



## OPINION

On the materials for participation in a competition for the occupation of an academic position "**Associate Professor**" at the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Epizootiology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals" in the scientific discipline "**Immunology**", declared by the University of Forestry, Sofia, in the State Gazette. 100/16 December 2022; Procedure code: VM-ASP-1222-95.

**Candidate for participation in the competition:** the only applicant is Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev, DVM, PhD, field of higher education 6. "Agrarian sciences and Veterinary medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Epizootiology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals", lecturer at the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Forestry.

**Prepared the opinion:** Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostadinov Manov, DVM, PhD, University of Forestry, higher education field 6. "Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", a scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. 41/27.01.2023. of the Rector of the University of Forestry.

### Short biographical data on the applicant

Iliyan Manev Manev graduated with honors as a Master of Veterinary Medicine from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia. In the period 2008-2013 he worked as a veterinarian in a small animal clinic. In 2013, after winning a competition, he joined the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine as an Assistant Professor. In 2017, he has successfully defended his PhD Thesis in the scientific specialty "Epizootiology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals " on the topic "*Studies on some factors of immunity and immunoprophylaxis in Myxomatosis in rabbits*" and acquires the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". In 2018, after winning a competition, he was appointed to the academic position "Chief Assistant Professor", holding this position up to the present day. He uses English and Russian languages.



**Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant in accordance with the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry.**

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev has submitted all the documents necessary for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", prepared as required.

**Assessment of the teaching activity of the applicant**

The teaching experience of Dr. Manev in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Forestry is 9 years until 01.2023 with the academic position "Assistant Professor" in the period 2013-2018 and from 2018- "Chief Assistant Professor".

Dr. Manev holds practical classes under the mandatory disciplines "Immunology" and "Pathophysiology" with students from the Master's Degree, "Veterinary Medicine" in Bulgarian and English. Since 2019 he has also taken part of the lecture course in Immunology with Bulgarian students. His audience exceeds 300 academic hours per year and his total minimal required activity exceeds 360 academic hours per year.

These data show that Dr. Manev has a sufficiently extensive teaching experience in conducting lecture and practical classes with students in the disciplines he has led by him, performing the mandatory regular training. Throughout its teaching experience he actively participates in the teaching of foreign students in Veterinary medicine.

**Assessment of the applicant's scientific and publication activities**

A total of 24 scientific works for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" were presented, which do not repeat those for the acquisition of the "PhD" degree.

The PhD materials include dissertation and 3 publications, all three are in English and are published in referred journals, and one has an impact rank (SJR).

The total number of points with which he applies for the position of "Associate Professor" is **697.84 points**, with 400 points according to the minimum national requirements. They are distributed in different groups of indicators as follows:

- Group A indicator: **50** points from a minimum required 50 points - for the PhD Thesis.
- Group B indicator: 0 points of 0 required.
- Group B indicator: **100** points from a minimum required 100 points obtained for habilitation monograph *"Electrocardiography in Dogs with Infectious and Non-Infectious Pathology"*, published in 2022, Avangard Prima Publishing House, ISBN 978-619-239- 792-0.



- Group Γ indicators: **347.84** points from a minimum required 200 points, of which:
  - a book based on a PhD Thesis with the title "*Immunity and Immunoprophylaxis on Myxomatosis in Rabbits*", Avanthgard Prima Publishing House, ISBN 978-619-239-791-3- **40** points
  - Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referred to and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases - 16 pcs - **277.25** points
  - Articles and reports published in unrefined scientific journals or in edited collective volumes - 6 pcs. - **30.59** points
- Group Д indicators: **200** points from a minimum required 50 points, of which 135 points are for citations in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, 40 points from citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 25 points are from citations in unrefined journals with scientific review.
- Group indicators E: 0 points of 0 required.

The total number of points represented by the applicant significantly exceeds the minimum requirements for the implementation of the minimum national requirements in the professional directions, determined by the Rules for Implementation of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria for occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor".

### **Participation in scientific and educational projects**

Dr. Manev was part of the team of a scientific project funded by the LTU, namely: "*Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in hydrobionts (2020-2021)*", contract № NIS-B 1076/2020.

### **Characteristics of the published scientific works**

Presented by Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. I. Manev scientific publications for participation in the competition for the "Associate Professor" position is total of 24 in number. These include habilitation monograph, a published book based on a PhD Thesis, 16 scientific articles, referred to and indexed in world-renowned databases (with two articles in journals with IF or SJR) and 6 articles published in unrefined scientific review journals. Of the total number of scientific works, 20 are published in English, which is a prerequisite for their wider distribution and use. It should be mentioned that a large number of articles are with single author (10 pcs) or with one (2 pcs) or two co-authors (7 pcs).



### **Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in literature**

The total number of citations of Dr. Manev is eighteen. Four of the applicant's publications have been cited in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases. Three articles were cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 3 citations were in unrefined scientific review journals.

### **Contributions to the candidate's works**

Dr. Manev's scientific contributions are in several main areas: infectious and non-infectious pathology, epidemiology, immunology, internal diseases, toxicology, ecotoxicology and have both theoretical and applied nature. Scientific contributions to the works presented may be referred to in the following areas:

- Infectious pathology-epidemiology of infectious and vector-portable diseases in small animals.
- Immune-mediated diseases.
- Postvaccinal immune response.
- Electrocardiographic changes in infectious and non -infectious diseases.
- Accumulation of lead in domestic and wild hunting birds.
- Accumulation of heavy metals in the Black Sea ecosystems and their effects on human health.
- Biochemical blood indicators of wild rabbit in Bulgaria.

Contribution related to the teaching activity of Dr. Manev is the participation in the preparation of a curriculum for the discipline "Immunology", Master's Degree, in Veterinary Medicine.

### **Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution**

Dr. Iliyan Manev's personal contribution in the presented research production is demonstrated from the significant number of articles in which he is a single author. Also, he is the sole author of a monograph, a book based on the PhD Thesis, as well as 8 articles, 6 of which have been published in referred journals, and two of them have IF (total IF 1.084). An additional assessment of the candidate's personal contribution is that in 17 out of 22 published articles, he is a leading author.

### **Critical notes and recommendations**



I can recommend to Dr. Manev to continue the research activity on current issues, making efforts to publish the results in referent and indexed databases with impact factor or impact rank as well as actively to participate in more projects.

### **Personal impressions**

I have known Iliyan Manev since his student years, as I was one of his teachers. He was among the outstanding students, disciplined, responsible and inquisitive. The qualities and experience he acquired in his practice as a veterinarian are essential for his successful development as a teacher and scientist.

### **Conclusions**

The submitted materials for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" demonstrate that Dr. Iliyan Manev poses a sufficient scientific and university experience. His scientific publications are 24, most of which are published in referred and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases. The contributions are in different directions which demonstrate a multifaceted and rich research experience. The citations are sufficient in number and show the applicability of the scientific results. The total number of points in the different groups of indicators for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" is 697.84 and significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements of 400 points. Dr. Manev has a long enough teaching experience in conducting classes in the discipline of Immunology with Bulgarian and foreign Veterinary medicine students.

All this gives me reason confidently to propose the candidate Chief Assis. Prof. Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev to take the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Epizootiology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals" in the scientific discipline "Immunology", Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia.

16.03.2023

Sofia

Undersigned:

/Prof. V. Manov, PhD/