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## STANDPOINT

On application in a competition for the academic rank “Associate Professor”, higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine“, professional field 6.4 „Veterinary Medicine“, scientific specialty “*Epizootiology, infectious diseases and prevention of infection diseases of animals*”, scientific discipline “Infectious diseases (general part, diseases on farm animals, diseases on equids, diseases on companion animals) announced by the University of Forestry – Sofia in State Gazette issue 101 of 27 December 2019, procedure code VM-AsP-1119-30.

### Applicant in the competition:

The only applicant in this competition is **Chief Assistant Professor Roman Pepovich Petkov, DVM, PhD.**

**Standpoint author: Professor Dimitrichka Yordanova Dimitrova, PhD, instructor at the Veterinary Medical Faculty to the University of Forestry, Sofia, higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine“, professional field 6.4 „Veterinary Medicine“, scientific specialty “Animal Pathology”**

The competition was opened for the needs of the Department of infectious pathology, hygiene, technology and control of foods of animal origin, Veterinary Medical Faculty to the University of Forestry, Sofia.

I am appointed as a member of the academic jury for this competition in line with Order 3ΠC-27/27.01.2020 of the Rector of the University of Forestry. As such, I declare that I have no common research publications with the applicant.

### **1. Short biography of the candidate**

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov is born on 11 August 1978 in Krasnodar, Russian Federation. After completing his secondary education, he pursued his studies in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora, and graduated in 2005 as Master in Veterinary Medicine. Immediately after graduation, until March 2007 he worked in the “Animal Health” division to the Regional Veterinary Service, Lovech. In March 2007, after winning a competition, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman P. Petkov was appointed as full-time Assistant Professor in the Department of infectious pathology, hygiene, technology and control of foods of animal origin, Veterinary Medical Faculty to the University of Forestry, Sofia. The applicant’s documents prove that he occupied this position until 31 December 2010, and then was

appointed as Senior Assistant Professor (01.01.2011), then as Chief Assistant Professor up to present. He defended a PhD thesis "Incidence, diagnostics and measures for control of porcine enzootic pneumonia in industrial production systems" for conferral of the PhD educational and academic degree. The research and professional interests of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Pepovich Petkov are mainly in the field of porcine infectious pathology.

The detailed acquaintance with the provided documents and materials for the competition and the fact sheet of the applicant makes clear that they meet the minimum requirements for conferral of the academic rank „associate Professor" in the higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine“, professional field 6.4 „Veterinary Medicine“ stipulated in the Law for Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria (LASDRB) and the additional requirements from the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry.

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

In his application to the Rector of the University of Forestry in line with the current Statute for Development of the Academic Staff (SDAS) in the University of Forestry, the candidate presents all required documents, including: CV, European format; Diploma for higher education, Master's degree – notarised copy; Diploma for PhD educational degree – notarised copy; documents for the occupied academic position; certificate for professional experience; medical certificate; conviction status certificate; fact sheet for fulfillment of minimum national requirements for the academic rank "Associate Professor" as per art. 26 of LASDRB and art. 2a, point 1 of SDAS in the UF (Appendix 1); list of publications, inventions and other scientific and applied results (Appendix 2); classification of published works (Appendix 3); Abstracts of research works in Bulgarian and English (Appendix 4); fact sheet for citations (Appendix 5); fact sheet for scientific contributions (Appendix 6); fact sheet for participation in research and educational projects (Appendix 7); fact sheet for participation in scientific conferences and symposia (Appendix 8); fact sheet for research, teaching & learning and expert activities (Appendix 9); detailed fact sheet for research, teaching & learning and expert activities (Appendix 10); declaration of conformity of presented information as per art. 313 of the Penal Code (Appendix 11); information card in Bulgarian and English; announcement in State Gazette issue 101 from 27 December 2019, p. 193. All documents are arranged properly, are authentic, contain needed signatures, stamps and are compliant to the requirements of SDAs of the UF, Sofia.

In his application to the competition, Chief Assistant Professor Roman Pepovich Petkov provides documents and evidence making clear that he complies with the requirements for the academic rank “Associate Professor” according to SDAS of the University of Forestry.

