

Statement

From: Prof. Dr. Stefan Dimitrov Ivanov, scientific field " National Economy (incl. Regional Economy and History of the National Economy)", Economic Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Regarding: contest for filling the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 3.8. Economy – Agricultural economics, promulgated in SG, issue 33 from 29.04.2022, at the "Regional and Sector Economics" department of ERI at BAS

1. Information about the contest

The contest has been announced by the “Regional and Sector Economics” department on the grounds of art. 4 of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, art. 86 of the Regulations on the conditions and order for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at ERI-BAS and in accordance with a decision of the National Assembly of ERI-BAS - Protocol No. 10 from 15.06.2022.

The scientific jury for the contest and its composition are determined by order No. 282/27.06.2022 of the Director of ERI-BAS.

2. Brief information about the candidates in the contest

The sole candidate in the contest is Chief assistant professor Petya Hristomirova Brunzova, Ph.D., from the "Regional and Sector Economics" department at ERI-BAS, Sofia.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position

Chief assistant professor Petya Hristomirova Brunzova completely fulfills the minimum national requirements and the requirements set forth by the Regulations on the conditions and order for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at ERI-BAS. Furthermore, the obtained points for publications (Section D), as well as the indicator for citations, which has recently become extremely important (Section E), both exceed the national requirements and the ones of ERI-BAS.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific output

The scientific output of Chief assistant professor Petya Brunzova, Ph.D., which was presented to the jury for the purposes of the contest, includes 19 publications, of which two monographic studies, one study published in a peer-

reviewed publication (Scopus) and 16 articles and reports, published in non-refereed journals or in edited collective volumes.

One of the monographs is presented as the main habilitation study. The study examines the impact of climate change on the development of fruit growing in the southeastern region of the country. The second study is devoted to the economic impacts of climate change on major agricultural crops. The author elaborates and uses various methods and models to determine the average yields, the production structure, and attempts to model the optimal production under the influence of climate changes.

Petya Brunzova's publications focus on three research areas: the impact of climate change on agriculture and the economy of Bulgaria; organic farming and the Common Agricultural Policy; and bio economy. The first research area includes 7 publications, including the two monographs. 8 articles and reports are devoted to organic agriculture, and 4 publications to the bioeconomy. All of them focus on important problems of agricultural production in Bulgaria. Aside from researching the specific issues, the author attempts to define the environment, with its administrative difficulties, for young farmers and agricultural producers in general, and the lack of sufficient funding. The search for solutions naturally leads to comparisons with other European countries, to the formulation of recommendations for the use of European funds and programs as well as of the opportunities provided by the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU.

The scientific production, presented for the contest by Petya Brunzova, Ph.D., shows conscious specialization and profiling in the promising research field that is organic agriculture, where she establishes herself as a leading researcher with contributions both in the scientific field and in the practice of agricultural production in Bulgaria.

The majority of the presented publications of Petya Brunzova, Ph.D. are independent. Protocols, detailing the individual input, are presented for all joint publications. All publications completely coincide with the topic of the announced contest.

Three of the author's main studies have been cited four times in peer-reviewed scientific publications. This highlights the candidate's recognition in scientific circles and her influence towards the development of the theory and practice of the analyzed issues.

5. Main scientific and applied scientific contributions of the candidate

The analysis of the content of the publications, which were submitted for the contest, highlights the following important contributions, of a scientific and applied nature:

1. The selection of a climate model for forecasting the yields of various agricultural crops;
2. The elaboration and testing of a methodology for researching the impact of climate change on the development of agriculture;
3. The elaboration of scenarios and projections of average yields and investments in the realization of the production, taking climate change into account;
4. Further development and clarification of the literary views on the concept of "green architecture" in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union;
5. The derivation and systematization of scientific and popular scientific definitions relating to the bioeconomy;
6. The formulation of practical recommendations to overcome the difficulties posed by the numerous bureaucratic requirements that organic producers in Bulgaria face.

The achievements of Petya Brunzova, Ph.D. as formulated above, as well as all others ones, mentioned in the presented reference to original scientific contributions, are her personal work.

I would also like to point out one inaccuracy made by the author - the Southeastern planning region is an old term that is no longer used.

6. Conclusion

Chief assistant professor Petya Brunzova, Ph.D., participated in the contest with a scientific output, which is significant in terms of both volume and quality. It contains scientific and applied scientific contributions that support the development of agricultural production and contribute to solving current problems facing organic agriculture.

The candidate's scientific work and publications and their results completely fulfill the regulatory requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate professor" at the Economic Research Institute at BAS.

This gives me the reason to, **with full conviction**, propose to the esteemed members of the current scientific jury that we vote **IN FAVOR OF awarding the academic position of "Associate professor"** at ERI-BAS in professional field 3.8. Economy - Agricultural Economics, to **Chief assistant professor Petya Hristomirova Brunzova, Ph.D.**

Date: 26.08.2022

Sofia

Signature:

/ Prof. Dr. Stefan Ivanov/