



STATEMENT

REGARDING a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Organization and management of production (agricultural business)", professional field 3.7. Administration and management, in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, announced in SG no. 6 of 21.01.2022. The competition was announced for the needs of the Department of Management, Faculty of Economics, Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

BY Prof. Roumen Ivanov Otouzbirov, PhD. Faculty of Economics, Trakia University, Scientific specialty: Organization and management of production (quality management), Professional field: 3.7. Administration and management, Field of higher education: 3.0. Social, economic and legal sciences. Appointed a member of the scientific jury according to Order № 474 / 22.02.2022 of the Rector of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

1. General information about the candidate

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" an application has been submitted by one candidate - Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Alexiev Alexiev, PhD from the Department of Management at the Faculty of Economics of TrU. The information submitted with the application is complete, reliable and prepared in accordance with the requirements of Art. 78 para 1 of the Regulations for Academic Staff Development (RASD) of TrU.

The education and training of the candidate correspond to the format of the competition. In 2008 he graduated from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Two years later he obtained a master's degree "European Expert in Agriculture and Rural Areas" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. In the period 2011 - 2014 he was a PhD student in Economics and Management (agriculture) at the Department of Management, Faculty of Economics at Trakia University, Stara Zagora. In 2014 he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on "Efficiency and competitiveness of Bulgarian beekeeping" at Trakia University, Stara Zagora and acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the same scientific specialty. All the necessary diplomas for the required educational levels have been presented. The candidate is fluent in English in both speaking and writing at upper-intermediate level - B2. He has mastered and applies computer skills in SPSS, FRONTIER, OFFICE, etc. He has completed a pedagogical course for acquiring an additional teaching qualification. All relevant certificates have been attached.

After a successful competition in May 2014, Georgi Alexiev was appointed an assistant professor in the Department of Management, Faculty of Economics at TrU, Stara Zagora. Since October 2015, he has held the academic position of "Chief Assistant Professor" in the same department.

2. Candidate's fulfilment of the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of RASD of Trakia University for the academic position "Associate Professor".

Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Alexiev Alexiev, PhD has presented documents that are in accordance with the scientific indicators set in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (RILDASRB) and RASD of TrU (Appendix 8.5) as follows by groups:

- **Group A** (50 points required) - attached Diploma for the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor", № 0048/07.07.2014– score of **50** points.
- **Group B** (100 points required) - written monograph, ISBN 978-954-305-601-9 – score of **100** points.
- **Group C** (200 points required) - 23 publications presented - score of **321,30** points.
- **Group D** (50 points required) – citations presented - score of **100** points.
- **Group E** (without minimum requirements) - documents from TrU presented – score of **95** points.
- **Group F** (min. of 50 points required) - materials and references submitted – score of **150** points.

In accordance with Appendix 8.5, the minimum requirements for the academic position „associate professor“ are **450** points. The candidate has submitted scientific production, materials and references for participation in the competition, totalling **816,30** points, thus exceeding the minimum national and additional requirements by 366,30 points or by more than 81 % of the required minimum.

3. General description and characteristics of the candidate's scientific output:

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Alexiev Alexiev, PhD has submitted 25 scientific papers (all of them following the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"), grouped according to the minimum and additional requirements in the attached list:

- Independent monograph - one, with the character of a habilitation thesis, 145 pages, in Bulgarian;
- Chapters from a collective monograph - three, being an independent author of two and the leading of two co-authors of the third; a total of 88 pages; in Bulgarian;
- Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world renowned databases with scientific information - 13 pcs. totalling 73 pages. In 5 of them he is an independent author, in 3 he is the first, in 3 he is the second and in 2 - the third or subsequent author. All of them are in English.
- Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (n=7 with a total of 51 pages). In 3 publications he is an

independent author, in 2 he is the first and in 2 he is the second author.

- One published university textbook or a textbook used in the school system - 127 pages, independent author

The generalized quantitative characteristic of the scientific publications (n=24 without the habilitation thesis) is indicative of a very good author's independence in scientific publications – comprising more than 58% of his work. It is important to note that there are papers published in journals with Impact Factor (IF) and Impact Rank (SJR). The data presented so far provide reason for a high assessment of the parameters of the scientific publications of the candidate.

4. Teaching activities

4.1. *Involvement in teaching activities.* At present Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Alexiev Alexiev, PhD has 8 years of experience as a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at TrU. For the last 3 years he has conducted 1267.5 hours of teaching, an average of 422 hours per year or 62 hours above the norm. The candidate teaches in 4 bachelor's and 3 master's degree programmes. The main commitment was to deliver lectures and seminars in the discipline of Product Competitiveness. From the beginning of the current academic year he also teaches the course Quality Management. It is worth mentioning that the course itself is delivered entirely in English at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. This is indicative of the candidate's sufficient competence and workload to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor".

4.2. *Published educational materials.* In addition to the independently developed university textbook, the candidate in the competition has presented 5 course programmes of study, developed in co-authorship, for the Bachelor's degree programme.

4.3. Scientific supervision of graduate students. Seven students successfully defended their diploma theses - 5 in the Bachelor's degree and 2 in the Master's degree programme.

The above activities show a serious commitment of the candidate to the teaching profession.

5. Scope of research activity.

5.1. Areas of publication.

- Production potential and sustainable development of Bulgarian beekeeping
- Production and institutional models and methodologies in agrarian business
- Potential and sustainability of production and consumption of organic products

The main thematic focus is on the sustainable development and competitiveness of production and markets of organic products, which is in line with the scientific specialty of the competition - "Organization and management of production (agricultural business)"

5.2. Citations and referencing of the candidate's scientific work.

The candidate for associate professor, Chief Assistant Professor G. Alexiev, PhD has presented a list and copies of 7 citations. 6 of these are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases. These assessments are indicative of the recognized international scientific value of the respective publications. They comprise a score of 100 points for the competition, which exceeds twice the minimum requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

5.3. Participation in research and educational projects.

In the period of 8 years, Dr. Alexiev has participated in 9 projects - 4 national and 5 university projects. He has been the leader of 1 national and 1 university project. This serious research activity has been reflected in and has contributed to subsequent publications. His participation in scientific forums with 18 scientific papers should also be taken into consideration.

5.4. Contributions to science and practice. The scientific publications indicate that the main focus in the scientific work of the candidate is on the complex analysis of the organization of production, the creation and implementation of models, tools and policies for the sustainable development of agriculture in a market economy (in particular, beekeeping and organic products). The publications contain important theoretical and methodological, as well as concrete practical results that can be put into practice in the field of agriculture.

I fully accept the candidate's self-assessment of the scientific contributions of his scientific work. I am convinced that they contribute to the enrichment of scientific knowledge and the development of agricultural business.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations.

I recommend the candidate for associate professor to continue and deepen his research activities in the field of organic production - opportunities for competitiveness, conditions for sustainable development and especially the creation of models for successful management decisions. I also recommend that future research and publication activities be aimed at renowned international journals, as well as at specific Bulgarian producers and processors.


CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the teaching, scientific and scientifically applicable work of the candidate, I believe that Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Alexiev, PhD has a profile of a scientist, researcher and lecturer, and fully meets the requirements of LDASRB, RILDASRB and the Regulations of Trakia University for its application.

The above gives me every reason to evaluate **POSITIVELY** his overall work.

Please, allow me to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at Trakia University - Stara Zagora to elect Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Alexiev Alexiev, PhD for "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty "Organization and management of production (agricultural business)", professional field 3.7. Administration and management, in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences.

10th May 2022
Stara Zagora


Signature:.....
(Prof. Roumen Otouzbirov, PhD)