



## UNYVERSITY OF AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### S T A T E

- From:** Assoc. Prof. Dr Alexander Krasimirov Davchev,  
University of agribusiness and rural development - Plovdiv,  
Professional field 3.8. Economics  
Scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (Tourism)
- Subject:** competition for associate professor in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (agribusiness), announced by UARD - Plovdiv

#### **1. Information about the competition**

The competition was announced in NP, 43 / 21.05.2021 for the needs of the Department of Regional Development "Agribusiness and Tourism" at the Department of Economics and Management, by Decision of the AO according to the Order of the Rector of UARD

#### **2. Brief information about the candidate in the competition**

Only one candidate participates in the competition - Chief Assistant. Dr. Angel Stankov Sarov. He holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of National and World Economy-Sofia. He graduated with a Master's degree from the University of National and World Economy in the same specialty in 1999. Dr. Sarov began his academic career at the Institute of Agrarian Economics, Agricultural Academy, Sofia in 2013 as an assistant, and later became a senior assistant - Head of the Department of Economics and Management of Agriculture, Food and Agricultural Policy. Active lecturer at NBU and UNWE

The activity of the candidate for associate professor outside the institute is rich and diverse. He started his professional development in 2000 in SVS-98 EOOD, where until 2007 he gradually passed through the positions of sales representative and sales director, and from 2008 to 2016 he held the position of Business and Development Expert in Orgachim, Ruse.

He is fluent in English and speaks very good French and Russian, has excellent computer, communication and presentation skills, which complements the already wide range of knowledge, skills and competencies, skillfully combined with solid practical experience. He is a member of the Advisory Council on Tobacco, the Union of Agro-Economists in the Republic of Macedonia, a member of the editorial board of the magazine "Agricultural Cooperative".

#### **3. Fulfillment of the requirements for holding the academic position**

### ***3.1. Fulfillment of quantitative requirements***

The candidate meets all mandatory conditions under Art. 24, para 1 of ZRASRB and art. 13 of PPZRASB in UARD-Plovdiv

Regarding the requirement for acquired ONS "Doctor" - in 2017 the candidate defended a dissertation on "Management of agricultural cooperatives - challenges and prospects." He acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (diploma № 0119 / 15.03.2017) in the scientific specialty 05.02.18. Economics and management (by industry).

Regarding the requirement for a minimum academic experience - the total work experience of Dr. Sarov as a researcher is about 8 years and a lecturer at the university for more than 2 years (from the CV). Obviously, the candidate fully meets the legal requirement for a minimum academic experience of two years. / Based on the attached certificate /

Regarding the requirement for published monographic work - the candidate has submitted an independent monographic work on "Assessment of management sustainability of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria." It was reviewed by two habilitated persons respected in the Bulgarian academic community, published in 2019 in the renowned publishing house Avangard Prima and has a volume of 141 pages, ie corresponds to the required minimum of 8 printed cars. The subject of the monographic work, the object, the subject and the time period to which they refer, does not presuppose overlapping with the dissertation work of the candidate, which meets the legal requirement of art. 24, para 1, item 3 of ZRASRB.

Regarding the additional requirements of UARD - Dr. Sarov meets all additional quantitative requirements of UARD, as evidenced by the attached Map for the implementation of scientometric indicators. It is noteworthy that activity was reported under each of these criteria, and some of them reported performance significantly exceeding the minimum threshold.

### ***3.2. Fulfillment of quality requirements***

With his active research activity Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. A. Sarov is a serious researcher who has contributed to establishing the image of the Institute of Agrarian Economics in the country and abroad. An indicator of this is his participation in many projects in various fields, trainings and specializations in countries such as Germany - Humboldt University, Berlin, Republic of Northern Macedonia - University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, including through Erasmus +. Dr. Sarov points to his participation in more than twenty projects with various funding, including at the Agricultural Academy.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Sarov is also a recognizable researcher with contributions in the field of agricultural economics and agriculture. His repeated participation in national forums is a proof of his potential to develop and his desire to assert his qualities. He has always demonstrated a dignified academic demeanor, ethics and tolerance in expressing his opinion. It is important to note that Dr. Sarov also has proven practical experience, which strengthens the relationship "research - business - university".

The candidate has indisputable contributions to the development of science in the field of agricultural science. He is the author of a number of publications that are highly regarded, including those published in refereed publications

Based on all of the above, regarding the diverse and in-depth teaching and research work of Chief Assistant. Sarov, I believe that he meets the quantitative and qualitative requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" of UARD.

#### 4. Evaluation of the teaching activity

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Sarov is already an established lecturer in a number of disciplines at the Bachelor's Degree. His reported classroom employment in the 2016-2018 academic years, based on the eight disciplines he leads, exceeds the mandatory minimum. He conducts lectures and exercises in the disciplines "Customer Relationship Management", "Business Process Management", "Innovations in the real estate business", "Financial innovations in the real estate market", "Strategies for business development and rural areas", "Stakeholder Management" and "Strategic Management of the Enterprise".

