ФВМ 7402 # 13
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EVALUATION REPORT

on materials with regard to application to a competition for conferral of the academic rank "Associate Professor", higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine" professional field 6.4 "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Epizootology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious animal diseases", in the discipline "Infectious diseases (General part, Diseases in productive animals, Diseases in equidae and Diseases in companion animals)" to the Department of Infectious Pathology and HTCFAO at University of Forestry, FVM, announced in the State Gazette No. 101/27.12.2019 and procedure code VM-AsP-1119-30.

Candidate in the competition: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. DVM Roman Pepovich Petkov.

Evaluator: Prof. Dr. Teodora Petrova Popova, DSc, University of Forestry, Sofia, higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine" professional field 6.4 "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Epizootiology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals", appointed as academic jury member with Order № ЗПС-27/27.01.2020 of the Rector of the University of Forestry, Sofia.

1. Brief biographical data about the applicant.

Roman Pepovich Petkov was born in 1978 in Krasnodar, Russian Federation. In 2005 he graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Thrakia University in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria (Master of Veterinary Medicine). In the period 2005-2007 he worked as a junior expert in the Animal Health Department at the Regional Veterinary Service - Lovech, performing animal identification as well as export of live animals to the European Union and other countries. Since 2007 he has been working as an assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry in Sofia. On October 12, 2015 he defended his dissertation at the University of Forestry in Sofia, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) in the specialty "Epizootology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals". Chief Assistant Dr. R. Pepovich conducts classes (lectures and exercises) with students at the Master's degree program in the following disciplines: Infectious diseases, epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine. He also participates in postgraduate training of veterinarians. In addition to teaching, he performs research and diagnostic work. He works with specialized veterinary medical equipment (ELISA, PCR) for serological and molecular diagnostics of bacterial and viral infectious diseases in animals. He has qualifications in the field of insurance for productive, working and racing animals, pet animals, birds, fish and bee hives. His scientific interests are related to infectious pathology in pigs, and in particular enzootic (mycoplasma) pneumonia, as well as mycoplasma infections in productive animals. The total number of his scientific publications is 52. He has participated in international scientific events, three of which are abroad (two in Romania in 2014 and 2015 and one in Austria in 2017). He also participates in an expert group at the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Schools and Scientific Organizations.

2. Compliance of applicant's documents and materials with requirements of the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Pepovic has presented all the documents required for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor: • Curriculum Vitae; • Notarized copies of diplomas - for higher education (Master's Degree Program), for PhD; • Academic Position Paper "Chief assistant "; • Certificate of Internship in the specialty; • Medical certificate; • Criminal record certificate; • Self-assessment report for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor: • List of scientific works and copies of them; • Classification of publications; • Abstracts of works in Bulgarian and English; • Information on: ◦ citations, ◦ scientific contributions, ◦ participation in research and education projects, ◦ participation in scientific conferences and symposia, ◦ scientific, teaching and expert activities; • Declaration under Art. 313 of the Criminal Code for the

accuracy of the information in the submitted materials; • Information cards in the Bulgarian and English language; • Copy of the competition announcement in the State Gazette; • Annexes A, B, and C with supporting evidence.

The documents and materials submitted by the applicant are in accordance with the requirements of the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry - Sofia.

3. Evaluation of teaching and learning activities of the candidate.

R. Pepovich has entered the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry - Sofia, Department of Infectious Pathology, Hygiene, Technology and Control of Foods of Animal Origin as Assistant Professor on 01.03.2007 and since then to this day he has 13 years scientific experience. He has held the academic positions of Senior Assistant Professor (09.03.2010 - 20.05.2010) and Chief Assistant Professor (01.01.2011 -31.12.2014 and from 19.05.2016 until now).

In order to participate in the competition for associate professor, he submitted a total of 47 scientific works, which do not repeat those for the acquisition of the PhD educational and academic degree. The materials for the PhD degree include a dissertation, an abstract and 4 publications. Remark: In the relevant list the dissertation and its abstract are listed as separate publications, but the abstract is a summary of the dissertation work and it is appropriate to present it as a subpoint to it.

The total number of points obtained by the groups of indicators is **711.42** at a required minimum of 400 points.

• According to Indicator 1 **(Group A),** Dr. Pepovich has **50** points out of 50 required - for the dissertation work for the acquisition of the PhD degree on the topic "Dissemination, diagnosis and control measures of enzootic pneumonia in industrial pig breeding", presented on October 12, 2015 at the University of Forestry - Sofia.

• For indicator 2 **(group Б) - 0** points out of 0 required.

• According to the indicators of the **group B - 101.07** points out of 100 required - of B 4 for 11 necessary publications in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information.

• According to the indicators 5 - 12 from **group Г - 258.72** points out of 200 required, of which: 1. Monograph - **100** points (according to **Г 5**). 2. A book published on the basis of a dissertation thesis for PhD - **40** points (under **Г 6**). 3. Articles and reports published in scientific journals, refered and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information - 4 issues - **67.28** points (according to **Г** 7). 4. Articles and reports published in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes - 27 issues. - **51.44** points (according to **Г 8**).

• According to indicators 13 - 15 from **group Д,** the candidate has indicated **150** points out of 50 required, of which **105** points in **Д 13** (7 citations of 6 publications by 15 points - in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes), **10** points in **Д 14** (1 publication citied - in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review) and **35** points in **Д 15** (7 citations of 6 publications by 5 points - in non-refereed journals with scientific review) .

• According to indicators 16-24 of **group E,** the applicant has achieved **151.63** points out of 0 required, of which **150** points in **E 18** (participation in 10 national scientific and educational projects by 15 points) and **1.63** points in **E 23** (participation in 2 university study guides published).

As it is seen from the data presented, **the total number of points received by the applicant for all indicators achieves 711.42** at a minimum of 400 points required**. It exceeds significantly the required minimum - by 311.42** points. These results show that the scientific production of Ch. Assist. Prof. R. Pepovich covers all groups of indicators, and in some of them

significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements for the scientific activity of the candidates for occupation of the academic position "Assistant Professor".

3.1. Participation in scientific, research-applied and educational projects.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Pepovich has submitted data on participation as a contractor in **10 projects.** Four of them are research (3 - to SRS at UF and 1 - to VMF of TU), five are educational, implemented at UF and co-financed by European funds under EU international programs, one of which is under "Erasmus +". One of the projects is an investment one funded by the FSR at the Ministry of Education and Science. Note: In the first two educational projects presented, the year and period of participation are not indicated.

These numerous participations in projects of different nature are an indicator of high activity and extensive experience in Dr. Pepovic's research and teaching activities.

3.2. Characteristics of published scientific results.

Of the **47 entries scientific works** submitted for the competition, one is a monograph (Ivanov, Y., C. Filipov, **R. Pepovich.** Prevention and control of infectious animal diseases. Intel Entrans Publishing, Sofia, Bulgaria, pp. 240-351, ISBN 978-619-7554-06-9). One of the publications is a book on the basis of a dissertation thesis for the PhD degree (Petovich, R. Enzootic Pneumonia in Pigs - Dissemination, Diagnosis and Control Measures. Intell Entrance, Sofia, 2019, p. 125, ISBN 978-619-7554-01-4). Out of the total number of publications, 20 are printed in Bulgarian and 27 in English. Publications in scientific journals are 29, 20 of them in foreign and the rest in national. Six articles are printed in issues with Impact Factor, 14 - in foreign refereed and 9 - in Bulgarian refereed journals. Among them are *Bulgarian Journal of Veterinary Medicine, Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Sciences, Comptes rendus de l'Academie Bulgare des Science, Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society, Macedonian Veterinary Review, Open Access Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences, General Medicine, International Journal of Infectious Diseases, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases, Vojnosanitetski Pregled* and others. Also, 13 publications in colective volums are presented, 6 of which - national and 7 - international. The applicant has 3 textbooks issued, 2 of which are in electronic format and 1 in a virtual library. His scientific publications with Impact factor are 6, and with Impact rank - 8. Remark: One of them (No 13) is not an article, but a published summary from an International Scientific Conference.

