

О P I N I O N

From: **prof. Valentina Lyubenova Nikolova-Alexieva, PhD**
University of Food Technologies - Plovdiv,
Professional direction 3.8 . Economy Scientific specialty
"Economics and Management" (Business Economics,
Corporate Governance)

Subject: competition for **a professorship** in an area on the higher education
3. "Social, legal and economic sciences" , professionally
direction 3.8. "Economy", announced from the Higher School
of Security and Economics (HSSE) - Plovdiv

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate.

The contest for borrowing on the academic position "**professor**" by area on higher education 3."Social, economic and legal sciences", professional direction 3.8 "Economics", scientific specialty "Economics and management of agricultural land resources", is announced for the needs of HSSE - Plovdiv in State Gazette, No 30 of 04/05/2024. I participate in the composition of the scientific jury for the competition, according to Order No. 47/14.10.2024 of the Rector of HSSE.

Only one candidate participated in the competition - associate professor Dr. Valeri Yordanov Velkovski from HSSE - Plovdiv . The biography of Associate Professor Dr. Valeri Yordanov Velkovski shows high expertise and proven administrative capacity in areas fully relevant to the requirements of the procedure. The accumulated experience of the candidate is in several main areas - administrative (expressed in holding various management positions over the years), economic, managerial, legal and research. As can be seen from the autobiographical data, Associate Professor Dr. Velkovski has extensive managerial, economic and long-term legal experience in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and currently as an active lawyer.

This experience complements his theoretical training with practical knowledge and skills useful for teaching work .

I can confirm with full conviction that he is a *thorough, extremely correct specialist who is distinguished by scientific dignity and high expertise.*

2. General characteristics of the candidate's research, applied and expert activities

The submitted documents fully comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation. The candidate submits for review works that were not used for the acquisition

of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and in the competition for "associate professor".

In total, the following materials were presented for the competition:

- *monograph – 1 item;*
- *articles and reports in Bulgarian (independent) - 22 pcs.;*
- *articles and reports in a foreign language (independent) - 5 pcs.;*
- *articles and reports in a foreign language (co-authored) - 2 pcs.;*
- *textbooks and teaching aids - 4 pcs.*

Valeri Velkovski is also a recognizable researcher with contributions in the field of economics and sustainable development of agricultural areas. *Assoc. prof. Velkovski 's overall pedagogical training and activities show that he is an established and respected teacher in the academic community. His repeated participation in national and international forums is proof of his potential to develop and his desire to work to raise the image of VUSI - Plovdiv.*

2.1. Evaluation of the monographic work

The author's monographic 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)", Publisher, "Valdes-VV-GV", Sofia, 2024, ISBN 978- 619-7649-17-8, is 184 pages long and has been peer-reviewed by two academically respected researchers.

The subject of consideration and analysis in a monograph is the mechanism of land use with agricultural lands in the agricultural territories of the Republic of Bulgaria, respectively in the planning areas and its positive influence on their development.

The object of research is the agricultural territories, respectively the agricultural lands, as a content of the land resource of the country, from the point of view of their ownership, their cultivation and use.

The purpose of the monographic work is to substantiate the functions and role of the land-holding mechanism in the development of agricultural territories, resulting from various economic, social, demographic and other effects produced by the land-holding mechanism with the associated and related expected results.

The main tasks that the author of the monograph sets himself, in relation to the purpose of the research, are:

- Clarification of the main parameters of the effective use of the land resource in the agricultural territories, through the mechanism of land - economic and social aspects.
- To give the main parameters of a specific method of land acquisition - the land acquisition of poor and landless citizens - as a specific method of acquiring agricultural land and the importance of this method as a factor affecting the development of agricultural territories.
- To make an analysis with the relevant conclusions of the summarized results of the author's empirical research on the topic: "The mechanism of grounding - a specific factor in the development of agricultural territories".

For the purposes of the research, a methodological toolkit was used, including statements from Theory of Systems; System analysis; Economic analysis; Statistical analysis; Normative analysis. Sources such as scientific publications in Bulgarian and English related to the subject matter of the monographic work and current regulations were also used, through the norms of which the processes of use of agricultural land, its ownership and the mechanism of land acquisition are regulated. The analysis of the statistical data is based on samples from the

Bulgarian survey for monitoring the agricultural and economic situation - BANSIK (www.mzh.government.bg) and data from the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria (www.nsi.bg).

A restrictive condition has been introduced in the monographic work: the author's empirical research is based on a study carried out by surveying a random sample of respondents - Bulgarian citizens living on the territory of the North-West Planning Region of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In his habilitation work, the author for the first time examines and substantiates the functions of land with agricultural lands as a factor in the development of agricultural territories. In the scientific literature, this issue, outside of the analytical model of rural areas traditionally imposed in the works of many authors, has not been considered so far, as is also evident from the indicated bibliographic reference. A specific and innovative moment in the monographic work is bringing to the fore the grounding with agricultural lands in the agricultural territories, as a factor and condition for the sustainable development of the agricultural territories, in the context of the ownership of the agricultural lands, including their use in a rational plan and in compliance with the Bulgarian legislation relevant to this issue. The mechanism of grounding, for the first time in this scientific field, has been shown to bear not only economic, from the point of view of the needs of the agrarian sector, but also with the corresponding social and demographic effects on a national and regional level.

