

## OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „Associate Professor“ in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty “Animal hygiene and organization of veterinary services” in the discipline “Nutrition and Agronomy”.

In the competition for associate professor, published in the State Gazette **28/01.04.2025** and on the site of the University of Forestry at **17.03.2025** with the code **VM-AsP-0325-160** for the needs of the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences at the Faculty of Veterinary medicine, as a candidate participate **chief assistant professor Hristina Stalinova Neshovska**, Faculty of Veterinary medicine, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences.

**Prepared the opinion: assoc. prof. Georgi Stoychev Popov, PhD**, University of Forestry, field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty “Animal pathology”, member of the Scientific jury, according to order № 3ПЦ-280/19.05.2025 of the Rector of UF.

### 1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Hristina Stalinova Neshovska is born on 23.12.1987 in Sofia. She is completed secondary education at the Bulgarian General Education School "Hristo Botev" - Bratislava. In 2011, she is graduated as a veterinarian at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Trakia University, Stara Zagora. After winning a competition in 2018, she started working as an assistant in the then Department of "Animal Sciences" at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry. She defended her dissertation in 2021 to obtain the "Doctor" (PhD) degree and since 2022 has been a chief assistant in the current Department of "Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences". Before the beginning of her academic career, Dr. Neshovska held the following positions: Chief Inspector in the Department of "Integrated Prevention", Directorate "Disease Prevention and Health Promotion" at the Sofia Regional Health Inspectorate (2015-2018); Chief Inspector in "Risk Analysis and Food Control" at the Bulgarian food safety agency (BFSA), Sofia-city (2014-2015); Practicing veterinarian at a veterinary clinic in Sofia; Vice manager in a trading company (2006).

### 2. Correspondence of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant according to the Rules of the Development of academic staff at the University of Forestry.



Chief assist. prof. Neshovska is submitted all the documents required for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor". The documents are prepared according to the requirements of the professional field, according to the Statute for Development of the Academician Staff at UF

### **3. Assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities**

Chief assist. prof. Hristina Neshovska participates in the preparation and conduct of exercises, seminars, practical, semester exams in the disciplines: "Nutrition and Agronomy", "Quality and Safety of Animal Feed", "Veterinary Hygiene and Technologies in Animal Husbandry", "Public Veterinary medicine and Legislation", and "Ecology", both in Bulgarian and English. For the last five years, her academic workload is 1682.8 hours of teaching in Bulgarian and 715 hours - of teaching in English.

She is participated in the preparation of four curricula in the disciplines "Nutrition and Agronomy", "Veterinary Hygiene and Technologies in Animal Husbandry", "Ecology", "Quality and Safety of Animal Feed", intended for the training of students in Bulgarian and English.

### **4. Assessment of candidate's scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activities**

To participate in the competition for the position of **associate professor**, Chief assist. prof. Neshovska is submitted **20 scientific papers** that do not repeat those for the acquisition of the PhD degree. The total number of points received by the candidate under the indicator groups is **464.15** with minimum national requirements of **400** points.

Under indicator 1 (**group A**), Chief assist. prof. Neshovska has **50** points out of 50 required for a dissertation work for the award of the PhD degree, on the topic "Study of the influence of HPP - processing on the quality and safety of raw dog food", (Diploma No. JITY – OHC - 2021-149 / 27.10.2021).

Under indicator 2 (**group B**) - 0 points out of 0 required.

Under indicators from **group C**, a habilitation work - a monograph on the topic: **Neshovska, H.** Black soldier fly - the farm of the future. Ecological source of nutrients, Monograph, 168 pp., Publisher: Avangard Prima, Sofia, 2024. (ISBN - **978-619-279-062-2**, COBISS.BG-ID - **69510152**), for which there are **100** points out of 100 required.

According to indicators from **group D** - **234.15 points** out of 200 required. Of these, 40 points are obtained from a published book based on a defended dissertation for the award



of PhD degree: **Neshovska, H.** (2024). Study of the impact of HPP - processing on the quality and safety of raw dog food, Book, 124 pages, Publisher: Avangard Prima, Sofia, 2024 (**ISBN - 978-619-279-063-9, COBISS.BG-ID - 69484296**). 170 points are obtained from 11 scientific publications in publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information. The remaining 24.15 points are from articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review and in edited collective volumes.

