

OPINION

On the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of **"Associate Professor"** in the field of higher education **6. Agrarian 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"**, announced by the University of Forestry in the **State Gazette, issue 28/01.04.2025, with procedure code VM-AsP-0325-160.**

Candidate for participation in the competition:

Senior Asst. professor Dr. Hristina Stalinova Neshovska

The opinion was prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliyan Radev Kostov, Chief Veterinary and Sanitary Inspector of Bulgaria, BFSA, Sofia, field of higher education 6.0. Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty **"Veterinary and sanitary expertise"**, member of the scientific jury, according to ZPS-280/19.05.2025 of the Rector of the University of Technology.

1. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Senior Assistant professor Dr. Hristina Stalinova Neshovska was born on 23.12.1987 in Sofia. She completed her secondary education at the Bulgarian General Education School "Hristo Botev" - Bratislava / Slovakia. In 2011, she graduated as a veterinarian at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Thracian University, Stara Zagora.

In 2018, she started working as an assistant after winning a competition in the Department of Animal Sciences at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia. In 2021, she successfully defended her dissertation for the Doctorate degree, and since 2022, she has been a senior assistant professor in the current Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences.

Before starting her academic career, Dr. Neshovska held the following positions: Chief Inspector in the Integrated Prevention Department, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Directorate at the Sofia Regional Health Inspectorate (2015-2018); Chief Inspector in Risk Analysis and Food Control at the Regional Directorate for Food Safety, Sofia-city (2014-2015); Veterinary practitioner at the Sveti Antim Veterinary Center, Sofia.

2. Compliance of the candidate's submitted documents and materials with those required according to the RAS Regulations at the LTU

Upon verification of all documents provided by the candidate, full compliance with the regulatory requirements according to the regulations of the LTU is established.

3. Assessment of the candidate's teaching and learning activities

The documents provided show that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. 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 Affairs and Legislation", "Forensic Veterinary Medicine" and "Ecology", in Bulgarian and English. For the last five years, the candidate's academic workload from classroom and extracurricular employment is 1682.8 hours of teaching in Bulgarian and 715 hours - of teaching in English.

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Hristina Neshovska has also 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 the candidate's scientific, applied scientific and publication activities

Dr. Neshovska has presented 20 scientific papers, with the total number of points received by the candidate in the groups of indicators being 464.15 of them are with a minimum required of 400 points.

Group A - the candidate has 50 points out of 50 required for a dissertation for the award of the ONS "Doctor" on the topic "Study of the influence of NRR - processing on the quality and safety of raw dog food", (Diploma No. LTU - ONS - 2021-149 / 27.10.2021).

Group B - 0 points out of 0 required.

Group C - a habilitation thesis is presented - a monograph on the topic: Neshovska, H. Black soldier fly - the farm of the future. Ecological source of nutrients, Monograph, 168 pages, Publishing House: Avangard Prima, Sofia, 2024. (ISBN - 978-619-279-062-2, COBISS.BG-ID - 69510152), for which there are 100 points out of 100 required.

Group D – 234.15 points out of 200 required.

Of these:

- 40 points are from a published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the ONS "doctor": **Neshovska, H.** (2024). Study of the influence of NRR - processing on the quality and safety of raw dog food, Book, 124 pp., Publisher: Avangard Prima, Sofia, 2024 (ISBN - 978-619-279-063-9, COBISS.BG-ID – 69484296).

- 170 points are from 11 scientific publications in refereed and indexed publications in world-renowned databases.

- 24.15 points are from articles and reports published in non-refereed publications.

From the information presented above, it is evident that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Neshovska meets the minimum national requirements and those of the University of Technology for scientific and teaching activities necessary for holding the position of Associate Professor.

4.1 Participation in scientific, applied scientific and educational projects

No participation in scientific, applied scientific and educational projects has been presented.

4.2 Characteristics of published scientific results

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Hristina Neshovska has presented 23 scientific publications, of which 3 are related to the dissertation for the acquisition of the PhDr. (including dissertation work and abstract). In the competition for Associate Professor, she participates with one monograph, one book based on a defended dissertation work and 18 publications. 11 publications have been published in refereed and indexed scientific journals, series and conference proceedings - Web of Science and SCOPUS. 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 issues), and 1 – in Bulgarian. Three publications are independent, and in one he has one co-author.

The monographic work is written on 168 pages and includes 478 references. In there, the candidate examines in detail the advantages of using an innovative protein feed for our country, obtained from insects. A detailed description of the species under consideration, *Hermetia illucens*, is presented. The candidate also analyzes in detail the legislation in this area. In her monograph, Dr. Neshovska also publishes her own research related to the quality and safety of raw materials obtained from the Black Soldier Fly.

4.3 Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

5 citations are presented in refereed and indexed scientific journals, series and conference proceedings – Web of Science and SCOPUS, and 1 issue in a non-refereed journal.

4.4 Contributions to the candidate's works (scientific, applied science, applied)

The candidate works in the following areas: innovative ecological feed raw materials and analysis of legislation in this area; bioaccumulation of heavy metals in water and hydrobionts obtained from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

Original contributions are related to the study of the application of new technologies in animal feed and feed, as well as their effect on dogs and farm animals. For the first time in our country,

an in-depth study has been conducted of the use and effect on the health status of dogs fed with raw food that has undergone HPP processing. The nutritional values and safety indicators of citrus waste products as an innovative feed source have been studied.

Other contributions are related to the biomonitoring of heavy metals in water and marine inhabitants from the Northern and Southern Black Sea coasts, as well as an analysis of the current legislation related to pollution of marine aquaculture and the effect on consumers.

The monograph examines in detail the use and application of products obtained from black soldier fly in Bulgaria, as well as the ecological aspect and advantages of this new livestock industry. Detailed analyses related to the nutritional qualities of these raw materials are presented.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The materials provided show that the candidate's personal contribution is tangible, with three of the presented articles being entirely independent. The topic of the presented dissertation book and monograph are new for our country.

6. Critical remarks

I have no critical remarks

7. Personal impressions

During the time, I have been known her, Dr. Neshovska has demonstrated exceptional personal and professional qualities: hard work, diligence, responsibility and dedication. She is a respected lecturer by both students and the academic community, which is a testament to her committed and accessible teaching.

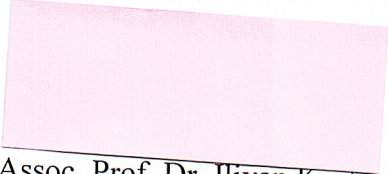
I am convinced that the combination of her personal virtues and high professionalism make her an excellent candidate for the academic position of "Associate professor".

8. Conclusion

From the information about the competition presented to me by Senior Assistant Professor DR. Neshovska, I believe that it is completely sufficient and fully meets the requirements of the criteria for occupying the academic position of "associate professor", set out in the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations of the LTU.

In connection with the above, I propose that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Hristina Stalinova Neshovska be elected as "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the discipline "Nutrition and Agronomy" in Professional Direction 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Hygiene and Organization of Veterinary Services"Л

The opinion was prepared by:



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliyan Kostov

The opinion was submitted on: 11.08.2025