

# **HIGH SCHOOL OF SECURITY AND ECONOMICS - PLOVDIV**

## **REVIEW**

By competition for the academic position "Professor"  
in a professional direction 3.8. Economics (Economics and Management of  
Agricultural Land Resources), announced in  
State Gazette /No. 30/April 5, 2024/

Reviewer: **Prof. Dr. Marina Angelova Nikolova**, Academy of  
Economics "D. A. Tsenov" - Svishtov, scientific specialty "Economics and  
Management (Agrarian Economy)", included in the register of the academic  
staff of the Republic of Bulgaria in the National Center for Information and  
Documentation.

Basis for preparing the review: order **No. 047/14.10.2024 of the Rector  
of the Higher School of Security and Economics (HSSE), Plovdiv**

### **1. Presentation of the candidate**

In the announcement, in SG, no. 30/05/04/2024, competition for the  
academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social,  
economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics, scientific  
specialty "Economics and Management of Agricultural Land Resources" at the  
Department "Economics and Management", a single candidate participated -  
Associate Professor Valeri Yordanov Velkovski, lecturer at the Higher School  
of Security and Economics (HSSE) - Plovdiv, who has submitted the necessary  
documents.

## **2. Reason for writing the review**

The review was written on the basis of Order No. 047/14.10.2024 of the Rector of HSSE - Plovdiv on determining the composition of the scientific jury, the Rules of HSSE for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Decision of the held on 12.10. 2024 first meeting of the scientific jury.

## **3. Personal characteristics of the candidate**

The candidate, Associate Professor Valeri Yordanov Velkovski, Ph.D, is a lecturer on an employment contract at the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv (according to employment contract No. 262/01.07.2022). In 2020, Valery Velkovski obtained a doctorate degree (according to diploma no. 2020020/28.09.2020) in the scientific specialty "Economics and management (agrarian economy)".

The biography of the candidate under the current competition procedure shows high expertise and proven management capacity. The rich professional and managerial experience in various spheres (production, local self-government, legal), evident from his autobiography, are a logical result of continuous qualification, accumulation of knowledge, skills and competences in various educational institutions. The candidate holds 3 (three) higher education diplomas with the Educational - qualification degree "Master", Educational and scientific degree the "Doctor" Diploma and the Diploma for the academic position "Associate Professor":

- University of National and World Economy, Sofia, 1999. Diploma of higher education with reg. No. 663/1999, specialty "Marketing and Management", professional qualification "Master of Economics";

- University of Veliko Tarnovo, St. St. Cyril and Methodius", 2005. Diploma of higher education with reg. No. 22621/2005, specialty "Law", professional qualification "Lawyer";

- Technical University - Varna, 2007. Higher education diploma with registration number 037055/21.03.2007, specialty "Public Administration", professional qualification "Master of Public Administration";

- Academy of Economics, D. A. Tsenov" - town of Svishtov, 2020. Diploma for awarding the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR", scientific specialty "Economics and management (agrarian economy)";

- Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv, 2022. Diploma for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor", professional direction 3.8. Economics ("Regulation of processes and activities in agricultural

territories"), Minutes No. 6/28.06.2022 of a meeting of the Academic Council of Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv.

The professional development of Associate Professor Valeri Yordanov Velkovski, Ph.D is impressive and finds expression in the occupation of various management positions over the years. In chronological order, he held managerial positions as follows: Group manager, company "Zdravets", Sole proprietorship with limited liability, Vratsa (06.11.1984 - 11.04.1994); Deputy Director of the SP "Student Chairs" Vratsa, Vratsa Municipality (11.10.1994 - 10.01.1995); Manager of the Student Dormitory, Vratsa, Vratsa Municipality (February 6, 1995 - October 6, 2000); Property manager of "Atomenergoremont" Sole proprietorship, Kozloduy (01.11.2001 - 01.11.2003); "Metalengineering" Sole proprietorship with limited liability, Vratsa - Marketing and PTO department (12.07.2004 - 25.10.2004); Legal consultant of HIMKO Joint stock company, Vratsa (July 1, 2006 to September 31, 2006); Legal consultant in the Regional Directorate "Agriculture", Vratsa, Ministry of Health (01.10.2006 - 17.05.2009); Legal consultant in the Regional Directorate "Agriculture", Sofia region under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (18.05.2009 - 01.08.2019).