*Minimum national requirements (MNR) by groups of parameters for conferral of the academic rank “Associate Professor” in higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine“, professional field 6.4 „Veterinary Medicine“*

Group of parameters	Content	MNR and points for the “Associate Professor” academic rank	Points declared by the applicant	Real points of the applicant according to MNR
<b>A</b>	Parameter 1	50	50	50
<b>Б</b>	Parameter 2	–	–	
<b>B</b>	Sum of parameter 3–4	100	101.07	101.07
<b>Г</b>	Sum of parameters 5–12	200	258.72	258.72
<b>Д</b>	Sum of parameters 13–15	50	150.00	150.00
<b>E</b>	Sum of parameters 16–	–	151.63	150.00
Sum of points for parameter groups <b>A + B + Г + Д + E</b>		400	<b>711.63</b>	<b>710.00</b>

Corrections for parameter E23 that change the total score of group E are made by me.

E23	Published university teaching aid or teaching aid used in the school network	<b>20/n</b>	1.63	–
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### **3. Evaluation of teaching & learning activity of the applicant**

The materials to the application in the competition demonstrate that as per the date of application, the candidate’s experience in the University of Forestry is 12 years and 11 months. During that period he performed training (mainly practical training and giving some lectures) in courses “Virology”, “Diseases on bees, fish and game”, “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine”, module “Infectious diseases (general part, diseases on farm animals, diseases on equids, diseases on companion animals)”; “Heard health management”; “Tropical diseases”; “Mobile clinic”.

The same document presents a detailed fact sheet on the in-class engagement of the applicant for the last 5 academic years (from 2014 to 2019 inclusive), certifying that he has actively

participated in the learning process by conducting practical training and giving some lectures as follows:

For the academic year 2014/15 in-class engagement is 286 hours, comprising practical training in Bulgarian in “Infectious diseases” – 222 h; 60 h in “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine”, and 4 h in “Mobile Clinic”.

For the academic year 2015/16 in-class engagement of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov is 332 hours with students from the Bulgarian programme, comprising 310 h practical training (“Infectious diseases”; “Virology”, “Game rearing and game diseases”; “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine”) and 22 h lectures (18 h in “Infectious diseases” + 4 h in “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine”).

For the academic year 2016/17 the applicant was also engaged with training in English. During this academic year, the in-class engagement of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov is as follows: 346 hours training in Bulgarian, comprising 96 h lecturing (54 h in “Infectious diseases”, 28 h in “Tropical diseases”, 4 h in “Virology”, 4 h in “Game rearing and game diseases”; and 6 h in “Diseases of bees, fish and game” ) and 270 h practical training in above mentioned courses. During the same academic year, Chief Assistant Professor Petkov has given 20 academic hours to students from the English language programme – practical training in “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine”, “Game rearing and game diseases”, “Diseases of bees, fish and game”, “Mobile Clinic”).

For the academic year 2017/18 the in-class engagement of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov is as follows: 366 hours training in Bulgarian, comprising 96 h lecturing (54 h in “Infectious diseases”, 28 h in “Tropical diseases”, 4 h in “Virology”, 4 h in “Game rearing and game diseases”; and 6 h in “Diseases of bees, fish and game”) and 270 h practical training in above mentioned courses. During the same academic year, the applicant has given 30 academic hours to students from the English language programme – practical training in “Infectious diseases” – 6 h; “Virology” – 4 h, “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine” – 8 h, “Mobile Clinic” – 12 h).

For the academic year 2018/19 the in-class engagement of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov is 399 hours training in Bulgarian, comprising 74 h lecturing (66 h in “Infectious diseases”, 10 h in “Virology”, 4 h in “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine” and 4 h in “Herd health management”) and 310 h practical training in “Infectious diseases” (279 h), “Virology” (10 h); “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine” (18 h) and “Mobile Clinic” (18 h). During the same academic year, he has given 24 hours of practical training in English in “Infectious diseases” – 6 h; “Virology” – 8 h, “Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine” – 4 h, “Mobile Clinic” – 6 h.

Dr. Roman Petkov is the author of curricula of several mandatory courses for third-year students in Bulgarian and English language programmes of the veterinary medicine major:

- „Virology" – with course load of 30 h lectures and 30 h practical training;
- “Diseases of bees, fish and game” – with course load of 45 h lectures and 45 h practical training.