The high workload gives reason to conclude that Dr. Sarov has gained enough experience and routine and evidence of professionalism in his teaching work. It should be noted that he has accumulated practical experience, which reflects on his teaching style and creates additional applied attractiveness of his knowledge.

This is a sign of his potential usefulness in the Department of Regional Development, Agribusiness and Tourism as a habilitated lecturer in the field of agribusiness.

#### 5. Brief description of the presented scientific papers/publications

Careful acquaintance with the scientific production gives grounds for the following conclusions and generalizations:

First, he participated in the current competition with a significant scientific output, numbering more than 55, including two textbooks that he co-authored. The relative share of co-authored scientific publications is predominant, but the number of his independent appearances is not to be neglected. A number of publications abroad make a good impression. This indicates that the candidate for associate professor has a clear ability to perform independently.

№	Type of publications	Independent		Co-authored		Total
		Nationa.	Internation	National	Internation l	
1	Monographs	2	-	2	-	4
2	Studios	-	-	3	1	4
3	Articles	3	2	1	2	8
4	Scientific reports	4	-	9	14	24
5	Part of Monography.	-	-	8	2	10
	TExtbooks		2			
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>55</b>

Second, the publications of Chief Assistant Dr. Sarov reveals his ambition to study current, complex and significant problems for modern science and international business practice. His interests are mostly in the field of agricultural economics, application of analytical tools to improve the management of agribusiness. His independent monographs are also subordinated to the possibilities that the management contains. In them the author has extremely conscientiously collected and processed a huge amount of information. In it, he sought to clarify issues related to sustainability in agriculture and the ability of the regenerative economy to support sustainability. The monograph deserves high praise both from a theoretical and a practical point of view.

Third, more than twenty of the candidate's publications have been published in international scientific journals, and the remaining publications have been published in Bulgarian scientific journals, such as the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria; Avangard Prima, ed. of NBU; and others. There are also publications in indexed foreign publications.

The publications of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Sarov are a convincing proof of his excellent theoretical training, acquired research skills and skills to formulate scientific problems, applying appropriate approaches and methodologies for their solution.

Fourth, the candidate has concentrated his / her research topics in a specific scientific field without wasting effort and knowledge. This is a winning strategy that allows for the identification of the author and the achievement of high professionalism.

Fifth, Angel Sarov presented a reference for a total of 10 citations in national scientific journals. The references and citations of his publications are evidence of knowledge of his scientific work among the academic community in our country.

The publications presented at the competition are characterized by topicality of the considered problems, a high degree of depth of their research and a strong position of the author. I believe that the results obtained in them are of significant interest to students, consultants, experts and managers from different management levels of Bulgarian industrial enterprises. They attest Angel Sarov as a serious, conscientious, thorough and promising researcher.

## **6. Synthesized assessment of the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

The scientific works are definitely a creative achievement of the candidate. They enrich some aspects of management theory and business practice in the field of agribusiness, management of agricultural cooperatives, as well as the sustainable development of agriculture by region.

The publications contain a number of theoretical, methodological and scientific-applied contributions of varying importance for economic and managerial science:

- Department of Agricultural Management. The knowledge from the theoretical and methodological aspect in the field of agrarian management is supplemented and enriched by researching and analyzing the part of management (understood as governance) and the management structure

- Division of agricultural cooperatives - the definitions of agricultural cooperative and “cooperative management structure” have been further developed and enriched, revealing the different types of agricultural cooperatives on the basis of internal and external subordination. Based on the systemic nature of modern agricultural cooperatives, methodological tools have been proposed for studying the effect (in socio-economic aspect) of the management and the types of management structure in the Bulgarian agricultural cooperatives operating in the country.

- Contributing moments from the research work in the field of sustainable development in agriculture and rural areas are related to the theoretical justification and proposed methodology for optimization of the production structure of agricultural holdings, as an economic assessment of the impact of CAP and biostimulants in agriculture on the production structure in the context of the circular and bioeconomy

- the problem related to sustainable development and in particular utilization of waste products in agriculture is studied

## **7. Main critical remarks and recommendations**

Co-authored publications have a smaller relative share than those developed independently.

- My recommendation is to continue to focus on publishing publications in foreign languages and those in more international indexed and referenced journals. This will significantly increase the potential of his work to become recognizable not only in the scientific community at home but also abroad.
- By participating in more international projects he can enrich his knowledge and skills as a teacher and researcher;

## **8. Conclusion**

Based on the above, I can summarize that there is a convincing candidacy for the academic position of "Associate Professor" of UARD. Angel Sarov is a promising scientist, combining research with practical and applied activities, who has proven his achievements in teaching and teaching.

The documents on the competition testify that both the quantitative and qualitative criteria of UARD for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" are met.

**With full conviction I give my POSITIVE assessment and I recommend to the other respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the award of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Chief Assistant. Dr. Angel Sarov in the professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (agribusiness).**

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Plovdiv

Prepared the statement :

*/ Assoc. Prof. Dr A.Davchev /*