The publications in refereed in Scopus and Web of Sciences issues are 9 (6 in foreign and 3 in Bulgarian), and those in refereed outside the mentioned databases are 14 (8 in foreign and 6 - in Bulgarian journals). There are 28 articles in scientific journals without impact factor, 16 of which are in Bulgarian and 12 - in English. **The total impact factor** of the publications is **9,677** and **the total impact rank** is **5,970.** Dr. Pepovich has 39 participations in 21 scientific forums, 9 of which are national and 12 are international.

The scientific results pointed out are indicative of considerable research activity and deserve a high evaluation.

Assessment of the habilitation work for occupation of the Academic position "Associate Professor".

The monograph is a part of a book with three authors, written on 470 pages in English and containing 22 chapters. It is intended for students, trainees and doctoral students as well as practicing veterinarians. I think it would also be very useful as a teaching aid for students in veterinary medicine in the course in English. In the book, the measures for the prevention and control of infectious diseases in animals are reflected. It provides basic knowledge of risk analysis and assessment is provided, focusing on the link between animal health, public health, food security and food and feed safety, the environment, and animal welfare. Preventive measures, disease monitoring, control and investigations to reduce the incidence of animal infections and to minimize the effects of outbreaks are also being considered therein. The information goes beyond

the individual patient approach of the clinical medicine and aims to build up a large-scale epidemiological thinking in the specialists. Particular attention is paid to a unified concept of health based on the principle that prevention is better than cure.

Dr. Pepovich is the author of 6 chapters of the monograph (14 - 19), written on 110 pages and illustrated with 7 figures and 7 tables. They cover important aspects of the veterinary epidemiology, namely: • Application of mathematical modeling in veterinary epidemiology; • Economic aspects of prevention and control of infectious animal diseases, conditions and schemes of compensation payments; • Strategy for prevention and control of infectious animal diseases; • General and specific anti-epidemic measures; • Outbreak control and eradication measures; • Planning and preparation of animal disease prophylactic and control programs and recovery plans. National animal disease prophylactic and control program.

As an up-to-date contribution of the monograph, I appreciate the presentation of mathematical modeling, which is a modern approach in epidemiology to study the dynamics of populations of the infectious agents. I consider that its application would also be valuable in the analysis, evaluation and comparison of research results. Different types of models, stages of construction, application and evaluation of models are presented, as well as approaches for analysis and comparisons of different models and forecasts. Possibilities for using modeling to determine the impact of infections control strategies are described.

Another useful contribution is the provision of information on the implementation of the economic control disease policy. This approach contributes to making more accurate decisions when selecting animal health projects and programs. The impact of economic factors on producers, demand for animal products and price forming has been highlighted. Information has been provided on the financial and economic analysis of the effects of agricultural production on the economy, on pricing, on the assessment of the diseases-related damages, on subsidies and compensation payments, on European policy in this respect, and on the role of the evaluation of the costs and benefits of disease control and prevention measures.

In the monograph, particular attention has been paid to infection prevention, control and eradication strategies. The importance of effective legislation and the role of the European Union in supporting Member States' disease control programs is underlined. Attention is given to vaccinations and other infection control and monitoring measures and the selection of appropriate strategies. The various anti-epidemic measures, as well as those for biosecurity, the disease and infectious agents monitoring are also indicated. The approaches to disposal of carcases, the relevant regulations, the responsibilities of importing and exporting countries of animals and products thereof, and the certification procedures are very well presented. I also appreciate as useful contribution the described measures and plans for the control and eradication of outbreaks of infections. An important part of this work is the presentation of the planning and preparation of prophylactic and control programs, as well as those for the recovery from animal diseases. National programs for the prevention and control of animal infections are also presented in detail.

Highly appreciating this work, I allow myself to make the following remarks. As vaccines and their use have been extensively studied in other disciplines, I think their presentation in the monograph is too detailed. The lack of numbering and titles of some of the figures (on pages 251, 282 and 328) and the tables (on pages 287, 326, 340 and 342-342) makes an impression, and in the text lack references to some of them. It is not clear in which parts of the monograph a results of the author's research are presented.