Dr. Roman Petkov has given 4 lectures in English to undergraduate students, post-graduate students and instructors in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in University of Sassari, Italy in 2016 (in the framework of the ERASMUS+ project) as could be seen from document C 45.

He has been scientific tutor of 2 post-graduate students: Dr. Boryana Petrova Stanimirova and Dr. Lyubomir Plamenov Lyubomirov – performing part-time long-term specialisation in veterinary epidemiology and infectious diseases in animals (Appendix C37).

#### **4. Evaluation of research, research & development and publication activities of the applicant**

In this competition for conferral of the “Associate Professor” academic rank, Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov participates with total of 47 publications in Bulgarian or English. Out of them, 15 were published in English in foreign journals (№№ 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24 и 25) and 7 in the Republic of Bulgaria (№№ 3, 6, 12, 14, 22, 23, 26), from which 6 with Impact factor (IF) (№№ 2, 4, 6, 10, 11 and 13), and 8 – with SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) (№№ 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14). In this competition, Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov participates with 6 publications in Bulgarian in scientific journals (№№ 5, 7, 9, 40-42) and 13 reports in proceedings from scientific conferences (27-39).

The total impact factor from research publications presented for the competition is 9.677, and the individual IF of the applicant is 1.151.

Dr. Roman Petkov presents for the competition 1 publication (№ 15) in a journal refereed and indexed in a world database (Scopus, Web of Science) without impact factor or SJR and 11 publications (№№ 16-26) in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective works in English. Furthermore, 16 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective works in Bulgarian (№№ 27-42) are presented.

For this competition, Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov, fulfilling point Г6 from MNR, has included 1 book published on the basis of defended thesis for conferral of the PhD educational and scientific degree (№ 43) entitled „Porcine enzootic pneumonia – prevalence, diagnostics and measures for control”, Intel Entrans Publishing, Sofia, ISBN: 978-619-7554-01-4, 125 pages.



The applicant in this competition has fulfilled point Г5 from MNR with a monograph. The monograph „Prevention and control of infectious animals diseases, Intel Entrans Publishing-Sofia, Bulgaria, ISBN: 978-619-7554-06-9 (№ 44) of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov is co-authored with Yanko Ivanov and Chavdar Filipov. It is published in English on 420 pages with 143 references. Due to the lack of separation protocol in the applicant's documents giving evidence for the individual contribution of each of authors, I have made reference to the table of content of the monograph. It states that 111 pages (from p. 240 to p. 351) were written by Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov. He is the author of 6 chapters of the monograph as follows: 14. Application of mathematical modeling in veterinary epidemiology; 15. Economic aspects of prevention and control of infectious animal diseases, conditions and schemes of compensation payments; 16. Strategy for prevention and control of infectious animal diseases; 17. General and specific anti-epidemic measures; 18. Outbreak control and eradication measures; 19. Planning and preparation of animal disease prophylactic and control programs and recovery plans. National animal disease prophylactic and control program; 20. Zoonoses. New emerging diseases. Biological weapons, bioterrorism, agro-terrorism biological war; 21. The role of disinfection, disinsection and pest control in the complex of anti- epidemic measures.

He is member of two large author teams having written two specialised handbooks (№№ 45 and 46), intended for the practicing veterinarian - *Manual for the veterinary practitioner starting an own private business* (Intel Entrans, Sofia, 2012 ISBN: 978-954-2910-15-2) and *Handbook of the veterinarian* (Intel Entrans, Sofia, 2014, ISBN: 978-954-2910-43-5).

In this competition, the candidate presents 1 teaching aid (AppendixC47) – e-learning course for veterinary medicine students, a 15-hour module based in the Blackboard Learn™ platform in “Epidemiology and preventive medicine” (Epizootiology) taught at the VMF, UF – Sofia, as seen from Appendix 2 of required documents.

In presented research production for the competition, Chief Assistant Professor R. Petkov is sole author of 4 publications in scientific journals or proceedings from conferences and books (№№ 12, 14, 43 and 47), out of which two in English (№№ 12, 14) and 2 in Bulgarian (№№ 43, 47). In 10 scientific publications, he is leading author; of them 5 (№№ 1, 2, 3, 12 and 14) in English and 5 (№№ 19, 20, 32, 34, 43) in Bulgarian. In another 4 publications, he is second author (№№ 12, 15, 25 and 31). Dr. Roman Petkov is third author in 13 works (№№ 8, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 33, 34, 37, 38, 40, 44), out of which 8 in English (№№ 8, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 44) and 5 in Bulgarian (№№ 33, 34, 37, 38, 40) .