The monograph deserves high praise from both a theoretical and a practical point of view. It concerns a topic and problems directly related to the topic of the announced competition.

2.2. Rating of other publications

In addition to the monographic work, the candidate submits for review independent articles and reports in Bulgarian - 22 pieces; independent articles and reports in English - 5 items, of which 3 items published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases; articles and reports in English in co-authorship - 2 pcs.; textbooks and study aids – 4 pcs., of which published university textbooks – 2 pcs. and published university textbooks – 2 pcs.

It can be summarized that the publications presented by the candidate Assoc. prof. Dr. Valery Velkovski in a thematic plan are entirely relevant to the field of the competition for the academic position of "*Professor*" in the field of higher education 3, Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.8 Economics, in the scientific specialty "*Economics and management of agricultural land resources*".

The publications deal with a wide range of the economy and the management of agricultural land resources in the Republic of Bulgaria, including the implemented state policy and the policy of municipalities in the management of agricultural land resources. In these studies, the candidate defines positive scientific facts, creates and identifies new classifications and proposes new models for integrity based on the mechanism of land and from there on the expected social and demographic effects, affecting both the rational management and use of agricultural land resources, and in the context of the sustainable development of agricultural territories and rural areas in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The analyzes made and the results presented create prerequisites for application in the training of students and doctoral students studying in specialties in the field of the competition.

The citations indicated in the tender procedure reference are:

- *Citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases - 15 points;*
- *Cited in non-refereed journals – 125 points.*

It can be summarized that there is a deep scientific research experience and accumulated expertise in the agricultural sector and the research sphere, through which individual professional characteristics can be applied in modern management practice, be the basis for pedagogical and scientific achievements in the future, be used with high utility from the Graduate School of Security and Economics.

3. Evaluation of the significance of the contributions for science and practice

- The works presented, in addition to making a significant contribution to the enrichment of theory in the field of economics and the management of agricultural land resources in the Republic of Bulgaria, also have a high practical value, in view of the significance of the challenges facing the modern management of the agrarian sector, in the context of the common agricultural policy of the European Union and a number of global challenges facing modern agriculture.
- From this position, it can be noted that the significance of the works proposed for review is very clearly specified.
- On the other hand, the high practical value of a large part of the research aimed at the application of certain management tools in practice, including the use of mechanisms and tools, such as grounding - a subject of consideration and analysis in the author's empirical research on the subject, is indisputable. "Landing as a mechanism for sustainable development of agricultural territories - economic and social aspects".

In summary, I consider the scientific achievements of Assoc. prof. Valery Velkovski as his personal work and can be attributed to the group of " enrichment of existing knowledge " and " application of new scientific achievements in practice ", as well as "obtaining new data and facts" for studied economic objects.

4. Implementation of the scientometric indicators

The certificate presented by Associate Professor Valeri Velkovski for the fulfillment of the necessary minimum national requirements, /according to Art. 2b and Art. 26 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Appendix to Art. 1a, para. 1 of the Regulations for its implementation/ shows that he has achieved 750 points, thereby exceeding the required minimum of 550 points.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no significant critical remarks, but I allow myself to make some recommendations:

- I recommend that the candidate in the future focus on publishing studies and articles in a foreign language in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Scopus and WoS). This would contribute

to the higher citability and recognition of the candidate in the international academic space

- I recommend that he direct his efforts to lead research projects - national or international - whose subject matter corresponds to his enduring academic interests.
- Given the serious research, teaching and expert experience of the candidate, it is recommended to join as a member of editorial boards in the country and abroad;

These notes should not be perceived as "criticism" and are not of such a nature as to challenge the contributions of the candidate for professorship.

7. Conclusion

Based on the above, I can summarize that there is a convincing candidacy for the academic position of "professor" at HSSE - Plovdiv. **Associate professor Dr. Valeri Yordanov Velkovski** is a promising scientist, combining scientific research with practical-applied activity, who has proven his achievements in educational and teaching work.

The competition documents testify that all the national minimum criteria and *the quantitative and qualitative requirements* of HSSE - Plovdiv for the occupation of the academic position "professor" have been met.

With complete conviction, I give my POSITIVE evaluation and recommend to the other respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote FOR AWARDING the academic position of "Professor" to Associate Professor Valeri Yordanov Velkovski in professional direction 3.8. "Economics", scientific specialty "Economics and Management" of agricultural land resources".

30.10.2024
Plovdiv city

Prepared the opinion:

/ Prof. V. Nikolova-Alexieva, PhD/