This habilitation work represents Dr. Pepovic as a specialist with in-depth, high-level knowledge, wieldy the basic concepts and methods for controlling and eradicating significant infections, as well as the principles and approaches for preparing and implementing disease surveillance, control and eradication programs and an assessment of their effectiveness, with knowledge of relevant European and national legislation. He also presents him as a reliable

specialist with competencies related to modern approaches to successfully organizing and implementing anti-epidemic measures, assessing the human and financial resources needed, and analyzing the costs and benefits of selecting and implementing measuress.

3.3. Reflection of the applicant's scientific activity in the literature (citations).

Data on citations of publications with the participation of Dr. Pepovich are presented very correctly, without direct or indirect self-citations. The total number of his scientific publications cited is 11 and the citations are 15. Of these, 7 are in refereed editions (two of them are with Impact Factor and 5 are with Impact Rank), the other 7 are in non-refereed journals and volumes of scientific forums and 1 is in educational handbook. The works are cited in prestigious journals such as *Open Access Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences, Veterinary World, World of Gastroenterology, Traditions and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine, Scientific Works, Series C, Veterinary Medicine* and others. The total impact factor of the journals in which the articles are cited is **6.822** and the total impact rank is **3.994.**

From these data on the reflection of Dr. Pepovich's scientific production in and outside the country in reputable publications, it is clear that he is recognizable as a researcher and his works are well-regarded by experts in the scientific field.

3.4. Contributions of the applicant's works (scientific, research-applied, applied).

The contributions of the scientific papers submitted for participation in this competition are related to solving theoretical and practical problems in the field of infectious pathology of animals and humans. They are up-to-date and result from the application of complex methods of research and in-depth analysis of results.

The contributions are original to our country and some are confirmatory. They can be aparted into several main directions. Most of them are related to **infectious pathology of swine.** More important are the development of a scheme for the control of ileitis, studies of the clinical and pathological features of circovirus infection, the evaluation of classical and modern methods for the diagnosis and eradication of classical plague, the review and analysis of antibiotic therapy and immunoprophylaxis of enzootic disease, analysis and evaluation of pathomorphologic lesions in the lungs in mycoplasma pneumonia, review and analysis of methods for its diagnosis, comparative studies in its treatment with florfenicol and enrofloxacin, the spread of enzootic pneumonia and respiratory disease complex, identification of secondary bacterial pathogens in pneumonia with causative agents *M. hyopneumoniae* and *A. pleuropneumoniae*. For the first time in Bulgaria, hepatitis E virus infection was detected in pigs, and its prevalence and age dependence were examined.

Other part of the contributions concern **infectious pathology of companion animals and birds.** They are related to the application of classical and modern methods for the study of hepatocellular carcinoma in dogs, the study of the spread of anaplasmosis in stray dogs in Sofia region, as well as the evaluation of the diagnostic possibilities of various methods for serological detection of Influenza A virus in birds. For the first time in Bulgaria a real-time polymerase-chain reaction of faecal samples for the diagnosis of parvovirosis in dogs was applied.

In connection with studies in the field of **infectious pathology of small ruminants**, a study was conducted on the spread of mastitis in goats in our country, on the influence of the prevention of subclinical mastitis (SM) during the dry period on their manifestation during lactation, on the changes in some physicochemical parameters of milk at SM and the possibilities for their use for diagnostic purposes, the hematological changes in goats with such mastitis, the importance of age, stage, number of lactations and period and lactation for the development of SM.Изследвани са актуалните бактериални причинители на мастити при козите, определена е чувствителността им към антимикробни средства и са направени проучвания на лечебния и профилактичния ефект на сухостойната антибиотикотерапия.