According to an official memo (ЧП-09-6/28.01.2022) from the Director of the Regional Directorate "Agriculture" - Sofia Region, Valeri Velkovski has an acquired service experience - 15 years, 1 month and 15 days in the position - Chief Legal Counsel.

As of July 1, 2022, Associate Professor Valeri Velkovski, Ph.D., is a lecturer on an employment contract at the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv, where he continues to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor" in labor law (service note from the President of the Society). In the same year, Associate Professor Valeri Velkovski, Ph.D., was included in the Register of the academic staff of National Center for Information and Documentation, as a habilitated person with scientometric indicators, with the current academic position "Associate Professor", professional direction 3.8. "Economy".

For the past 3-4 years, Associate Professor Valeri Velkovski, Ph.D., has enriched his professional skills by participating in organized national and international conferences, thereby developing his organizational and communication skills, creating connections and contacts, which he effectively applies in organizing the educational process and in the active is a creative activity. Participates and presents scientific reports on current topics in a number of scientific forums (national, international and university conferences, round table): National scientific conference "Man and the Universe" (November 2021), dedicated to the 35th anniversary of the

establishment of Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - Smolyan ; International scientific conference "Artificial intelligence in the field of security - advantages and threats", HSSE - Plovdiv (September 30, 2022); Scientific conference "Law and Security", BSU - Burgas, Center for Legal Sciences (October 7-8, 2022); Annual University Scientific Conference, June 30-July 1, 2022, "Vasil Levski" National University, Veliko Tarnovo (June 30-July 1, 2022); Scientific conference "Current problems of security", Vasil Levski National University, Veliko Tarnovo (October 27-28, 2022); Scientific conference "The role of family business for sustainable development", Agricultural University - Plovdiv, 2022; Scientific and practical conference "Agribusiness and rural areas - economy, innovation and growth", University of Economics - Varna (October 12, 2023); Jubilee international scientific conference "Risks to ethno-religious peace in the context of national and international security in South-Eastern and Central Europe", HSSE - Plovdiv (November 3-4, 2023); Scientific conference "Logistics and public systems", Vasil Levski National University - Veliko Tarnovo (March 16-17, 2023); Scientific conference "The role of family business for sustainable development", Agrarian University, Plovdiv, 2023; Annual University Scientific Conference, Vasil Levski National University, Veliko Tarnovo (08-09 June 2023); Round table "Theory and practice for sustainable management and development of rural areas in Bulgaria", Svishtov, 31 May 2024 under research project No. KP-06-H55/1 of 15.11.2021 "Development of rural areas in the conditions of an economy transforming towards sustainability", Fund "Scientific research at the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The documents submitted by the candidate correspond in terms of number and content to the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of HSSE for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria:

- Application to the Rector for admission to the competition;
- List of the candidate's publications with signature;
- Reference for contributions and citations with the candidate's signature;
- Diplomas for higher education and scientific degree and title (notarized copies);
- Creative CV of the candidate with his photo and signature;
- Work experience document;
- Medical certificate;
- Criminal record certificate;
- Copy or original of the State Gazette announcing the competition;
- Monographic work, textbooks, teaching aids and/or equivalent

publications in specialized scientific publications or corresponding evidence of achievements in the scientific field of the competition, which do not repeat those submitted for the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and the scientific degree "doctor of sciences ";

- References, certificates, certificates, certificates and any other documents related to the participation in the procedure.

In summary, there is a candidate for the academic position "professor" with extensive research and practical experience in the field of economics and management of agricultural land resources, meeting the requirements of Art. 29, para. 1, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria., art. 60, para. 1, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Regulations for the implementation of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 68, para. 2, paragraph 1 and 2 of the Regulations of HSSE for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

#### **4. Quantitative and qualitative evaluation (analysis) according to the criteria and indicators for the academic work and compliance with the requirements**

Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski has been teaching since 2022 at the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv at the Department of Economics and Management since July 2022 - teacher on employment contract). After entering into an employment contract at HSSE, the city of Plovdiv, he developed an active activity in writing and publishing independent university textbooks and teaching aids. The topics discussed in them are completely relevant to the essence of the professional direction and the scientific specialty of the announced competition. The subject of the textbooks and teaching aids is closely related to the economics and management of agricultural land resources and they can be used in the education of students majoring in "Agrarian Economics", "Agribusiness", "Agrarian Management", "Law" and others.

According to the requirements of Art. 75, para. 2, paragraph 2 of the Regulations of HSSE for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the candidate should have published at least 2 study aids (textbook, exercise manual, etc.), with a reviewer and an ISBN number, in this number 1 textbook on the discipline of the competition, which are used in the education of students in the primary unit that announced the competition. Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski submitted for review 2 (two) textbooks and 2 (two) study aids: "Agricultural

lands - regimes of ownership, use and protection, economic and legal aspects", "Agricultural territories - regulation, development plans, construction", "Collection of study tests & case studies on economics and management of agricultural lands", "Collection of study tests & case studies on regulatory and planning activities in agricultural territories", issued in 2023 and 2024.

In the textbook on "Agricultural lands - regimes of ownership, use and protection, economic and legal aspects", with a total volume of 200 pages, issues related to the peculiarities of categorization and leasing of agricultural lands are considered; the regimes, specifics and mechanisms for their use; important aspects of the ownership of agricultural lands and the change of their purpose; conservation and reclamation measures; expropriation procedures and evaluation of agricultural lands, as a condition for higher economic results. The second independent textbook is on the discipline "Agricultural territories - regulation, development plans, construction", with a total volume of 225 pages. It reflects important characteristics of agricultural territories, the possibilities of structural planning, the specific features of planning and regulatory activities, the technology of investment design, the features of construction and development on agricultural territories.

The textbook "Compendium of educational tests & case studies in economics and management of agricultural lands", with a total volume of 58 pages, includes 2 (two) separate sections - Tests and Case Studies (15 nos. each). Specific economic and management aspects related to agricultural land legislation and the skills to interpret individual texts are covered. The second independent study guide "Collection of study tests & case studies on regulatory and planning activities in agricultural territories", with a total volume of 56 pages, also has 2 (two) sections - "Study tests on regulatory and planning activities in agricultural territories" and "Case studies on regulatory and planning activities in agricultural territories", with balanced content - 15 items each. for each of the sections. The case studies are skillfully selected and cover various aspects of the regulation and planning processes in the agricultural territories. This enables a better understanding of the specific issues related to the knowledge of agrarian legislation and the correct interpretation of specific texts.

The four academic editions (2 textbooks and 2 aids) have been reviewed by prominent scientists - qualified persons (professors). The educational resource is closely related to the specialized nature of the training for students of the Bachelor's College of Economics and Master's College of Economics in the specialties "Agrarian Economics", "Agribusiness", "Agrarian Management", "Law" and others. At the same time, they are also of interest to business managers and entrepreneurs in agrarian business. This shows that

Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski has fulfilled the conditions for occupying the academic position of "professor" (Article 71 of the Regulations of HSSE, item 1 - educational activity) in the form of 4 (four) issued independent learning resources (textbooks and study aids) subject to the minimum requirement of issued to at least two.

In the requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor" at HSSE, and more precisely item 2 regarding additional and recommended criteria for candidates to occupy the academic position, as an advantage it is indicated "the presence of professional and/or expert activity, carried out, but not published reports at our or international forums and other forms of scientific appearances'. In this regard, during the period from the habilitation to the present moment, Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski has also carried out consulting activities in a practical business environment, as a consultant on agrarian legislation and agrarian marketing and management. In addition, by the end of 2024 another 4 (four) collections of conference reports are about to be published, in which scientific articles and reports with the author Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski on subjects relevant to the subject of the competition for the academic position "Professor" have found a place " at HSSE - Plovdiv.

