



## **STANDPOINT**

from **Assoc. Prof. Dimitrina Alexieva Drbohlavova, PhD**

Scientific specialty “Poultry farming”, professional field 6.3 „Animal husbandry“, higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine“, retiree

**Regarding:** competition opened for the academic rank “Associate Professor”, scientific specialty “Poultry farming”, professional field 6.3 „Animal husbandry“, higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine” announced in the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

### **1. Information about the competition**

The competition was open for the needs of the Department of Animal Husbandry – Non-ruminants and other animals at the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University and announced in State Gazette issue 104 of 8 December 2020. I am appointed as a member of the academic jury for this competition with Order 305/15 February 2021 of the Rector of Trakia University.

### **2. Brief information about the applicant in the competition**

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. **Hristo Lukanov Hristov** is the only applicant in the open competition. He was born on 20 May 1981 in Sevlievo. He completed his secondary education in 1999. In 2005, Dr Hristo Lukanov graduated as Master in Veterinary Medicine at the Trakia University. In 2009, he completed successfully the Master programme in poultry farming, specialty “Animal Husbandry” at the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University. In 2016, he defended a PhD thesis for conferral of the PhD educational and academic degree (Professional field 6.3 „Animal husbandry“) entitled “Investigation on egg production and egg quality in Rhode Island x Schijndelaar crosses“. During the period 2005-2007, the applicant has worked as a practicing veterinarian. From 2007 to 2013, he worked as assistant professor in the Regional Diagnostic Veterinary Medical Institute – Veliko Tarnovo. In 2016, he was appointed as assistant professor in the Poultry farming unit, Department of Animal Husbandry – Non-ruminants and other animals at the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University. From 2019 to present, Dr. Hristo

Lukanov works as Chief Assistant Professor in the Poultry farming unit. The applicant is closely associated with activities of national exhibition and decorative poultry husbandry, performing management functions in the Bulgarian Poultry Breeders Association and in the Union of fanciers and small domestic animal breeders in Bulgaria.

### **3. Compliance to the requirements for conferring the academic rank**

The applicant has fulfilled all minimum national requirements for the academic rank “Associate professor” in scientific specialty “Poultry farming”, professional field 6.3 „Animal husbandry“, higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine” as well as the additional criteria according to Appendix 8.1. of the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the Trakia University, Stara Zagora. The applicant not only covers, but substantially exceeds the required score for some of most important groups of parameters: D (Г), E (Д) and H (З), as seen from Appendix 8.1.

### **4. Evaluation of teaching & learning activity of the applicant**

The applicant performs practical training for all courses taught at the Poultry farming unit with students from the Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Economics from Zooengineering, Agronomy, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Agrarian Economy majors. Since 2016, he also gives part of lectures in some of courses taught at the department. When he was a full-time PhD student (2013-2016) Dr. Lukanov performed practical training in courses taught in the Poultry farming unit, so I have direct impressions about his teaching activities at that time. The applicant also shows skills in individual work with students, as evidenced by the fact that he was tutor of ten students having successfully defended a Diploma thesis for Zooengineering Bachelor and Master degrees. Hristo Lukanov has participated in the update of curricula of courses with introduction of new themes. He is co-author of “Manual of Practical Training in Poultry Farming” and “Study Notebook for Practical Training in Poultry Farming” for students majoring in the Zooengineering Bachelor programme.

### **5. Brief review of research works/ publications of the applicant**

In the present competition, Chief Assistant Professor Hristo Lukanov Hristov participates with a total of 34 articles in the professional field, out of which 21 published in editions refereed and indexed in a world scientific databases as well as 13 articles published in, non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective works. Four of publications are in journals with Impact factor and/or SCImago Journal Rank.

In the group of parameters “B” from Appendix 8.1, the applicant presents a monograph entitled “The quails from the genus *Coturnix* in nature and agriculture” published in 2020, covering the minimum requirement of 100 points.

A mandatory additional requirements for conferral of the academic rank “Associate Professor” according to Appendix 8.1 is the publication of a teaching aid with minimum score of 20 points. The applicant presents two teaching aids in co-authorship (“Manual of

Practical Training in Poultry Farming” and “Study Notebook for Practical Training in Poultry Farming”) with total score of 20 points, thus covering this requirement (Group of parameters F). Part of the research production of the applicant has been presented in many scientific forums, both national and international. The applicant has also participated in 6 university research projects, and was leader of one of them.

## **6. Synopsis of the principal scientific and research & applied contributions of the applicant**

The scientific production of the applicant covers three main fields: quality of eggs, quality of meat from domestic fowl and meat productivity in domestic fowl. The majority of publications are devoted to the quality of eggs, including colorimetric analysis of eggshell (I.5., I.7., I.8., I.12., II.13., II.11., II.12., II.9. and II.10.). Furthermore, the applicant’s scientific interests are also in the field of genetic diversity of domestic fowl, decorative poultry farming, production of foie gras, nutrition of domestic fowl and their housing. The main poultry species, with which Dr. Hristo Lukanov has worked during his research career, are domestic chickens and domestic quails.

The most important scientific and research and applied contributions of the applicant are associated with:

- egg quality and in particular, eggshell colour in a variety of crosses and purebred chickens (I.5., I.7., I.8., I.12., II.13.), including some decorative bird species (II.11., II.12., II.9., II.10.), popularizing the use of the modified eggshell colour index SCI\*;
- investigations on the meat productivity and meat quality in heavy quail populations (I.20., II.5.), including investigations on storage of produced quail meat (I.6., I.9.);
- investigations on the genetic diversity of domestic fowl in Bulgaria (II.1, II.2, II.8) and in the Balkan Peninsula (II.3, II.7);
- investigations on the effect of dietary supplements on some production and haematological parameters in domestic chickens and domestic quails (I.10., I.13., I.18.).

## **7. Main critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no essential critical remarks on the documents submitted for evaluation. The progression in presentation quality and style related to applicant’s research results is obvious. Also, I had the opportunity to observe directly his research work, as seen from the co-authorship of two of the articles presented in the competition.

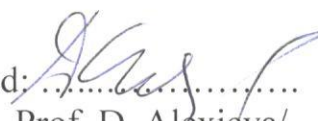
I would recommend the applicant to promote his research results in renowned scientific journals from the world databases - Scopus and Web of Science. Another suggestion is to expand the work with domestic quails – an excellent choice as a laboratory animal species, used also in industrial poultry farming. The applicant’s dedication to amateur poultry farming should not undermine his work in the field of industrial poultry farming.

## 8. Conclusion

The research results and the teaching & learning activities of the applicant presented in this competition make clear that he meets the required minimum criteria for conferral of the academic rank “Associate Professor” in professional field 6.3 „Animal husbandry“, for the needs of the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

**On the basis of documentation presented for evaluation, the one and only application in the opened competition, and as a member of the academic jury, I give a positive evaluation of the applicant and propose to the honorable members of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agriculture to confer the academic rank “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty “Poultry farming”, professional field 6.3 „Animal husbandry“, higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine”, announced in the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University – Stara Zagora, to Chief Assistant Professor Hristo Lukanov Hristov, PhD.**

March 8, 2021  
Stara Zagora

Undersigned:   
/Assoc. Prof. D. Alexieva/