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

Appendix № 7 from presented documents for the competition makes clear that the applicant has actively participated in 10 projects, 4 of them research and 6 educational, funded by international EC programmes.

The involvement of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov in the 4 research projects should be outlined as important: three of them were funded by the University of Forestry – Sofia (1. Investigations on some infectious diseases in wild carnivores in Bulgaria; 2. Investigations on the prevalence, etiological agents and their relative share in porcine respiratory disease complex; 3. Investigations on the prevalence and some problems of immunoprophylaxis of myxomatosis in rabbits), and one funded by the Trakia University – Stara Zagora (4. Hepatitis E: first seroprevalence screening study among pigs from South Bulgaria).

#### **4.2. Analysis of published research results**

The applicant in the “Associate Professor” competition presents a list with 47 scientific publications plus 5 relevant for the conferral of the PhD educational and scientific degree. Thus, the presented scientific production includes: thesis for the conferral of the PhD educational and scientific degree with abstract (№№ 1 and 2); publications associated to the PhD thesis (№№ 3,4,5,6); publications for participation in the competition for “Associate Professor” – a total of 47.

The more important proofs for the research metrics of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Pepovich Petkov are publications in: *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* (IF = 3.538); *Vojnosanitetski preglad* (IF = 0.272); *Journal of Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society* (IF = 0.069);

Twenty-three works were published in Bulgarian, while 24 – in English. Out of presented publications, 7 were reported on international scientific conferences, and 6 – on national conferences. Of all research reports, 13 were published in proceedings from conferences.

Chief Assistant Professor Roman Pepovich Petkov has popularised his research with oral reports and posters on various scientific conferences in Bulgaria and Romania, as seen from the multiple scanned copies of certificates and abstracts in the publications list.

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

The relevance of applicant's studies and their results is evidenced by the big number of citations (15) of 12 publications from his research production, mainly by authors in renowned foreign periodical editions, with total IF = 6.822 or SJR = 1.622. Dr. Petkov is cited in scientific journals refereed and indexed in world databases with scientific information (*Scopus* or *Web of Science*), as well as in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. The citations in journals with IF are 2, in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, and in journals with SJR they are 5: three in *Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences* and 2 in *Veterinary World*. In international journals without IF or SJR,

the applicant was cited 6 times: *Medinform – Journal of Medical and Dental Practice* – 2 citations; *Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine* – 2 citations; *Journal of Veterinary Medicine* – 1 citation and *Scientific Papers: Animal Science and Biotechnologies* – 1 citation. Appendix 5 from applicant's documents shows that Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov has one citation in a teaching aid in Bulgarian – Manual for practical training of veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine, by Petrov V., G. Zhelev, P. Marutsov & K. Koev, 2018, Kota Publishing, St. Zagora [ISBN: 978-954-305-467-1].

#### **4.4. Contributions in research works of the candidate**

The scientific interests of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov are in the field of animal infectious pathology and solutions of theoretical and practical issues. This was achieved by using integrated modern research methods and detailed analysis of obtained results. After being acquainted with scientific publications included in the application of the candidate, I conclude that scientific contributions of the applicant could be grouped in the following 8 fields: I. Contributions to the infectious pathology of swine; II. Contributions to the infectious pathology of companion animals; III. Contributions to the infectious pathology of poultry; IV. Contributions to the infectious pathology of small ruminants; V. Contributions in the field of vector borne infections; VI. Contributions to the human infectious pathology; VII. Contributions in the field of epidemiology; VIII. Contributions associated to research on carcinogenic effect of different toxic substances.