In summary, the educational and teaching activities of the candidate are in full compliance with the requirements of Art. 68, para. 2, paragraph 1 and 2, 5 and 6 of the Regulations of HSSE for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

#### **5. Quantitative and qualitative evaluation (analysis) according to the criteria and indicators for the research activity and compliance with the requirements**

In the competition for "Professor" Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski presented 30 scientific papers, including 1 habilitation thesis - monograph; 26 articles and reports in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes; 3 articles published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. All of them do not repeat the provided publications related to the dissertation work or those, such as a qualified person with a current academic position "Associate Professor 3.8. Economics", according to the prepared List of publications.

The developments of Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski have not been proven to be plagiarism in accordance with the law, for which a Declaration of Originality and Credibility has been submitted, which fulfills

the requirements of Art. 29, para. 1, paragraph 6 of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, art. 60, para. 1, paragraph 6 of Regulations for the implementation of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 68, para. 2, paragraph 6 of the Regulations of HSSE.

The applicant's fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, according to indicators from 4 to 10 (according to Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria), can be seen from the table 1 presented below.

*Table 1.*

**R e c a p i t u l a t i o n**  
**of compliance publications submitted for review**  
**with the minimum national requirements for area 3. "Social, economic**  
**and legal sciences", indicators from 4 to 10**

Group of indicators (minimum number of points)	Indicator	Number of publications	counts points
<b>C</b> <b>(100 points)</b>	3. Habilitation thesis - monograph	1	100
<b>Total by group of indicators C:</b>			<b>100 points</b>
<b>D</b> <b>(200 points)</b>	6. Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information	3	90,0
	7. Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes	26	250,0
<b>Total by group of indicators D:</b>			<b>340 points</b>
<b>Total C + D:</b>			<b>440 points</b>

It is clear from the table that when summing up the indicators from Group C and D, there is an overperformance - 340 points (with 140 points more than the required minimum number of 200 points).

It is noteworthy that out of a total of 30 scientific works submitted for review, 28 (or 93.3%) are independent, namely: 1 monograph, 24 scientific articles and reports and 3 indexed publications. Of the works submitted for review, 7 were published in English, and 2 of them were published abroad. Of the 3 publications submitted for review in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, all three are indexed in Web of Science (CABI) - Q4.

Of the works presented, the most significant is the habilitation work on the topic "Landing as a mechanism for sustainable development of agricultural territories - economic and social aspects (on the example of an empirical study)" with a total volume of 184 pages. The paper was published under the scientific supervision of a qualified scientist and was peer-reviewed by two professors. In the monographic work, the problems of grounding with agricultural land in the agricultural territories are studied. The use of various possibilities, which are foreseen and regulated in the agrarian legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria, is argued. Answers are sought to the challenges associated with minimizing the areas of uncultivable land and converting them into cultivable ones. The functions and role of the grounding mechanism in agricultural territories are clarified, together with the economic, social and demographic results arising from the development of the process.

The author thoroughly researches the topic, demonstrating skills in skillful handling of scientific concepts, striving for critical analysis of scientific judgments and adhering to a scientific style in the presentation. An empirical study was conducted through a questionnaire developed and distributed to a certain number of respondents. It is through the results of the practical research that the 2 hypotheses set forth regarding land acquisition with agricultural lands are tested, as a mechanism necessary in a permanent plan, influencing the sustainable development of agricultural territories and the essence of land acquisition as a legal technology.

The monographic work is in accordance with the minimum national requirements in area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", according to Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (according to Appendix No. 1 – group of indicators V) and Art. 68, para. 2 of the Regulations for the implementation of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in HSSE).

The presented 29 articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and in edited collective volumes, incl. 3 (three) of them indexed in global databases, meet the minimum national requirements in area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", according to Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

(according to Appendix No. 1 - group of indicators G 6 and G 7).

