

STATEMENT

on the materials for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Plant growing, Scientific Specialty „Vegetable growing“, Discipline „Vegetable growing., announced by the University of Forestry in the State Gazette vol. 32/3.4.2020 г., procedure code AsP –0320-38 .

Candidates for the competition are:

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Hristova Yordanova

Statement written by: Dr. Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova, Associate Professor, Professional Field: 6.1. Plant growing, from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Milena Hristova Yordanova was born in Kubrat. During the period 1986-1992 she was a student at the Higher Agricultural Institute (currently Agricultural University) in Plovdiv, Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture, specialty Viticulture and Horticulture, graduating with the qualification of Engineer-Agronomist. She studied a master's degree program at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Journalism, where in 1998 she obtained a master's degree in Journalism. In 1999, after a competition, she was appointed as an assistant at the University of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agronomy. In 2003 she acquired the title of Senior Assistant, and since 2007 she has been Chief Assistant. In 2009 she defended her dissertation in the scientific specialty "Vegetable growing" on the topic: „Biological studies of effects of using mulches in growing of broccoli - *Brassica oleracea* var. *italica* Plenck.” and acquired an educational and scientific degree "Doctor". The candidate has experience as a university lecturer in the disciplines "Vegetable growing", "Greenhouse Vegetable growing", "Mushroom growing", "Rare Vegetable Crops" and "Introduction to Organic Farming".

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with the requirements according to the Regulations of Academic Staff Development (RASD) at the University of Forestry (UF);

The documentation submitted by the candidate Milena Hristova Yordanova fully meets the minimum national requirements under art. 2b of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and art. 2a, para. 1 from RASD at the University of Forestry. The self-assessment report contains correctly filled in information, according to which two groups of indicators, respectively A (50 points) and C (100 points) cover the exact number of required points by groups of indicators, and for the others - D (200 points) and E (50 points) the candidate exceeds the required points. Although points for the group of indicators F are not required for the award of the academic position of Associate Professor (according to the minimum national requirements under art. 2b of the DASRBA and art. 2a, para. 1 of the RASD at the UF, the candidate has also submitted materials on this group of indicators F (204.7 points).

3. Assessment of the teaching activity of the candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova has over 20 years experience as a lecturer in the University of Forestry. She started as an assistant and grew through senior assistant to chief assistant at the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Forestry - Sofia.

In the last five years, she has auditorium and extra-auditorium activities with a total workload of nearly 2,844 hours.

The teaching activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova includes the disciplines: "Vegetable growing", "Greenhouse Vegetable growing", "Mushroom growing", "Rare Vegetable Crops" and "Introduction to Organic Farming", in the two bachelor's degree programs of the Faculty of Agronomy: Agronomy and Plant Protection. In addition to conducting semester exams, the extra-auditorium activities also include the supervision of 13 graduates successfully defended their theses, reviews of 14 successfully defended diploma theses, development of new curricula.

The candidate uses modern teaching methods, and in the academic year 2013/2014 she developed a training module for distance learning in the discipline "Mushroom growing".

4. Evaluation of the scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activity of the candidate

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

The candidate has participated in 12 scientific, applied and educational projects. Eight of them are funded by the University of Forestry, one is funded by the Research Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science, one - by the International Institute of Plant Nutrition (IPNI) and one is funded by the GEF.

The applicant also participated as an academic mentor in the project BG05M2OP001-2.002-0001 "Student Internships - Phase 1", Funding organization: Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth", co-financed by the European Structural and Innovation Funds.

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results

For participation in the competition for Associate Professor in the discipline „Vegetable growing“, announced by the University of Forestry in SG vol. 32/3.4.2020 r., the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Yordanova, PhD, presents a total of 38 scientific publications. They include: 1 individual monograph; 34 articles and papers, of which: 11 are published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in databases worldwide with scientific information; 23 are published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collections of papers. Of all articles and publications, 5 are individual publications, 15 are with one co-author, 9 are with two co-authors and 9 are with three or more co-authors.

The publication activity also includes: 1 published university textbook or textbook used in schools and 1 published university handbook or handbook used in schools.

4.3. Impact of scientific activity of the candidate in literature (citation)

Publishing activity of the candidate has an impact mainly in international and less in Bulgarian literature. For participation in the competition for Associate Professor of the discipline "Vegetable growing", announced by the University of Forestry in SG vol. 32/3.4.2020 r. the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Yordanova, PhD, presents 14 citations, of which: 12 in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, and 2 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review.

4.4. Contributions in the works of the candidate (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

The submitted data sheet for the contributions in the works of the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova show that the main scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions are contained in the publications presented in the competition. The contributions are divided as follows: Scientific contributions - 7; Scientific-applied contributions - 12 and Applied Contributions - 9.

Five of the scientific contributions are related to the composting of vegetable waste, 1 to the testing of different varieties of lettuce and 1 to the testing of different mulching materials. Of the applied research contributions, 5 are related to composting, 3 to mulching of vegetable crops, 2 to the application of biochar in the soil, during the cultivation of vegetables, 1 to the testing of herbicides in the cultivation of different vegetable species and 1 to the study of the possibility for growing different types of agricultural crops, including vegetables, such as energy crops, for production of biofuels. And of the 9 applied contributions, 4 are related to the composting of vegetable waste, 2 to the mulching of vegetable species, 1 to the influence of irrigation norms for cabbage species, 1 to the opportunities for urban gardening and 1 to the analysis of the state of organic farming in Bulgaria.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

I believe that the contributions of the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova are her own and this is also evident from the number of individual publications and the presented monograph. The ability of the candidate to search and develop modern scientific problems is clearly visible, and it is not limited to one topic.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks and recommendations to the candidate.

7. Personal impressions

My personal impressions of the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova are positive.

8. Conclusion

The candidate in the competition Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Hristova Yordanova fully meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for its Application and the Regulations for its Application of the University of Forestry for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

I PROPOSE that the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova **be approved to assume the academic position** "Associate Professor" in the discipline „Vegetable growing“ of the Professional Field: 6.1. Plant growing

Date:13.07.2020

Plovdiv

PREPARED

STANDPOINT:...

(Assoc.Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova)