

TRAKIA UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

REVIEW

from: **prof. Marin Kolev Kabakchiev**

Scientific specialty "Poultry Science"; Professional field 6.3 "Animal Husbandry", Higher Education area 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", appointed reviewer in the competition by order № 305/15.02.2021 of the Rector of the Trakia University.

Regarding: competition for the academic title of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty "Poultry Science", Professional field 6.3. "Animal Husbandry", Higher Education area 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", announced in the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University - Stara Zagora in the State Gazette issue 104/08.12.2020.

1. Information about the competition

The competition was announced in the State Gazette issue 104/08.12.2020, for the needs of the Department of "Animal Husbandry - Non-ruminants and other animals" at the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University. I am a member of the competition scientific jury according to order № 305/15.02.2021 of the Rector of the Thracian University.

2. Brief information about the candidate in the competition

The only candidate in the announced competition is **Hristo Lukanov Hristov**, Chief Assistant Professor in "Poultry farming" section at the Department of

“Animal Husbandry - Non-ruminants and other animals” at the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University.

Hristo Lukanov Hristov was born in the town of Sevlievo on May 20, 1981.

The candidate graduated from the Technical School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering "Gen. Ivan Bachvarov " - Sevlievo in 1999. From 1999 to 2005 he studied veterinary medicine at the Trakia University - Stara Zagora. During the period 2006-2009 he was a part-time student in “Animal Husbandry”, Master's program "Poultry farming" at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora. In 2013, after successfully passing the exam, he was accepted as a PhD student in "Poultry Science" at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora. In 2016 Hristo Lukanov Hristov defended his PhD thesis in Professional field 6.3. "Animal Husbandry", on "Study of egg productivity and egg quality in crosses of the Rhode Island Red and Schijndellaar chicken breed", with scientific supervisor Prof. Atanas Genchev Genchev, DSc.

The candidate's work experience began as a veterinarian in a Kramolin veterinary section, where he worked in the period 2005-2007. From 2007 to 2013 he was a researcher and Assistant Professor at RDVMI - Veliko Tarnovo. In 2016 he was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the "Poultry farming" section at the Department of "Animal Husbandry - Non-ruminants and other animals" at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora, and since 2019 he is a Chief Assistant Professor.

Hristo Lukanov Hristov is a Chairman of the Bulgarian Association of Poultry Breeders, Vice-Chairman of the Union of Fanciers and Small Domestic Animal Breeders of the Republic of Bulgaria and representative of Bulgaria in the “Poultry” section of the European Association of Small Animal Breeders (EE).

3. Fulfillment of the Associate Professor academic position requirements

The candidate meets all national minimum requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Higher education area 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", as well as the additional criteria set out in Annex 8.1. of the Statute for development of the academic staff in Trakia University - Stara Zagora. As could be seen from the table attached to Annex 8.1. from SDAS in TrU, the applicant submits evidence that significantly exceeds the minimum requirements in Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Annex 8.1. from SDAS in TrU.

Minimum required points by groups of indicators for the academic position of "Associate professor" and the candidate performance.

<i>Indicator group</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Minimum required points "Assoc. Prof."</i>	<i>Candidate performance</i>
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 and 4	100	100
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 12	200	367.5
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to 15	50	390
F	Sum of indicators from 16 to 24	-	20
G	Sum of indicators 25 and 26	70	125
H	Sum of indicators 27 and 28	50	270
I	Sum of indicators 29 and 30	25	35
J	Sum of indicators from 31 to 34	-	-
Total number of points		545	1367.5

Indicator A. PhD Thesis

The candidate has defended a PhD Thesis in the Higher education area 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", Professional field 6.3. "Animal Husbandry", on the topic „Study of egg productivity and egg quality in crosses of the Rhode Island Red and Schijndellaar chicken breed", with scientific supervisor Prof. Atanas Genchev Genchev, DSc. It covers indicator A, **giving 50 points.**

Indicator B. Dissertation for "Doctor of Science" scientific degree

Not required for the announced competition.