The contributions to the infectious pathology of swine are the most numerous – 11. They consist in development and test of a scheme for control of ileitis in pigs, detection of hepatitis E viral infection in domestic pigs reared in industrial farms in different regions of the country, investigation of clinical signs and gross changes in circovirus infection, evaluation of classic methods for diagnostics of classical swine fever. An overview and analysis of potentially efficient antibiotics against *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* was performed. Clinical studies were carried out on the efficiency of different combines and mono vaccines against enzootic pneumonia. The prevalence and relative share of enzootic pneumonia in porcine respiratory disease complex was established. Secondary bacterial pathogens in nasal and lung samples from pigs at different ages affected with respiratory infection with involvement of *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* and *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* were discussed. Overview and analysis of methods for diagnostics of porcine enzootic pneumonia were made.

The contributions to the infectious pathology of companion animals include: 1. Identification of different canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2) types, the virus causing parvovirus in dogs, through identification of different CPV-2a and 2b types; 2. Investigation on the prevalence of the protozoan disease anaplasmosis in stray dogs in the district of Sofia;



The contributions to the infectious pathology of poultry include assessment of diagnostic potential of various serological tests for detection of antigens against Influenza A virus in wild migratory birds.

The contributions to the infectious pathology of small ruminants comprise: 1. Investigation on the incidence of mastitis among goats in Bulgaria; 2. Study on the effect of prophylaxis of subclinical mastitis during the dry period on the expression of udder mastitis during lactation; 3. Determination of changes in some physicochemical parameters of milk (pH, lactose, TS, P and Ca) in subclinical mastitis and potential of these parameters as indices of udder inflammation; 4. Study on some haematological parameters in lactating goats with subclinical mastitis; 5. Detection of bacterial agents of mastitis in goats and *in vitro* determination of their sensitivity to different antibiotics; 6. Determination of effects of age, stage and number of lactations on the prevalence of mastitis in goats.

The contributions in the field of vector borne infections are as follows: 1. Analysis on Lyme borreliosis with respect to the clinical variability of the disease, variety of vectors and reservoirs, diagnostic methods, used drugs and measures for prevention; 2. Analysis of main etiological agents from the family *Rickettsiaceae* and drugs used for treatment of rickettsiosis; 3. Study on the influence of *Coxiella burnetii* (Q-fever agent) as possible cause for fever of unknown origin (FUO).

The candidate in the “Associate Professor” competition Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov has also contributions in the field of human infectious pathology: 1. Study on the prevalence of hepatitis E viral infection among Bulgarian patients; 2. Systematic review on clinical, epidemiological features and diagnostics of hepatitis B with emphasis on the prevention of this disease; 3. Detailed review on the etiology, epidemiology, clinical picture, diagnostics and prevention of hepatitis A viral infection.

Contributions to epidemiology field comprise introduction of a mathematical model for development of a given infectious disease that could predict its progression into an epizootic as well as the possibility for its control through vaccination with regard to the selection of strategy for disease prevention and control.

The publications of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov also contribute to the investigation on carcinogenic effect of different toxic substances. Four publications (№№ 4, 17, 22, 23) evaluate the effect of N-nitrosodiethylamine on turkey liver after embryonic inoculation of the toxin. He has investigated whether this toxin causes changes in haematological and blood biochemical parameters in guinea fowl, hatched from eggs with embryonically induced N-nitrosodiethylamine hepatocarcinogenesis. The applicant has studied haematological and blood

biochemical changes in turkeys with reproduced hepatocarcinogenesis. He has investigated the toxic and carcinogenic effect of N-nitrosodiethylamine on Japanese quail embryos.

He is one of authors, along with other specialists in the field of infectious pathology, in 4 chapters („Diseases of equids”, „Diseases of swine”, „Diseases of poultry”, „Diseases of rabbits”) from Part “Infectious diseases in animals”, included in handbooks “Manual for the veterinary practitioner starting an own private business” and “Handbook of the veterinarian”. These handbooks, intended for practicing veterinarians and specialists undergoing post-graduate studies, present a synopsis of up-to-date information in the field of diagnostics, therapy and prevention of infectious diseases in animals to assist practicing veterinarians, post-graduate students and other specialists in the field of animal health.

## **5. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the applicant**

Appendix C 31 from the documents of the application shows that Dr. Roman Petkov has participated in the creation (equipment) of the University laboratory for biotechnological, molecular and genetic studies in forestry, agriculture and veterinary medicine (project № Д002-64 / 11.12.2008).

