for the development of measures under the Rural Development Programme at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Sofia. Since 2010 he has been an Assistant Professor, and since 2019 – Chief Assistant Professor at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. He teaches courses related to rural development, agricultural economics, project management and evaluation. Alongside his academic work, Krum Hristov is actively engaged in the Foundation “Land – Source of Income,” contributing to the social inclusion of minority groups in agribusiness and to the sustainable development of rural areas.

2. General description of scientific output

In the competition for Associate Professor, Krum Hristov has submitted a report with 25 scientific works, grouped as follows:

- Publications related to his doctoral dissertation – 4 (not subject to analysis in this opinion);
- Publications submitted for the competition – 21, including:
 - Habilitation thesis – monograph – 1;
 - Publications indexed in SCOPUS – 2;
 - Publications indexed in Web of Science – 15;
 - Publications indexed in other databases – 2;
 - Published book based on defended dissertation – 1 (not subject to repeated analysis as a dissertation, but contributing to the overall scientific profile);
 - Textbooks – 0;
 - Teaching manuals – 0.

His personal contribution is evidenced by authorship distribution: 4 single-authored works, 3 as first author, 4 as second author, and 10 as third or subsequent author, reflecting both independent research and active participation in collaborative scientific studies.

The present opinion analyzes the above-mentioned 21 scientific works.

3. Teaching activity

Krum Hristov has more than 15 years of teaching experience. He teaches students at Bachelor's and Master's levels. The main courses he teaches include: *Rural Development, World Agriculture, Project Development and Management, Agricultural Policy, Agrarian Economics, Economic-Mathematical Modeling, Regional Economics*, and others. In addition, he teaches a wide range of courses to Erasmus+ students.

His teaching is characterized by a strong practical orientation, up-to-date content, and integration of results from scientific and project research.

Teaching workload

Over the last five years, his average annual teaching load (lectures, seminars, practical classes) exceeds 1000 hours. He has supervised 24 graduates in the preparation of their Bachelor's and Master's theses.

Developed curricula

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov has developed curricula for all courses he teaches, some of which are in English.

4. Research activity

His research interests demonstrate clear thematic consistency, relevance, and applied orientation. They focus on the challenges and opportunities of Bulgarian agriculture for sustainable development, with emphasis on family farms, rural development policies, and structural changes in the sector. His scientific contributions can be grouped into four main areas:

- Common agricultural policy and rural development – analysis of CAP impact after Bulgaria's accession to EU; evaluation of direct payment distribution; challenges for producers in investment support schemes; research on farmers' attitudes and recommendations for more effective policy implementation.
- Role of small farms in Bulgarian agriculture – critical analysis of challenges facing small producers and recommendations for improving their access to support.
- Competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture – development of methodologies for assessment of competitiveness and opportunities for increasing added value in the sector.
- Structural changes in agriculture — analysis of restructuring trends, support models for family farms, and strategies for balanced regional development.

Citations and references of the scientific production

The candidate reports a total of 5 citations referring to 2 of his publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. These citations appear in international journals indexed in SCOPUS, demonstrating the scientific significance and relevance of his research and its use by other scholars.

Participation in research projects

His project activity is at a high level. He has participated in international, national, and internal university projects, including:

- *Innovative Models for Increasing the Competitiveness of Agricultural Holdings in Bulgaria (AGROIN)* — funded by the National Science Fund (2018–2020);
- **UNlgreen** – European University Alliance – Erasmus+;
- **Green Impact** – Erasmus+ KA2;

- **NICOPA** – Erasmus+ KA2;
- **CUPAGIS** – Erasmus+ KA2.

5. Remarks and recommendations

His scientific output shows clear thematic consistency and a strong practical orientation toward key issues in Bulgarian agriculture and rural areas. For further development of his scientific profile, more active publication in high-impact international journals is recommended, which would increase international visibility.

Given the strong link between his research, teaching, and practical activities, further integration of research into the educational process through specialized teaching materials is encouraged. This would enhance the transfer of scientific results to students and further strengthen his academic profile.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, administrative, scientific, and applied activities, I consider that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov meets the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the regulations for the implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the rules of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. He exceeds the minimum national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor. The total score according to the national requirements for scientific, pedagogical, project and administrative activities is 602.91 points.

This gives me grounds to evaluate his overall activity **positively**.

I therefore propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov Hristov to the academic position of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty *Economics and Management (Agriculture)* for the needs of the Department of Economics, Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Date:

Plovdiv

Prepared by:

(Prof. Dr. D. Atanasov)