Based on the scientific publications submitted for review for compliance with the minimum national requirements for area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", indicators from 4 to 10, the following more important areas in which the scientific interests of the candidate:

**First**, on the problems related to the sustainable management of agricultural land in the Republic of Bulgaria (soil resource protection; ownership; change of purpose; replacement and compaction; use; land relations; agricultural land designated for organic farming; change of purpose of agricultural land or construction on agricultural land without a change of purpose; road infrastructure) are devoted to 13 publications - 1 author's monograph and 12 articles and reports, of which 3 are published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases from Group G, indicators 6 and 7 from the List of publications submitted for review for compliance with the minimum national requirements for area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", indicators from 4 to 10);

**Secondly**, on the problems related to the specifics of the agrarian legislation (the regulation of artificial intelligence; contractual practices related to agricultural lands; bond relations in the agrarian sector; the legal toolkit giving opportunities to persons from the Roma ethnic group for employment; legal aspects in consolidating agricultural lands and the "white spots"; landless and landless citizens; ecological construction; the specific regimes of the zones for territorial planning protection; the specifics in the registration mechanism for farmers; 11 publications are devoted to the peculiarities of concession policies of municipalities (Group G), indicator 7 of the List of publications submitted for review for compliance with the minimum national requirements for area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", indicators 4 to 10);

**Third**, 6 publications are devoted to the problems concerning various aspects of the management of agricultural holdings and the digitalization of the logistics infrastructure in them, rural areas (demographic policy, family business), agricultural logistics and the specifics of logistics systems on agricultural territories (Group G) , indicator 7 of the List of publications submitted for review for compliance with the minimum national requirements for area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", indicators 4 to 10).

The publications correspond to the subject of the professional direction 3.8. Economics ("Economics and Management of Agricultural Land Resources"). Some of them have an interdisciplinary nature and are from the field of professional fields 3.6. Law and 3.7. Administration and management, which are also from the field of higher education 3. Social economic and legal

sciences.

**In summary**, it can be claimed that the scientific production in quantitative and qualitative terms is in accordance with the minimum national requirements in area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", according to Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and fully meets the conditions for occupying the academic position "professor", according to Art. 68, para. 2 of the Regulations of HSSE for the application of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria when occupying the academic position "professor" in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management of Agricultural Land Resources".

## **6. Correspondence of the contributions in the scientific requirements with those announced by the candidate**

The publications and materials outlined in the Reference for scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the publications and materials submitted for review by Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski, according to the requirements of Art. 60, para. 3 of the Regulations for the application of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 70, item 3 of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the rules for implementing the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff, approved by the Rector of HSSE, correspond to the achievements contained in the publications submitted for review, being separated by areas of contribution:

**First**, as a result of critical analysis, summaries and recommendations regarding the sustainable development of agricultural territories, as the main contribution in a large part of the author's publication activity is the focus on research and analysis of integrated approaches to improve the management of agricultural lands, based on the paradigm of sustainable development, with a focus on land acquisition with agricultural lands in agricultural territories, ownership and use of agricultural lands, replacement and compaction, change of their purpose. On this basis, contributions have been made which can be defined as:

**Scientific contributions** [B1; indicator D: A-1,2,3; A1-1,2,6,9,13,18,21,22; B1-2]

- Knowledge in the modern conditions related to the specifics of the ownership of agricultural lands and the protection of the soil resource has been analyzed and supplemented - theoretical aspects, external and internal organizational problems, legal aspects, positive and negative effects,

problems;

- The contributing moment in bringing out the significance of the process of grounding is argued, while at the same time emphasizing the impact of the overall mechanism with bringing out multiple effects for the development of the territory on a national, regional and local scale;

- The need to search for successful models/mechanisms for minimizing the areas of uncultivable land and their full utilization has been studied and established. The effect of land with agricultural land in the agricultural territories has been proven, through the introduction and use of the possibilities that are regulated in the agrarian legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria;

- "Problem fields" have been identified in the implementation of the mechanism of land acquisition and the guidelines for the sustainable development of agricultural territories through its use have been outlined. Conclusions and recommendations regarding land use as a working mechanism for each specific territory are systematized.

**Second**, in the group of publications related to the implementation of agrarian legislation and its dimensions - toolkit, legal aspects, specific moments when implementing in practical conditions, etc. In part of this group of publications, contributions that can be defined as:

**Scientific contributions:**

[group D indicators: A1-3,4,7,10,11,12,14,19,20;A2-2;B1-1]

- The procedural features of the exchange of agricultural land as a tool for sustainability in agricultural territories have been clarified and analyzed;

- The gaps in land acquisition, consolidation of agricultural lands, contract practices, and bond relations have been established and proven;

- Gaps in the regulatory framework regarding the ownership and use of agricultural lands have been identified and systematized.

