

## OPINION

on the materials for participation in a competition for awarding the academic position "associate professor", in higher education area 6. Agricultural Science and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.3. Animal husbandry, scientific major " Special branches – bees, silkworms", in the discipline " Beekeeping", announced by the University of Forestry in SG no. 102/ 1801202023, procedure code AGR-AsP-1123-120.

### **Candidate for participation in the competition is:**

1. Ch. Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Alipieva Nikolova

**Opinion submitted by: Maya Mitkova Ignatova, professor in professional field 6.3 Animal husbandry from the Institute of Animal Science-Kostinbrod, Agricultural Academy, Sofia**

### **1. Brief biographical details of the applicant**

Ch. Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Nikolova graduated in 2005 at the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Forestry, Sofia. In 2017, she obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the scientific major "Special branches (silkworms)" in the same faculty. The topic of the dissertation work is "Change of biological signs in the mulberry butterfly as affected by the forage collected from areas with high content of heavy metals in the soil". From 2008 to 2019, she was an assistant professor, and from 2019 to date, she was the chief assistant professor at the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Forestry.

### **2. Accordance of the applicant's submitted documents and materials with those required according to the Regulations for development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry**

According to the submitted documents for participation in the competition, it is clear that Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova meets the minimum national requirements for candidates for the academic position of "associate professor" in the higher education area 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine and professional field 6.3. Animal husbandry:

- Indicators by group "A"

Defended thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 50 points

- Indicators by group "V"

Monograph entitled "Honey Plants and Bee Pasture" – 100 points.

- Indicators by group "G"

G7 - Articles and reports published in scientific journals, indexed in world databases with scientific information - 14 publications

G8 - Articles and reports published in non peer-reviewed journals - five publications.

The total number of points for indicator group "G" is 308.3 with a minimum requirement of 200 points.

➤ Indicators by group "D"

D13 - Citations or reviews in scientific publications, peer reviewed and indexed in the world databases of scientific information or monographs and collective volumes – Two papers are cited in four publications in peer reviewed or such with IF / SJR.

60 points with a minimum requirement of 50 points

The total number of points of the candidate in all groups of indicators is 518.3 points, with minimum national requirements 400 points.

### **3. Assessment of the candidate's educational and teaching activities**

Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova has a teaching experience in the disciplines: Beekeeping, Silkworm keeping, Basics of animal husbandry, Private animal husbandry for Bachelors and Pollination of agricultural crops, Honey plants and bee pasture, Soil health for Masters. She is the author of "Beekeeping Guide" and co-author of "Silkworm Practice Guide". The applicant participated in the development of six curricula. Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova is the supervisor of nine graduate students who successfully defended their theses. My assessment of the educational and teaching activities of Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova is positive. The candidate is fully prepared to be awarded the academic position of "associate professor".

### **4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific, applied and publication activity**

#### **4.1. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects**

Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova participated in the implementation of eight national and one international scientific and educational projects.

#### **4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results**

In the current competition Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova participated with a monograph and 19 scientific publications, 14 of which were in journals that are peer reviewed and indexed in the world databases with scientific information. Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova has taken part in 18 scientific forums. The research activity of Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova is in the field of beekeeping and silkworms. The studies are aimed at honey vegetation, the development of bee colonies under different environmental conditions, different hive systems, etc., including determination of the amount of pollen, the amount of nectar and its sugar content, the strength and productivity of bee colonies.

#### **4.3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature (citability)**

The presented reference for the citations of the scientific publications of Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova includes citations of two publications in a total of four scientific papers, which meets the minimum requirements for this indicator.

#### **4.4. Contributions in the candidate's works (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)**

I accept the contribution reference submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition. With her scientific work, Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova, original and confirmatory scientific and scientific-applied contributions were made. Some of the more important ones, in my opinion, are related to the research of morphological and biological features, nectar and pollen release, sugar content, honey productivity and the influence of climate changes on honey plants.

#### **5. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution**

Of the 19 publications submitted for participation in the competition, Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova is the first author of 15 (80%).

#### **6. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no remarks or questions for the candidate. I recommend that in her future work she concentrates her efforts in a specific direction and topic, which is a prerequisite for confirming the overall appearance of the researcher.

#### **7. Conclusion**

**The analysis of the presented documents and materials, reflecting the overall scientific and teaching activity of Ch. Assist. Dr. Tsvetelina Nikolova, gives me reason to give a positive assessment. I suggest that the members of the Scientific Jury also give positive assessment to the candidate. I SUGGEST THAT the candidate Ch. Assist. Dr. Tsvetelina Alipieva Nikolova to be awarded the academic position "associate professor" in the discipline "Beekeeping" of professional field 6.3. Animal husbandry.**

Opinion prepared by:



The opinion has been submitted on: 12.04.2024