Indicator C.

The candidate participates with a Habilitation thesis – Monograph, entitled "Quails of the genus *Coturnix* in nature and agriculture", ISBN: 978-619-7595-06-2, with reviewers Prof. Marin Kabakchiev, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Diyan Georgiev,

PhD. The monograph is written on 154 pages, corresponding to 231 standard typewritten pages and includes 351 literary and 38 Internet sources. **100 points awarded.**

Indicator D.

A total of 34 articles are presented, of which 21 articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (D.7.) and 13 articles and reports are published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes (D.8.), which the candidate presents in chronological order. Two of them have been published in journals with IF and SJR (Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Emirates Journal of Food and Agriculture) and two in journals with SJR only (Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science, Journal of Central European Agriculture). The total Impact factor is 2.261, respectively Impact rank – 1.288.

D.7. Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information: a total of 21 issues, of which 1 in Cyrillic and 20 in Latin. The candidate is the first author in 12 of the attached articles and in 6 of them as a second author. He is single author in one article in D.7. The candidate applies separation protocols to 5 of the attached articles. **A total of 273.5 points awarded.**

D.8. Articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes: a total of 13 issues, of which 9 in Cyrillic and 4 in Latin. Five of those presented in group D.8. articles are standalone. In 6 of the articles the candidate is the first author, and in one - the second. 5 separation protocols are attached. Publications II.1. and II.2. There are two parts of a single title, published separately, so respect them for one publication. **A total of 94 points awarded.**

Total number of points from a group of indicators D: 367.5.

Indicator E.

The candidate submits a total of 26 citations, all of which fall into group E.13. 25 of the presented citations are in journals with IF and/or SJR, and one is in a journal without IF/SJR. A total of 11 articles were cited from all submitted in the competition or about 1/3. The total Impact factor of the citations is 39,653, and the total Impact rank - 14,606. **390 points awarded.**

Indicator F.

According to the internal minimum requirements (8.1. SDAS in TrU), criterion E.23. [Published university textbook or textbook used in the school network

(20/n)], for the academic position "Associate Professor" 20 points are required. The candidate presents two textbooks, co-authored with Prof. Atanas Genchev: "Manual of Practical Training in Poultry farming" and "Workbook of Practical Training in Poultry farming ". **20 points awarded.**

Indicator G.

G.25. Graduate tutor: The candidate is the supervisor of a total of 10 graduates of Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Zooengineering, in 3 of whom is independent tutor. **65 points awarded.**

G.26. Developed a new curriculum or new methodological units for lectures/exercises: The candidate presents a developed new curriculum in "Organic Poultry farming" for students of the "Industrial Poultry" Master's program, and two updated, with developed new methodological units in "Poultry farming" for bachelor students in "Zooengineering" and in the discipline "Production of safe and quality poultry products" for master's program students in "Industrial Poultry farming", specialty "Zooengineering". **60 points awarded.**

Total number of points from a group of indicators G: 125.

Indicator H.

The candidate shows active participation in the promotion of his scientific research and results, presenting participations in 6 scientific forums abroad and 15 in the country.

H.27. Participation in scientific forums abroad: 4 participations in the conference "Conservation of animal diversity and hunting in Russia" (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019), one participation in the 14th International Congress of the European Association for Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology and one participation in the International Scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences VG Ryadchikova (Krasnodar, 2019). **120 points awarded.**

H.28. Participation in scientific forums in Bulgaria: participation in a total of 15 conferences organized by UPB (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), Agricultural University (2011), Trakia University (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2020), IASRZ (2014) and the Agricultural Institute (2017). **150 points awarded.**

Total number of points from a group of indicators H: 270.

Indicator I.

The candidate participates in 6 university research projects, respectively 5 of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora and 1 of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. Head of one of the projects submitted and team member of 5. **35 points awarded.**

THE TOTAL RECOGNIZED NUMBER OF POINTS FROM ALL INDICATORS IS 1357.5 OF THE MINIMUM REQUIRED 545.

