



OPINION

Regarding the competition for "PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional field: 3.8 Economics; scientific speciality: "Economics and management (agriculture)", announced in the State Gazette No. 99 / 21.11.2025 with candidate **ASSOC. PROF. DR BORYANA LYUBCHEVA IVANOVA**

by Prof. dr Ivan Dimitrov Penov, appointed according to Order No. RD 16-133 /26.01.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as Chairman of the Scientific Jury

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. dr. Boryana Ivanova received a Master's degree (Agricultural Economics) from the University of National and World Economy in 1999. In 2007, she defended her dissertation on the topic: "Agricultural Cooperatives in Bulgaria during the Accession to the European Union". She received a doctoral degree from the University of National and World Economy.

From 2001-2004, she was an assistant; from 2004-2007, a senior assistant; from 2007-2012, a chief assistant; and from 2012, an associate professor at the Department of Economics at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. dr Boryana Ivanova has held the following administrative positions: 2012-2016, Director of the Educational and Information Centre; 2019 – 2024, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Accreditation; and since 2024, Rector of the Agricultural University-Plovdiv.

I have known Assoc. Prof. dr. Boryana Ivanova since she joined the Agrarian University in 2001. Over the years, she has established herself as a promising researcher, lecturer, and administrator. She is organised and purposeful in her work.

2. General description of the scientific output.

For the competition for "professor" Assoc. Prof. dr Boryana Ivanova presented 55 scientific publications in the nomenclature of the speciality works, grouped as follows:

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 4 pieces, which are not subject to consideration;
- Publications related to the procedure for associate professor - 17 pieces, which are not subject to consideration.
- Publications not used in procedures - 2 pieces
- Textbook - 1 piece.
- Publications not repeating those submitted for previous procedures - **31 items.**

For the preparation of the opinion, 31 publications are subject to analysis

- Published habilitation thesis 1 item
- Articles and reports in Scopus: 6 items
- Articles and reports Web of Science: 4
- Articles and reports in refereed journals with scientific review: 14 items
- Studies in non-refereed journals with scientific review: 2 items
- Chapter of a collective monograph in Web of Science: 2 items
- Chapter of a collective monograph in other publications: 2 items

Indicators		Показатели	Required for profesor	Achievement
A	Dissertation for the degree of "Doctor"	1	50	50
B	Habilitation thesis	3	100	100
Г	Publications	4 до 10	200	309,65
Д	Citations	11 до 13	100	450
Е	Doctoral students, projects, and teaching	14 до 21	100	255
Общо			550	1164,65

Twenty-seven publications are co-authored, and four are independent; 12 are published in editions indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. In terms of quantity, the candidate has presented sufficient scientific production in accordance with the established scientometric indicators of the Agrarian University.

3. Teaching activity.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova is a member of the Department of Economics for 25 years. Over the past five years, she has had a significant teaching load of 3584 hours, comprising 1910 hours of lectures, 684 hours of tutorials, 865 hours of extracurricular activities, and 126 hours in English with international students. Her average annual teaching load is 717 hours. She has two doctoral students.

Assoc. Prof. Dr Boryana Ivanova lectures on Microeconomics, Labour Economics, E-commerce, Trade Economics, Economic and Mathematical Modelling, and Economics of Cooperatives. All courses are taught in Bulgarian and English.

4. Research activities.

Areas of publication.

The research activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivanova can be grouped into five main areas. The first area concerns climate change and its impact on socio-economic processes and policies. Methodological frameworks have been developed for assessing ecosystem services and integrating climate factors into territorial planning.

The second area concerns cooperative behaviour. Although research in this area is of growing importance worldwide, in Bulgaria it is relatively poorly represented. The reasons for this lie in the transition processes that led to the bankruptcy of many cooperatives. Research in this direction is essential because more joint (cooperative) actions are observed than the theory explains. Assoc. Prof. dr Ivanova is one of the few scientists in the country who study the joint actions of economic agents.

The third direction, bioeconomy, is related to the current policy in the agrarian sector. The concept of bioeconomy is defined, and the potential of biological resources in agriculture is studied.

The fourth area concerns agrarian policies. The role of direct payments and structural changes in agriculture and rural areas has been studied. Methods for assessing sustainability and resource potential have been proposed.

The fifth area is Institutional Economics. The normative system has been studied, and it has been proven that frequent legislative changes create instability in the institutional environment, increase transaction costs, and limit economic activity.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

The total number of citations of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova is 109 publications, of which 22 are in Bulgarian publications, 81 are in foreign publications, and 6 are in dissertations.

Thirty-one citations have been submitted for this competition, of which 28 are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, and 3 are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review.

Participation in scientific projects.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has participated in a total of 26 projects: 16 research, 3 educational, and 7 administrative. In 6 of them, she was a leader; 5, a coordinator; 10, a researcher; 1, a member of the management board; 3, an expert. Six of the projects are funded internally by the Agricultural University; 10 are funded nationally; 10 are international projects.

5. Comments and recommendations.

I have no significant comments on the research and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. dr Boryana Ivanova. I would encourage her to continue working in the fields of cooperative behaviour and the role of the institutional environment for the development of the agricultural sector. These areas have the potential to explain current challenges and to contribute to the development of theory and practice.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and applied activities, Assoc. Prof. dr. Boryana Lyubcheva Ivanova meets the requirements of the National legislation and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application. The scientific output of Assoc. Prof. dr. Boryana Ivanova significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements.

All this gives me reason to evaluate her overall activity **POSITIVELY**. I would like to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agrarian University - Plovdiv also to vote positively and elect Assoc. Prof. dr **BORYANA LYUBCHEVA IVANOVA** as "**PROFESSOR**" in the scientific speciality 05.02.18 Economics and Management (Agrarian Economics).

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Plovdiv

PREPARED BY


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