

REVIEW

on the announced competition for the academic position of “Professor” in the scientific specialty “Economics and management of agricultural land resources,” in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, as announced in the official gazette, issue 30 of april 5, 2024.

Candidate in the competition: Assoc. prof. Valeri Yordanov Velkovski, PhD

Author of the review: Prof. Atanas Lyondev, PhD

Reason for the review: Order № 047 dated October 14, 2024, of the Rector of the High school of security and economics, Plovdiv

Plovdiv

2024

1. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE OF THE CANDIDATE

The biography of Assoc. prof. Valeri Yordanov Velkovski, PhD a candidate for the academic position of “Professor” in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, at the Higher school of security and economics, Plovdiv, demonstrates high expertise and proven administrative capacity in fields entirely relevant to the competition’s requirements. The candidate’s experience spans several core areas—administrative, economic, managerial, legal, and research. As evident from his CV, Assoc. prof. Velkovski, PhD has rich managerial, economic, and long-standing legal experience with the Ministry of agriculture and food and currently serves as a practicing attorney..

2. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC-APPLIED, AND EXPERT ACTIVITIES

The submitted documents fully meet the requirements of the Bulgarian law on the development of the academic staff (ZRASRB) and its regulations. The candidate has submitted works that were not used for obtaining a PhD or in the competition for “Associate professor.”

In general, the submitted materials for this competition can be categorized as follows:

- Monograph – 1 piece
- Articles and reports in Bulgarian (individual) – 22 pieces
- Articles and reports in a foreign language (individual) – 5 pieces
- Articles and reports in a foreign language (co-authored) – 2 pieces
- Textbooks and educational aids – 4 pieces

The candidate’s profile reveals extensive expertise, surpassing academic requirements, as evidenced by his publications that align with the scientometric indicators needed for the position of “Professor” and reflect his original contributions.

3. EVALUATION OF THE MONOGRAPHIC WORK

The monograph titled "Land allocation as a mechanism for sustainable development of agricultural territories – economic and social aspects (based on an empirical study)," published by “Valdes-VV-GV,” Sofia, 2024, ISBN 978-619-7649-17-8, comprises 184 pages.

The monograph examines the land allocation mechanism in agricultural territories of Bulgaria, focusing on its positive impact on their development. The research objects are agricultural territories, including land ownership, usage, and management.

The monograph's goal is to substantiate the role of the land allocation mechanism in developing agricultural territories, based on its economic, social, demographic, and other effects. The study employs methodologies including systems theory, systemic analysis, economic analysis, statistical analysis, and normative analysis. The statistical analysis draws from the Bulgarian agricultural and economic conditions survey – BANCIK and data from the Bulgarian national statistical institute.

The author's methodological constraints include limiting the empirical study to a sample of respondents from the northwestern planning region of Bulgaria. Overall, the monographic study is highly regarded.

3.1 Evaluation of Other Submitted

In addition to the monograph, the applicant presents independent articles and papers in Bulgarian - 22 items; independent articles and papers in English - 5 items, three of which are published in refereed scientific journals indexed in world-renowned databases; co-authored articles and papers in English - 2 items; textbooks and teaching aids - 4 items, including two university textbooks and two university teaching aids.

The publications submitted by Associate professor Valeri Velkovski, PhD align with the competition area for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 3, Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, in the scientific specialty "Economics and management of agricultural land resources."

The publications cover a wide range of topics related to the economics and management of agricultural land resources in the Republic of Bulgaria, including state policy and municipal policies in managing agricultural land resources. In these studies, the applicant defines positive scientific facts, creates new classifications, and proposes new models for integration based on the land allocation mechanism and the expected social and demographic effects that influence the rational management and use of agricultural land resources for the sustainable development of agricultural territories and rural areas in Bulgaria.

The analyses and results create theoretical and practical applications in agrarian economics.

3.2 Evaluation of additional scientific-research and applied characteristics, such as citations relevant to this

The citations listed in the competition procedure report total 140 points, of which:

- Citations in scientific publications indexed in world-renowned databases – 15 points;
- Citations in non-indexed journals – 125 points.

4. EVALUATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

Scientific Contributions:

- The functions of land allocation with agricultural land as a factor in developing agricultural territories are substantiated. This topic has not been addressed in the scientific literature beyond the traditionally presented analytical model of rural areas.

- Land allocation in agricultural territories is highlighted as a factor and condition for sustainable development, with a focus on land ownership and rational use according to Bulgarian law.

- The land allocation mechanism is identified as having not only economic effects related to the agricultural sector's needs but also social and demographic impacts on national and regional levels.

Applied Scientific Contributions:

- Implementation of specific management tools in practice, including using mechanisms and tools such as land allocation – the subject of examination and analysis in the empirical study, "Land allocation as a mechanism for sustainable development of agricultural territories – economic and social aspects."

The presented works contribute significantly to enriching the theory in the field of agricultural land economics and management in Bulgaria and have substantial practical value, considering the challenges in modern agrarian sector management within the context of the EU's common agricultural policy and other global challenges for contemporary agriculture.

Therefore, it can be noted with confidence that the significance of the works submitted for review, with scientific and applied scientific contributions, is clearly specified in the researched topic. Furthermore, the practical value of many of the studies is indisputable.

The applicant's claimed authorship, the specific author's style and the results obtained are grounds for concluding that they are his personal work. At the moment, within the scope of my competences, I do not find grounds and data for plagiarism.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH SCIENTOMETRIC INDICATORS

The reference table for the fulfillment of the necessary minimum national requirements submitted by Associate professor Valeri Velkovski, PhD as per art. 2b and art. 26 of the law on the development of the academic staff in the republic of Bulgaria and the appendix to art. 1a, para. 1 of the Regulation for its implementation, "Number of points by candidate indicators," shows a total of 750 points, fully meeting the 550-point minimum requirement for the academic position of "Professor."

6. CRITICAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE APPLICANT

To Associate Professor Velkovski, PhD I have the following recommendations and scientific-methodological considerations:

✓ To enhance the recognition and citation of his research by other authors, it is advisable to increase publication activity in english-language publications with higher citation indexes and avoid identical titles that could compromise citation metrics.

✓ To expand the applicability of his scientific research by incorporating it more broadly into the disciplines studied at the University of security and economics.

✓ To explore opportunities to establish a school of followers in the studied area.

These recommendations do not diminish the merits of the reviewed works or their scientific contributions but will contribute to a more precise revelation of their impact.

7. CONCLUSION

The documentation and scientific production submitted by Associate professor Valeri Yordanov Velkovski, PhD fully comply with the requirements of Art. 21, para. 1, and Art. 29, para. 1 of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and meet the minimum national requirements and those specified in Art. 60, para. 1 of the regulations for its implementation.

My assessment of the readiness demonstrated in the attached documentation by Associate Professor Velkovski, PhD as the sole applicant in the competition for the academic position of "Professor," is "**positive.**"

I recommend that the honorable scientific jury for the competition ranks Associate professor Valeri Yordanov Velkovski, PhD and proposes to the esteemed academic council of the university of security and economics in Plovdiv to appoint him to the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and management of agricultural land resources."

29.10.2024

REVIEWER:

Prof. Atanas Lyondev, PhD