**Thirdly**, as the main contribution in this group of publications is concerned with upgrading the foundations for the importance of management practices in agricultural holdings and the need for a new look at the issues of reducing depopulation in rural areas, developing successful business practices and logistics, in order to increase the competitiveness of the local economy.

**Scientific contributions** [group D indicators: A1-5,8,15,16,17; A2-1]

- A critical analysis of the state and prospects for the development of family business in rural areas was carried out. The importance of some important factors is substantiated, as a prerequisite for revealing its potential, by conducting an empirical study;

- Demographic peculiarities in the management of agricultural holdings have been established, as well as the need to change the demographic policy in rural areas;

- The current problems in digitization of the logistics infrastructure in agricultural holdings, the specific characteristics of logistics systems and agricultural logistics in general are brought to the fore.

A large part of the presented scientific contributions also have a scientific-applied nature, and the results are implemented in academic disciplines, which can also be defined **as scientific-applied contributions.**

The presented works, in addition to making a significant contribution to the enrichment of theory in the field of economics and management of agricultural land resources, also have a high practical value, in view of the significance of the challenges facing the modern management of agricultural lands, related to the complicated conditions for effective administrative management at all levels in the part related to territorial-structural aspects of land ownership and demographic policy in rural areas.

## **7. Characterization of the candidate's academic reputation**

On the basis of a prepared and signed Reference, from July 2024, for citations in scientific publications from periodicals and in conference proceedings, for compliance with the minimum national requirements for area 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", according to Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, more than 20 citations of Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski in publications of other researchers have been identified.

The citations that are included in indicator D (sum of indicators from 11 to 13) are respectively: for indicator D11 - 1 (one) citation in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, which carries 15 points, for indicator D12 – 25 (twenty-five) citations in collective volumes with scientific review, which carries 10 points, with which the candidate completely covers and overlaps the minimum required points under indicator D (100 points), according to the Regulations of HSSE.

## **8. Critical notes and suggestions**

I have the following recommendations and specific notes for the candidate for the academic position "Professor" - Associate Professor Velkovski:

- To increase its publication activity in refereed scientific publications with Impact Factor and Impact Rank (Web of Science & Scopus);
- To increase its publications in specialized scientific journals at home and

abroad;

- I recommend the candidate to expand his scientific research and the field of economics and agrarian business management;
- Guidance of doctoral students in the candidate's scientific field is recommended;
- To avoid inaccuracies in the descriptions of submitted documents. For example, "Compendium of study tests & case studies on regulatory and planning activities in agricultural territories" was issued in 2024 (as can be seen from the pdf), and the list of publications prepared by the candidate, regarding indicator "E" for the same study guide, states - 2023 .

The indicated possibilities and recommendations do not detract from the merits of the reviewed works and do not affect the scientific contributions, but can contribute to their more precise disclosure.

## **9. Summary conclusion and opinion**

Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Velkovski participated in the competition for the academic position "professor" with a sufficient volume of quality scientific works. His research demonstrates thoroughness, innovation and analytical thinking, and includes both scientific and applied science contributions. His advantage is his many years of experience in consulting and expert activity and his undoubted expertise in matters related to agrarian legislation and management. The submitted documents cover the necessary scientometric indicators and the indicators that reflect the measurable academic results laid down in the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, and Art. 2b, para. 5 of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The candidate fully meets the conditions for occupying the academic position "professor" in the scientific specialty "Economics and management of agricultural land resources", specified in art. 68 of the Regulations for the implementation of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in HSSE, as well as the additional and recommended criteria for candidates for the academic position of "professor" in the Higher School of Security and Economics - Plovdiv.

The above gives me reason with full conviction to propose to the members of the scientific jury that **Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Yordanov Velkovski be awarded the academic position "PROFESSOR"** in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management of

Agricultural Land Resources" at the Department of "Economics and Management", for which I will vote **"YES"**.

01.11.2024  
the town of Svishtov

Prepared by: .....  
(Prof. Dr. Marina Nikolova)