

O P I N I O N

On materials regarding competition for the academic rank Associate Professor, in higher education field 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Animal science, scientific field „Special branches (bees and silkworms)“, scientific discipline „Bee keeping“, announced by University of Forestry in the State Gazette issue 102 from 08 December 2023, AGR-AsP-1123-120 .

Candidate:

1. Chief assistant Tsvetelina Alipieva Nikolova, PhD

Изготвил становището: Assoc. prof. Milena Georgieva Bozhilova-Sakova, PhD, associate professor in 6.3. Animal science of Institute of Animal Science – Kostinbrod.

1. Short bibliography of the candidate

Tsvetelina Alipieva Nikolova graduated as a Master in Agronomy in 2005 from University of Forestry. In 2014-2017 she was independent PhD student докторант на свободна докторантура scientific discipline „Special branches“, 6.3 „Animal science“, University of Forestry, Agronomy faculty. In 2008 she became a teaching assistant in Faculty of Agronomy, University of Forestry. She is a teacher in the field of "Special Branches" (Bees and Silkworms) and conducts exercises in the disciplines of Beekeeping, Silkwormkeeping, Bee Pollination, Animal Husbandry and Private Animal Husbandry. In 2019, she has taken the academic rank chief assistant. The candidate chief assistant Tsvetelina Nikolova, begins to give lectures on the disciplines: Beekeeping, Silkwormkeeping, Pollination of honey plants; Honey plants and bee foraging and Soil health. She also leads exercises in the disciplines: Basics of Animal Husbandry and Private Animal Husbandry. Chief assistant Tsvetelina Nikolova is fluent in English and Russian and has computer skills for working with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point), Adobe Photoshop and the Internet, working with copiers, etc.

2. Compliance of applicant's materials and documents to the requirements listed in the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry.

All submitted documents and materials of chief assistant Tsvetelina Nikolova are in accordance with the requirements listed in the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry.

3. Evaluation of teaching & learning activities.

The candidate chief assistant Tsvetelina Alipieva Nikolova gives lectures and exercises on

the disciplines: Beekeeping, Silkwormkeeping, Pollination of honey plants; Honey plants and bee foraging and Soil health. She also shows exercises in the disciplines: Basics of Animal Husbandry and Private Animal Husbandry. This gives me the reason to give my positive opinion on the educational and teaching activities of the candidate.

4. Evaluation of research, research & development and teaching activities of the candidate.

4.1. Participation in research, research & development and educational projects.

During the period 2013 – 2023, the candidate took part in 8 national scientific or educational projects, as an academic mentor and a member of the team. During the same period chief assistant Nikolova also participated in 1 international scientific project. The candidate's participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects is fully satisfactory and meets the requirements for holding the academic rang of "associate professor".

4.2. Analysis of published research works.

The reference of the scientific and publication activity of the candidate chief assistant Tsvetelina Alipieva Nikolova, for participation in a competition for the academic position "associate professor", fully meets the minimum requirements according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry.

According to indicator A1, a defended PhD thesis was presented on the topic: "Change of the biological signs of the mulberry butterfly under the influence of forage collected from areas with a high content of heavy metals in the soil" - 50 points. The implementation is 100%.

According to indicator B3, a habilitation thesis (monograph) was presented on the topic: "Honey plants and bee pasture" - 100 points. The implementation is 100%.

According to indicator G7, 17 scientific publications are presented, published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 292.5 items.

According to indicator G8, 5 scientific publications are presented, published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 15.8 points.

The total number of indicators in group D is 308.3 items, with the necessary 200 points. According to this indicator, there is over-done by 54%.

4.3. Impact of applicant's research activities (citations).

According to indicator D13, 4 citations are presented in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 60 points. As a recommendation, I would add that the small number of citations presented by the candidate is obvious. Although they cover the required minimum,

regarding the presented high scientific output, it would be good to present a larger number of citations.

4.4. Contributions in research works of the candidate

As a result of the candidate's scientific activity, a total of 21 contributions were presented - 15 contributions of an original nature, 3 contributions of a confirmatory nature and 3 contributions of a scientific-applied nature. The contributions are well-articulated, showing that the applicant has carried out a significant amount of in-depth research in the field of honey plants, honey resources, the honey potential of some plant species, the sugar content of the nectar of different plant species, the development of bee colonies under different conditions, development of beekeeping in urban conditions. The state, trends and prospects of beekeeping both in Bulgaria and in European Union countries during the period 2012-2021 have been studied.

I accept the scientific contributions, but I think they could be presented in a more general way.

5. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the applicant.

The candidate has presented a published habilitation thesis (monograph), and has also published two manuals. Chief assistant Tsvetelina Nikolova has published seven independent scientific articles and two brochures. She gives a large number of lectures and exercises in the field of beekeeping and animal husbandry. Actively takes part in various administrative and organizational activities. Chief assistant Tsvetelina Nikolova is a scientist and teacher with high personal and professional qualities, which is evident from her materials and the results.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I don't have critical notes and questions to the candidate chief assist. Tsvetelina Alipieva Nikolova.

7. Personal impressions

The presented materials for participation in the competition showed a high level of research, applied and teaching activity of chief assist. Tsvetelina Nikolova. The large amount of work is impressive, as well as the excellent scientific training of the candidate in the field of beekeeping, animal husbandry and honey plants. I personally know chief assistant Tsvetelina Nikolova for 10 years. She is a respected researcher, teacher and colleague.

8. Conclusions

Based on overall assessment of the research and teaching activities, as well as the fulfillment of the minimum requirements in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry. My opinion is positive and I suggest the candidate **CHIEF ASSIST. TSVETELINA ALIPIEVA NIKOLOVA** to confer the academic rang "associate professor" in scientific discipline „Beekeeping “ 6.3. Animal science.

Изготвил становището

Становището е предадено на: 12.4.2024 г.