

STATEMENT

Regarding: competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and Veterinary medicine; professional direction 6.1 Plant breeding, announced by SHUMEN UNIVERSITY "EPISKOP KONSTANTIN PRES LAVSKI" in the State Gazette, no. 42/12.05.2023

Candidate for participation in the competition: Dr. Dimitar Vasilev Dimitrov, chief assistant in the Department of "Plant Protection, Botany and Zoology" of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

The statement was prepared by: Prof. Dr. Alexander Todorov Matev, Agricultural Academy, IPGR-Sadovo, higher education field 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine; professional direction 6.1 Plant breeding: scientific specialty "Melioration", appointed according to Order No. RD-16-097/07.08.2023 of the Rector of SHUMEN UNIVERSITY "EPISKOP KONSTANTIN PRES LAVSKI" as a member of the scientific jury.

Brief introduction of the candidate

By profession, the candidate Dr. Dimitar Vasilev Dimitrov is an agronomist, and initially (2000) before starting his scientific career, he worked in the specialty. According to the information presented, from 2003 to 2018, he was a researcher at the Agricultural Experiment Station - Khan Krum at the Agricultural Academy, where he was a Ph.D. student, assistant, and chief assistant. He uses the English language (level B2), which enables him to freely handle English-language specialized scientific literature, as well as to communicate freely with foreign colleagues. From 2018 until now, Dr. D. Dimitrov has worked as an assistant at "EPISKOP KONSTANTIN PRES LAVSKI" Shumen University. This gives him the opportunity to develop research and teaching activities in parallel, sharing the accumulated personal experience with the students he teaches.

As a candidate in the current competition, Dr. D. Dimitrov quantitatively covers all criteria, exceeding the required number of points in each direction. This is also evident from the completed scientometric table.

Teaching activity

Regardless of the fact that the requirements of the law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria mainly concern scientific and publication activities, the main part of the candidate's activities are related to teaching work. He conducts lectures and exercises in the disciplines of Viticulture, Fruit Growing, Vegetable Production, Plant Breeding, Soil Science, and Herbology for the students of the Plant Protection specialty. In addition, Dimitrov trains graduate students, and at the moment it is reported that 5 have successfully defended their degrees. He also lectures outside the university, including to agricultural producers.

Research and publication activity.

The candidate's research interests are wide-ranging, both in terms of cultures and issues of study. Mainly, the conducted experiments concern fruit species, and the studies are mainly related to peach, cherry and apple. As the main one, Dr. Dimitrov's interest in the interaction between rootstock and variety is outlined, but in parallel with this, he makes observations about the influence of some agrotechnical measures. The candidate also shows a scientific interest in the field of tobacco selection, being the co-author of the *Bistra 514* variety. Conducts research with oats, cotton, canola, wheat and corn, studying the influence of various agrotechnical measures in their conventional cultivation and in the conditions of organic production.

The results of Dr. Dimitrov's experimental work are systematized in a total of 34 publications, as follows:

Publications in refereed indexed editions in world-renowned databases with scientific information - minimum 10 issues (habilitation thesis). Here, the candidate presents a total of 11 publications, exceeding the requirements for a minimum of 100 points, defined as a requirement for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor". The sum of the points for this indicator is 254. Of the publications presented in this section, 2 are in publications with an impact factor. One of the articles is in print.

Articles in refereed indexed publications in global databases of scientific information.

A total of 6 publications are presented, but since they form an independent scientometric unit, in combination with the remaining 17 articles and reports published in non-refereed journals, the applicant meets the requirements of the law (230.3 points). The total number of points from all indicators is 629.3.

In addition to the research work, Dr. Dimitrov has made a significant contribution to the writing of the publications submitted for participation in the competition, in 7 of which he is the sole author, and in 14 - the first author. It makes a very good impression that among the co-authors are the names of prominent scientists working in the field of agricultural sciences.

In the scientometric table, the candidate submitted 9 citations, collecting a total of 95 points (50 points are required).

The contributions are presented clearly and accurately, which is why I accept them as they are. In terms of volume and importance for science, they are completely sufficient for the successful presentation of Dr. Dimitrov in the current competition for associate professor.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the applicant's pedagogical, scientific, and applied scientific activity, I believe that Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Vasilev Dimitrov meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for Application of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. The presented materials are enough in volume and meet the minimum scientific metrical requirements for occupying the academic position. The results of the presented publications are up-to-date and solve some of the problems of modern agriculture. This enables the candidate to present a significant number of scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the field of agricultural science. That is the reason for me to give a **POSITIVE** evaluation of her overall research activity.

I allow myself to propose to the Honorable Scientific Board to vote positive and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the "EPISKOP KONSTANTIN PRES LAVSKI" University to elect Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Vasilev Dimitrov an „Associate Professor“ in the professional direction 6.1 Plant breeding.

Date: 08.09.2023

Plovdiv

prepared

statement:

(prof. Alexander Matev)