



OPINION

regarding the competition for "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty **Economics and Management (Agriculture)**, announced in the State Gazette, issue 99 of 21.11.2026, with candidate Senior Asst. Dr. Krum Hristov Hristov from the Department of Economics, Agrarian University, Plovdiv,

by Prof.DSc. Julia Markova Doitchinova, appointed according to Order No. RD 16 134/26.01.2026 of the Rector of the Agrarian University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Senior Asst. Dr. Krum Hristov is a graduate of the Agrarian University. He successively defended a Bachelor's degree in agricultural economics (2004); Master's degrees in the specialties "Management of Agribusiness Organizations" (2006) and "Accounting and Control" (2007) and the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the program "Economics and Management (Agriculture)" (2018) in the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Economics. Since 2010, Hristov has been an assistant professor at the Agrarian University, and in 2019 he was elected as a chief assistant professor.

During this period, the candidate enriched his training with short-term specializations at the Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia and the International Center for Poverty Reduction at the Ministry of Commerce of China.

2. General description of the scientific output.

In the competition for "associate professor" Dr. Krum Hristov participated with a total output of 25 works, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 23 pieces, of which:
 - ✓ Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 4 pieces, which are not subject to consideration;
 - ✓ Publications with an impact factor - 2 pieces;
 - ✓ Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals - 15 pieces;
 - ✓ Publications in conference proceedings - 2 pieces;

The personal participation of Dr. Krum Hristov in the mentioned 23 works is illustrated by the fact that 4 are independent, in 4 - he is the first, in 4 - he is the second, and in the remaining 11 - he is the third and subsequent author.

Information and evidence for published textbooks and study guides are presented in the documents for participation in the competition.

For the preparation of the opinion, 19 publications are subject to analysis, of which 17 are in English.

The total number of points that the candidate collects for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position "associate professor" under Art. 2b, para. 2, 3 and 5 of the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Annex to Art. 1a of the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria are 602.91. They exceed the required 400 points by more than 50%. The largest number of points (above the minimum requirements) are those collected for scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information.

3. Teaching activity.

The candidate for the academic position has 15 years and 11 months of pedagogical work experience at the Agrarian University as an assistant and chief assistant. His study courses are included in the curricula of the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs.

The candidate's educational employment.

The competition documents present a reference for 5520 hours of classroom and extracurricular employment during the last 5 academic years in the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs. The indicated number of hours is significantly above the standards for the academic workload of the lecturers at the Agricultural University.

The teaching activity is supplemented with information about the supervision of 24 successfully defended graduates.

No information is presented about developed curricula.

4. Scientific research activity.

Four main areas have been formed in the candidate's scientific production. In the first of them - the common agricultural policy and rural development, the emphasis is placed on the analysis of the impact of the CAP after Bulgaria's accession to the EU, assessment of the distribution of direct payments, challenges facing producers in participating in investment support, research on farmers' attitudes and recommendations for more effective implementation of policies.

The second area assesses the role of small farms in Bulgarian agriculture. The challenges facing small producers have been analyzed and critically assessed, and recommendations have been developed to improve their access to support.

The publications in the third scientific area are dedicated to the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture. The reviewed articles contain the author's developed methodologies for assessing competitiveness with a focus on the opportunities for creating and increasing added value in the sector.

The publications in the fourth area examine trends in the restructuring of agriculture, models for supporting family farms, and strategies for balanced regional development, outlining structural changes in the agricultural sector. The importance of this area for the candidate's scientific production is demonstrated by his monographic work "Impact of Structural Changes in the Agricultural Sector on the Development of Rural Areas in Bulgaria". Based on the review of the key factors for the restructuring of agriculture, the analysis of the relationship between structural changes and farm strategies and their impact on the local economy, employment, and social infrastructure, a sector and structural analysis of agriculture, of farm restructuring. Of special interest is the analysis of the specialization of agricultural production and the structural transformations of farms in a regional context. Hristov skillfully uses the derived trends and conclusions in the third chapter, which examines the key institutional reforms and their impact on rural areas. The emphasis is on the role of the CAP and political support instruments; on environmental requirements for the period 2023-2027; on the digitalization and modernization of the agricultural sector. On this basis, strategies for balanced regional development have been derived and integrated approaches for combining agricultural policy and local economic development policy have been proposed.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

The majority of the candidate's publications are indexed and referenced in authoritative world-renowned databases of scientific information, which is a prerequisite for their dissemination among researchers from different countries.

The documents for the selection procedure for the academic position of "associate professor" provide information on 5 citations.

Participation in scientific projects.

The candidate has successfully worked on various scientific, educational and practical-applied projects. The competition documentation provides information on participation in three international projects and two national scientific projects.

5. Recommendations.

My recommendations for the candidate's future activities are:

- to continue his active research and publication activities;
- to utilize the results of his extensive research activities in teaching by including them in teaching materials, textbooks and aids.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activities, I believe that the achieved results, publications in prestigious publications, scientific and applied contributions and citations meet the requirements of the Law on the Promotion of Education, Research and Training of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Law on the Promotion of Education, Research and Training of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application.

All this gives me reason to evaluate his overall activity POSITIVELY.

I would like to propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agrarian University - Plovdiv elect Krum Hristov Hristov as an "associate professor" in the scientific specialty Economics and Management (agriculture).

23.02.2026

Signature:

(Prof. DSc. of Economics Julia Doitchinova)