The number of points that the candidate collected on the indicators from **group E** is **80** out of 50 required, which are obtained from 5 citations, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information of 2 publications and 1 citation in non-refereed journals with scientific review of 1 publication.

From the presented information, it can be summarized that, according to the necessary indicators, Chief assist. prof. Neshovska meets the minimum national requirements and those of the UF for scientific and teaching activities, necessary for occupying the position of Associate Professor.

#### **4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects**

The candidate is not submitted participations in scientific, applied science and educational projects in the competition for the position of „associate professor“.

#### **4.2 Characterization of published scientific results**

The total number of scientific works of Chief assist. prof. Neshovska is **23**, of which 3 are related to the dissertation for the acquisition of the **PhD degree** (including dissertation work and abstract). In the competition for "associate professor" she is participated with **one monograph, one book based on the defended dissertation work and 18 publications**. Publications in refereed and indexed scientific journals, series and conference proceedings - Web of Science and SCOPUS are 11. Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes are 7. Most of the articles are in English (17), and 1 - in Bulgarian. Three publications are independent, and in one she has one co-author.

The monograph is written on 168 pages and includes 478 citations. It is a current work that presents innovative biotechnologies for sustainable and high-quality production of insect protein. The advantages of this new industry for our country are presented, mainly focusing on the cultivation of the species *Hermetia illucens*, known as the black soldier fly.



#### **4.3 Reflection of Candidate's Scientific Publications in Literature (known citations)**

The citations in refereed and indexed scientific journals, series and conference proceedings - Web of Science and SCOPUS are 5, and in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 1.

#### **4.4 Contributions to the candidate's work (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)**

The areas in which the candidate worked are: innovations in domestic animals nutrition and analysis of legislation related to their application; study of samples of seawater, sediment, algae and various fish species from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast for bioaccumulation of heavy metals and study of legal measures.

The main original contributions are related to the creation and application of new food and fodder technologies, and their effects on dogs and farm animals. For the first time in our country, an in-depth study of the use and paraclinical effects of raw dog food that is prepared high-pressure processing is conducted. The nutritional values and safety markers of citrus waste products as innovative feed raw materials are studied, with the aim of replacing basic ones in farm animals.

Another area of contributions is related to the biomonitoring of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast for the presence of heavy metals. A study is conducted over a two-year period to identify regulated (lead, cadmium and mercury) and non-regulated heavy metals in the Bulgarian Black Sea waters, analyzing the current legislation related to the toxicological pollution of marine aquaculture.

The monograph presents studies on the production and application of basic and waste products obtained from the cultivation of black soldier fly in Bulgaria. The studied products are characterized by excellent nutritional qualities, as well as a high level of safety for end users, which is why they could replace basic protein and lipid sources in animal nutrition, without affecting their health status and productivity.

#### **5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate**

The candidate's personal contribution is undeniable, which is evident in each of the scientific papers presented. She participated in the competition with 3 independent publications, 1 with one co-author, 12 with two co-authors and only one in which she is co-authored with three or more co-authors.



## 6. Critical remarks

I have no critical remarks on the materials presented in the application. I recommend that Dr. Neshovska publish her scientific works in journals with an impact factor, which will be important for increasing citations. I believe that with her experience, the candidate has a certain potential for participation in national and international projects, as well as in writing textbooks.

## 7. Personal impressions

I know Chief assist. prof. Neshovska as hardworking, responsible and dedicated to her work. She is a respected lecturer by students and the academic community. I believe that Dr. Neshovska possesses all the necessary personal and professional qualities to hold the academic position of "associate professor".

## 8. Conclusion

Chief assist. prof. Neshovska participates in the competition with a completely sufficient and in many aspects exceeding the requirements scientific production, teaching and expert activity. The results of her research are published in prestigious journals and have real practical applicability. She is an experienced and erudite researcher, with high competence in the field of Nutrition and Agronomy and without a doubt fully meets the criteria for occupying the academic position of "associate professor", set out in the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the University of Forestry for its implementation.

**In connection with the above, I propose that chief assist. prof. Dr. Hristina Stalinova Neshovska be elected as an "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the discipline "Nutrition and Agronomy" in Professional field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Hygiene and Organization of Veterinary Services"**

Prepared the opinion:

/assoc. prof. Dr. Popov, PhD/

Opinion delivered to: 06.08.2025