Another group of contributions relates to **vector-borne infections** and is related to an analysis of the etiology and therapy of rickettsioses, the clinic, vectors, reservoirs, diagnosis, therapy and prevention of Lyme borreliosis, as well as the role of *Coxiella burnetii* in the etiology of Fever disease unknown origin. Contributions in connection with **human infectious pathology** are related to a review made on the etiology, epidemiology, clinic, diagnosis and prevention of hepatitis A and B infections, as well as on the spread of hepatitis E in Bulgaria.

Part of the contributions is related to studies of the **carcinogenic effects of toxic substances** such as N-nitrosodimethylamine and N-nitrosodiethylamine on turkeys and avian embryos.

Contribution to the field of **epidemiology** is the mathematical model presented for the development of infectious disease in order to predict and select the appropriate prevention and control strategy.

In the field of **training,** a contribution is the participation of Dr. Pepovich as a co-author in 4 chapters of the section "Infectious Diseases" in two specialized reference books for practicing veterinarians, as well as the developed electronic module in the discipline "Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine" at the University of Forestry.

4. Assessment of the applicant's teaching activity.

Dr. Pepovich's teaching experience is 13 years long. He is the titular of 3 study subjects in the curriculum of the specialty "Veterinary Medicine" and conducts practical classes and lectures with students in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry. The courses he teaches are: • Module "Infectious Diseases (General part, Diseases in Productive Animals, Diseases in Equidae, Diseases in Companion Animals)" with curriculum horarium (CH) 90 hours of lectures and 90 hours of study hours exercises. • Epidemiology and Preventive Veterinary Medicine with CH 30 hours of lectures and 30 hours of exercises. • Virology with CH 30 hours of lectures and 30 exercises. • "Mobile clinic" with CH 30 hours exercises. Participates in classes and courses conducted in English: • Epidemiology and Preventive Veterinary Medicine with CH 30 hours of lectures and 30 exercises. • Virology with CH 30 hours of lectures and 30 h exercises. • "Mobile clinic" with CH 30 h. His teaching employment for the academic year 2018-2019 in the Bulgarian language is a total of 406 academic hours (74 hours of lectures and 325 hours of exercises), and outside of the classroom (from participation in exams) - 7.4 hours. In English during the same period he has conducted 24 hours of exercises and has an outside classroom occupation of 7.1 hours (a total of 31.1 hours). For 2017-2018, Dr. Pepovich has conducted a total of 360.2 hours in Bulgarian (86 hours of lectures and 259 hours of exercises) and 15.2 hours outside of class. In English during the same period, he has conducted 30 academic hours of classes and had an outside classroom occupation of 6.7 hours (36.7 hours in total). His classroom occupation for 2016-2017 in the Bulgarian language is a total of 373.8 academic hours (96 hours of lectures and 250 hours of exercises), and outside the classroom - 27.8 hours. In English during the same period he has conducted 20 hours of exercises and outside of the classroom - 5.8 hours. These data show that **he fulfills and exceeds compulsory teaching employment.**

Dr. Pepovich's teaching activity is not limited to student education. During the period 2015-2016 he has been the scientific supervisor of two part-time specializants with long-term training for the qualification in the speciality "Veterinary Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases in Animals", successfully graduated under him skillful leadership.

The successful teaching performance of Dr. Pepovich outside our country also deserves to be highlighted and appreciated. Participating in one of the educational projects in 2016 (EU Program in the field of education, training, youth and sport at University of Forestry - Erasmus +), he has delivered 4 lectures (8 hours) in English at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. University of Sassari, Italy.

Chief Assistant Professor R. Pepovich has participated in the development of 2 syllabuses in Bulgarian and English for the compulsory subjects "Virology" (with 30 hours of lectures and 30 hours of exercises) and "Bee, Fish and Game diseases" (with 45 hours of lectures and 45 hours of exercises), studied in the third course in the specialty "Veterinary Medicine ", Master's Degree Program.

The data presented above testify to the significant and years of teaching experience of Chief Assistant Prof. R. Pepovich, especially in conducting practical classes in the study subjects he has teaching and the mobile clinics. The occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" will enable him to develop his skills as a lecturer and even more fully pass his knowledge and experience to the students.