4. Evaluation of the teaching activity

The candidate have performed practical classes in all disciplines taught in the section "Poultry farming" with students in Zooengineering, Agronomy, Ecology and Environmental Protection and Agricultural Economics of the Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Economics of the Trakia University since 2013, initially as a PhD student, consequence and as an Assistant Professor. Since 2016, he has been partially giving a lecture course on some of the disciplines taught in the section. An indicative criterion for the teaching activity in the "Poultry farming" section, in particular of the candidate, is the realization of a number of graduates in the Poultry sector and the desire of students to choose the elective and optional disciplines led by the professors in the section.

5. Brief description of the presented scientific papers/publications

The candidate presents a monograph entitled "Quail of the genus *Coturnix* in nature and agriculture" from 2020, in which I have the pleasure to be a reviewer and appreciate its dignity.

Ch. Assist. Prof. Hristo Lukanov Hristov participated in the announced competition with a total of 34 articles in the professional field, of which 21 published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 13 published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. Four of the publications are in journals with impact factor and / or impact rank. Due to the connection of two of the articles, I recognize a total of 33 articles. The gradation in the academic speech of the candidate is clearly visible. Indicative of the quality of the presented articles is the reference to 1/3 of them in renowned scientific journals.

The candidate presents two published textbooks in co-authorship, which I also have the opportunity to get acquainted with in detail, in my role as a reviewer. The issued "Manual of Practical Training in Poultry farming" was extremely necessary due to the difference of 28 years with its predecessor. A "Workbook of Practical Training in Poultry farming" is published for the first time in the country and is of great help in the educational process of students in the "Poultry farming" discipline.

The presentation of the candidate's research production in a large number of international scientific forums is impressive.

For a relatively short period of time, Hristo Lukanov Hristov has participated in 6 university research projects, he was the head of one of which.

6. Synthesized assessment of the main scientific and research-applied contributions of the candidate

The candidate works in a number of areas of poultry science, including in the field of ornamental and exhibition poultry. His research is mainly focused on the following areas:

- Egg quality;
- Poultry meat productivity;
- Poultry meat quality.

The more significant scientific and research-applied contributions of the candidate are related to:

- Egg quality of the domestic chicken (Articles I.5., I.7., I.8., I.12., II.13.);
- Egg quality in certain ornamental bird species (Articles II.11., II.12., II.9., II.10.);
- Meat productivity and quail meat quality (Articles I.20., II.5.);
- Study of conservation practices in the quail meat storage (Articles I.6., I.9.);
- Study of Poultry genetic diversity (Articles II.1., II.2., II.3., II.7., II.8.);
- The effect of certain food additives on productive and haematological parameters in poultry (Articles I.10., I.13., I.18.).

7. Main critical remarks and recommendations

After a thorough review of the documentation submitted by the applicant, I have no serious critical remarks. I have the opportunity to follow the development of Hristo Lukanov since his appointment as a PhD student in the "Poultry farming" section at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora, which gives me a fuller view of his academic growth.

I would like to make some recommendations to the candidate, which I believe will be useful for his future development as a scientist and lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture at the Trakia University. The first is related to publication in journals ranked in Scopus and Web of Science. This is not a basic indicator of the value of a scientific article, but it is part of the modern understanding of academic growth. The second recommendation is aimed at continuing its activity in the field of ornamental poultry farming, where the applicant has a large and undeveloped field of action.

8. Conclusion

From the evidence presented in the competition it is clear that candidate meets the required minimum of criteria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Higher education area 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine" according to Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Annex 8.1. from SDAS in TrU.

As a member of the scientific jury, based on the overall evaluation of the submitted documentation and the only application in the competition, I give a positive evaluation of the candidate and recommend the honorable members of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agriculture to award the academic position "Associate Professor" in Scientific specialty "Poultry Science", Professional field 6.3. "Animal Husbandry", Higher Education area 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine" to Ch. Assist. Prof. Hristo Lukanov Hristov.

March 15, 2021
Stara Zagora

Undersigned: 
/Prof. M. Kabakchiev/