

OPINION

By: Prof. D.Sc. Julia Markova Doitchinova – University of
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Regarding: competition for the academic position of associate professor
in professional direction 3.8. Economics - Agrarian Economics
Grounds for participation in the scientific jury - Decision of the SC of the
Institute for Economic Research protocol 10 dated 15.06.2022 and Order of
the Director of the Institute No. 282/27.06.22

1. Information about the candidate

The only candidate under the announced competition (State Gazette no. 33/29.04.2022) is Chief Assistant Dr. Petya Hristomirova Branzova.

She holds a BA in Agricultural Economics (2008), a MA in Agricultural Business (2009) and a PhD in Agricultural Economics (2013). All educational and scientific degrees were completed at UNWE.

Since 2013 the candidate works in the Institute of Economic Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Section "Regional and Sectoral Economy" as an assistant, and from 2019 also as a chief assistant.

Dr. Branzova has teaching experience from working with students from the "Agrarian Business" specialty of UNWE, where she led classes on the "Management Consulting" and "Economics of Cooperatives" courses.

The candidate is a member of the unions of scientists, economists and agrarian economists in Bulgaria.

2. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in the Institute of Economic Studies of the BAS.

In the submitted reference for occupying the academic position „Associate Professor“, Branzova presented evidence for 508 points (with a minimum threshold of 450 points), formed by:

- Dissertation - 50 points;
- Habilitation thesis - published monograph "Development of the main fruit crops in the South-East region of Bulgaria" - 100 points;
- Published book based on a defended dissertation work for the award of the ONS "Doctor" with the title "Economic impact of climate change on Bulgarian agriculture in the South-Eastern planning region";
- Articles and reports published in scientific publications referenced and indexed in a global database of scientific information - publication in the Journal "Economic Research" of the BAS No. 1 2019;

- Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific editing or published in edited collective volumes - a total of 16 publications. Of these, 8 issues were published in English.

In total, the last three rubrics (published book and articles and reports) form 253 points

- Citations – 11 items, 105 points.

The majority of scientific publications are independent.

3. Characteristics of scientific production

Dr. Branzova participated in the competition with 19 scientific publications, related in terms of content in three research areas:

- Impact of climate changes on agriculture and the economy of Bulgaria - 7 nos. publications (Nos. 1.1, 5.1, 7.1, 7.6, 7.7, 7.11 and 7.12 of the list of publications);
- Organic farming and Common Agricultural Policy of the EU - 8 pcs. (Nos. 6.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.8, 7.10 and 7.16);
- Bioeconomy – 4 pcs. (Nos. 7.9, 7.13, 7.14 and 7.15).

Among the publications on the problems of the impact of climate change on agriculture and the economy of Bulgaria, the monographic work "Impact of climate change on the development of major fruit crops in the South-East region of Bulgaria" deserves special attention (No. 1.1). In it, the author skilfully and consistently assesses the condition and diagnoses the problems of fruit crops grown in this region. This has made it possible to determine the necessary investments, as well as to evaluate their effectiveness. Not only the results of this research, but also their interpretation deserve a positive assessment. It emphasizes the impact of climate change not only on the projected yields, but also on determining the size of the areas and required resources, as well as on the expected production results.

The second independent monograph, which was developed on the basis of the protected dissertation work "Economic impact of climate changes on Bulgarian agriculture in the South-Eastern planning region", contains the five options developed by the author for changing the average yields of the studied crops, the results of which were used as input data on the assessments made, which are based on the economic-mathematical model for optimizing the structure of agriculture in the South-Eastern planning region.

The second research area "Organic farming and the EU CAP" includes publications dedicated to the analysis of the application of the CAP on the development of organic production. The results obtained, the conclusions and proposals made are aimed at the dimensions of sustainable development and environmental protection.

The third scientific direction is dedicated to the state and development of the

bioeconomy in Bulgaria. The emphasis in the publications is on the development of the bioeconomy in the EU, on the presentation and evaluations of adopted policies, strategies and innovations at the regional level. On the basis of the assessment, the state and problems of development of the bioeconomy in Bulgaria, are developed relevant conclusions and recommendations.

It can be summarized that the scientific production of the candidate is dedicated to a current, significant and insufficiently developed topic, and the content and results fully meet the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" and the direction of the competition.

4. Evaluation of scientific and scientific-applied contributions

I accept the reference for the achieved scientific results and contributions of the candidate. In it, the main place is occupied by methodological and scientific-applied contributions and solutions, which further develop and enrich existing theoretical knowledge, methodological approaches and concrete solutions.

- A climate model was developed, adapted and tested to assess the impact of changes leading to a change in the final results and estimated yields of agricultural crops;
- A complex approach was developed and applied to link the final results of production with the influence of climate changes in fruit growing. In it, on the basis of the "climate-average yield" relationship, the volume of production, the necessary resources and investments for starting new productions have been established;
- A historical review of the changes and reforms that the EU CAP has undergone, as well as the objectives and instruments of organic farming as part of the new CAP, has been developed.
- The literary views on the concept of "green architecture" in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union are further developed;
- The state and parameters of the biological production of crop production and the potential opportunities for supporting the producers of biological products, laid down in the Rural Development Program, for the absorption of funds for the implementation of good practices and methods for the biological production of new and traditional products of plant and animal origin.

5. Recommendations

My recommendation is that Dr. Branzova should publish the results of her current and future research in prestigious scientific publications with an impact factor and an impact rank.

Conclusion

The presented scientific developments, results and contributions of the candidate fully meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the criteria of Institute of Economic Research at the BAS for occupying the academic position of "associate professor". With conviction, I suggest to the respected members of the scientific jury that we vote positively and propose the Chief Assistant Dr. Petya Hristomirova Branzova to be elected to the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 3.8 Economics, Agrarian Economics at the Institute for Economic Research of the BAS.

20.08.2022

Signature:
(Prof. Julia Doitchinova, D.Sc.)