5. Other activities related to the scientific specialty.

Dr. Pepovich has participated in the leadership of 4 international scientific forums in Bulgaria as a member of the organizing committee of the International Scientific Conference Traditions and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, held in Yundola in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. Also he has participated in the implementation of an accreditation procedure and has participated in consultations of a company. Dr. Pepovich has reviewed 3 papers presented at the International Scientific Conferences of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and published in the journal "Traditions and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine" of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry. His activity is varied and active in a number of commissions and councils at the University of Forestry. He is a member of the Faculty Board of the FVM at the UF, at the General Assembly of the UF, on three standing and four temporary committees at the FVM, one committee for the accreditation procedure in the scientific specialty "Epizootology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious animal diseases", as well as an examination committee for specialists at the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Forestry. His work on these boards and committees is effective and successful not only because of his high competence, but also because he spares no time and effort in order to be as useful as possible.

His in-depth knowledge in his scientific field enables him to accomplish a successful expert activity. He is a consultant for a pig farm in the village of Lesidren in the field of swine infections. He has participated in five expert committees on procedures for accreditation of doctoral programs (in the Trakia University in the city of Stara Zagora, in the AU in the city of Plovdiv, and in the Institute of Animal Breeding Sciences in the city of Kostinbrod).

Another valuable contribution of Dr. Pepovich is his participation in the equipment of a university laboratory at the University of Forestry for Biotechnology, Molecular and Genetic Research in Forestry, Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (under project № DOO-64 / 11.12.2008).

He was recently accepted as a full member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, section "Veterinary Medicine and Animal Breeding Sciences" and is in the process of approval by the Governing Council of USB.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution.

Dr. Pepovich is a sole author of 5 of the scientific papers presented, two of which have been implemented in refered editions.

Most of the others (40) have three or more co-authors, two with two, and none with one. He is the leading anchor of 7 publications, three of which have been printed in refereed journals. In four of the others he is the second author, and in 31 he is in the third and subsequent positions in the collectives. These data outline the significant personal contribution of the applicant in the scientific output presented and make it possible to evaluate his active participation in the presented scientific results.

6. Critical notes and recommendations.

These are referred to in the appropriate places in the preceding points of the evaluation report.

7. Personal impressions.

I have known Dr. Pepovich since the beginning of his research and teaching experience. This gives me the opportunity to highlight his high level of competence in his scientific field, his dedication as a teacher, as well as in his work on the committees and councils in which he participates. I deem that he is a well-established, respected and successfully developing specialist and lecturer, with valuable contributions to the work of the department, faculty and university.

8. Conclusion.

From the analysis of scientific production of Dr. Pepovich it is evident that he is a well-established specialist with extensive research experience in the scientific speciality, with significant contributions related to the infectious pathology of animals and humans in our country. His scientific output for participation in the competition is presented by **47** scientific works, including a monograph in English and a book based on his dissertation thesis for the PhD degree. The total impact factor of his publications is **9.677** and the total impact rank is **5.970.** The points received by him from the research metric indicators comply with the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry, exceeding with **311.42** points the minimum number (400) required for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor". The reflection of his scientific activity in the specialized literature worldwide is significant too, with a total impact factor of **6.822** and a total impact rank of **3,994** from citations. He is also an experienced lecturer with 13 years of internship, titular of three study disciplines, teaching these in Bulgarian and English, supervisor of two postgraduate specialization students and co-author of two study programs. These results, as well as his participation in different kinds of activities, expert groups, etc., are an indicator of high activity and extensive experience in research, teaching and expertise.

On the basis of the information presented above, I give my positive vote and recommend to the honourable academic jury members to vote positive and the candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov, PhD, to occupy the academic position of Associate Professor in Higher Education field 6.0. "Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Epizootology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals", in the discipline "Infectious diseases (General part, Diseases in productive animals, Diseases in equidae and Diseases in companion animals)" at the Department of Infectious pPathology, Higiene, Technology and Control of Food of Animal Origin at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Forestry – Sofia.

21 April 2020
Sofia

Evaluator:
(Prof. T. Popova, DSc)