The applicant in this competition, has a personal contribution to development of the VMF at the University of Forestry through its teaching & learning and research & development activities. He covers all recommended criteria of the University of Forestry, has defended a dissertation for conferral of the PhD educational and scientific degree, publications in journals with impact factor, SCImago journal rank and without IF/SJR, has a course load from lectures, has assisted in creation of teaching labs, has participated in research projects etc. Having in mind his participation in training Bulgarian and foreign students by teaching several courses and being involved in the large-scale activities of the establishment (Appendix C25, C26, C27, C28, C29, C36, C37, C38, C39, C40, C41, C42, C44, C45 and C46), the applicant fully deserves to occupy the academic rank “Associate Professor”.

**Summarizing data** from all materials provided by the applicant, I conclude that they exceed substantially the recommended criteria for evaluation.

## **6. Critical notes and recommendations**

My critical notes follow below:

1. There are some imprecisions in document № 9 *Appendix 1* (self-evaluation fact sheet) and document № 10 *Appendix 2* (List of publications), where the candidate has listed publication № 45 “Manual for the veterinary practitioner starting an own private business” and № 46 and “Handbook of the veterinarian” as teaching aids, thus gathering a score for parameter „E23 – published university teaching aid” of 1.63. In fact these two handbooks, in whose author team Chief Assistant Professor R. Petkov is part and that include specialists in internal non-infectious diseases, surgery, obstetrics, parasitology, infectious diseases and other veterinary specialists, are not appropriate for use as teaching aids as they are reference literature sources in concise form in assistance to practicing vets and are not approved by the Faculty Council of the VMF, UF for training of undergraduate veterinary medicine students, and most probably, do not correspond to the curriculum of the “Infectious diseases” course.

2. There are some imprecisions in document № 9 *Appendix 1* (self-evaluation fact sheet) and document № 10 *Appendix 2* (List of publications), where two names of the author team of publication № 44 are lacking. This is the monograph presented by the applicant for the competition. It is listed as *Pepovich R. 2020. Prevention and control of infectious animals diseases, Y. Ivanov (Ed.). Intel Entrans Publishing - Sofia. Bulgaria. ISBN: 978-619-7554-06-9, pp. 240-351. [monograph]*. This monograph is written by three authors – Yanko Ivanov, Chavdar Filipov, Roman Pepovich, and not only by the candidate. The names of the first two authors are absent in the above cited documents (№ 9 and №10). The total volume of the monograph is 420 pages, and making reference to the table of content (as there is not any separation protocol), the applicant Chief Assistant Professor Roman Petkov is author of 111 pages.

As per Decree № 122/29.06.2018 r. amending the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (page 33, Section "Remarks" item 5) and the Statute for Development of Academic Staff at the University of Forestry (page 72, Section "Remarks" item 5), **„Monographs with more than one author should be always accompanied by separation protocol among authors, and in order to be considered as a monograph, the author should have written independently a number of pages corresponding to the definition for monograph”**. Such separation protocol is not included in the documents.

These remarks of mine can by no means be regarded as significant and determining the entire scientific and teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Roman Pepovich Petkov. These concern some technical omissions in the application’s documents.

***Summarising the data*** from the documents presented by the applicant in this competition, I could state that they far exceed the recommended criteria for evaluation.

## 7. Personal impressions

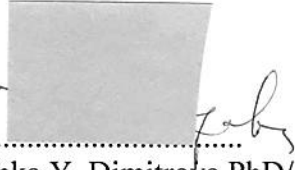
Former student of mine, now young colleague with academic background. He is tolerant, modest, well-educated, established academic instructor.

## 8. Conclusion

On the basis of aforemade analysis, I give a positive evaluation on candidate's scientific production and teaching activities and believe that he complies with all requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statute for Development of Academic Staff at the University of Forestry. This allows me recommending the honorable members of the academic jury to give a **positive evaluation** on the scientific and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Veterinary Medicine Faculty at the University of Forestry - Sofia, to confer the academic rank "Associate Professor" to Dr. Roman Petkov.

On the basis of his research achievements and high evaluation of research activities, I **convincingly recommend the honorable members of the academic jury to elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov on the academic position "Associate Professor"** subject of the present competition.

Sofia  
22 April 2020

Undersigned:.....  
/Prof. Dimitrichka Y. Dimitrova PhD/

*This standpoint is presented on: 24 April 2020*