

# STATEMENT

By **assoc. prof. Biser Yordanov Krastev, PhD**

Lecturer at the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (UARD) - Plovdiv

On the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
For holding the academic position of "**Associate Professor**"  
In the Field of higher education **3. Social, economic and legal sciences**,  
Professional field **3.8. Economy**,  
Scientific specialty **Economics and Management (Agribusiness)**

In the competition for associate professor, announced in the State Newspaper, issue 43/21.05.2021, and at the website of UARD - Plovdiv for the needs of the Department "Economics and Finance" to Faculty of Economics and Management, as sole candidate participate **ch. assistant Angel Stankov Sarov, PhD**.

The statement was prepared in accordance with Order №205/29.07.2021 of the Rector of UARD Prof. Mariana Ivanova, PhD on the grounds of Art. 4 of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, art. 28, para.1 of the Rules of law enforcement for the development of academic staff in UARD and Decision of the Faculty Council (Protocol №6/15.07.2021).

## **1. Brief biographical data**

Ch. assistant Angel Stankov Sarov, PhD was born on August 21, 1974 in Sofia. He graduated from the University of National and World Economy - Sofia, where in 1999 he obtained the educational qualification degree "Master" in "Agricultural Economics".

Angel Sarov began teach as "assistant" in the Institute of Agricultural Economics at the Agricultural Academy in 2013 and in 2017 holds the academic position of "chief assistant" in the same scientific organization. On February 23, 2017 defenses dissertation on "Management of Agricultural Cooperatives - challenges and perspectives" and acquire the educational and scientific degree "doctor" on scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (by industry). During the period 2013-2020, he participated a mobility under the Erasmus + at Humboldt-University - Berlin (Germany) and in the University "Sv. St. Cyril and Methodius" - Skopje (Republic of Northern Macedonia), as well as in more than 20 research projects funded from internal or external sources for Bulgaria.

In addition to the accumulated significant teaching and research experience, ch. assistant Angel Sarov, PhD owns and extensive practical experience in the field of organization and management of different corporate activities. During the period 2000-2007 he held the positions of "sales representative" and "sales director" in "SVS - 98" Ltd. - Sofia , and from 2008 to 2016 he worked as a business development expert in "Orgachim" AD - Ruse.

## **2. General description of the presented materials**

The candidate ch. assistant Angel Sarov, PhD participated in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" with the following 28 publications:

- Monographs - 1 piece;
- Studies – 4 pieces;
- Articles - 13 pieces;
- Scientific reports - 6 pieces;
- Book based on a defended dissertation – 1 piece;
- Other publications (participation in collective books and monographs) - 3 pieces.

Of these, two studies, five articles, three scientific reports and one chapter of a collective book are in English, and the remaining 17 publications are in Bulgarian published. In 13 of the publications, ch. assistant Angel Sarov, PhD is an independent author and 15 of them are co-authored. Very impressive is the fact that five of the author's scientific publications are in referenced and indexed in the scientometric database Scopus and Web of Science scientific publications with an impact factor published. These include the "Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science" and "Economic Research".

The publications submitted by the candidate fully comply with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to Art. 2b, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. This is evident from the reference he has attached. According to the information contained in the reference, the participant in the competition has scored 530.3 points by a required minimum number of 400 points.

## **3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)**

The candidate for academic position "associate professor" has submitted a reference for citing its publications by other authors. Two of them are cited in 2 scientific papers of Bulgarian and foreign authors, published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, and three of the publications of the author are cited in 7 unreferenced journals with scientific review.

## **4. General characteristics of the candidate's activity**

### **4.1. Educational and pedagogical activity**

During 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 academic years ch. assistant Angel Sarov, PhD was teach lectures and hold seminars on the disciplines "Customer relationships management", "Business Process Management", "Innovation in the real estate business", "Financial Innovations of the real estate market", "Strategies for business development in rural areas", "Stakeholder management" and "Strategic management of the enterprise.

### **4.2. Scientific and scientifically applied activity**

After a detailed and in-depth acquaintance with the research activity of ch. assistant Angel Sarov, PhD i can confidently say that his scientific development is successful. He has presented a monograph on the topic: "Assessment of the governance sustainability of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria" with a volume of 142 pages, published in 2019. Structurally, the monograph consists of an introduction, three parts, a conclusion and an appendix. In the introduction are formulated the topicality, the object, the subject, the goal and the tasks of the scientific research.

In the first part a specific theoretical and methodological approach for assessing the governance sustainability of agricultural holdings is presented, containing a system of principles, criteria, indicators and benchmarks, through which it is proposed to study and analyze the level of this sustainability in the agricultural sector of Bulgaria. In the second part, a detailed assessment of governance sustainability at the level of an individual farm was performed, which based on systematization and processing of information from a survey conducted among 106 farms that answered the questions in the questionnaire. In the third part of the monograph has drawn the main conclusions from the research and has made proposals for improving the governance sustainability of agricultural holdings in our country in accordance with the goals of sustainable socio-economic development and transition to regenerative agriculture. The hypothesis proposed in the introduction that the governance sustainability of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria is at a satisfactory level is confirmed.

Research of the author are relevant to several key areas that match fully the profile of the competition announced:

- Agricultural management - publications with numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 18, 19 and 24 from the attached list ;
- Management of agricultural cooperatives - publications with numbers 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17 , 18,19, 21, 22 and 24 from the attached list;
- Sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas - publications with numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28 from the attached list.

Ch. assistant Angel Sarov, PhD has participated in 9 research projects of the Institute of Agrarian Economics with a assignor Agricultural Academy - Sofia, in 6 research projects of the Institute of Agrarian Economics, funded by external sources ("Research Fund" to the Ministry of Education and Science and Sofiyska Voda AD) and in 2 research projects funded by external sources for Bulgaria (European Fund - Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program and European Commission - Horizon 20 Program).

He is a member of the Advisory Council on Tobacco at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, a member of the Union of Agrarian Economists in the Republic of Northern Macedonia and a member of the editorial board of the Agricultural Cooperative magazine.

#### **4.3.Scientific contributions**

The most important scientific contributions of the candidate in connection with his participation in the competition for "associate professor" are the following:

1. In the presented monograph is substantiated the need to develop a fourth management pillar through which to analyze and assess the sustainability of agricultural holdings;
2. From a theoretical and methodological point of view is proposed a new approach for assessing the management sustainability of different types of agricultural holdings;
3. A scientifically based approbation of the approach (model) for assessing the level of governance sustainability of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria has performed;
4. In the other scientific researches of the author the specifics and the problems of the agrarian governance are systematized and the models for management of the agrarian business are described;
5. The main risks and challenges that characterize the governance of agricultural cooperatives are systematized;
6. Finally, a measure to solve the problems in the field of sustainable development of agriculture in rural areas from a socio-economic and environmental point of view are proposed.

## **5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution**

Based on the above, it can be concluded that the research of ch. assistant Angel Sarov, PhD contribute to the development of economic theory in a practical and applied aspect, supplementing it with new knowledge and fields of research.

## **6. Critical notes**

Rather than extend critical remarks about the candidate, I advise him to deepen his research in the field of economics and agribusiness, as well as continue to develop successfully publishing activities both at home as well as abroad.

## **7. Conclusion**

With his scientific and teaching activity the candidate for participation in the competition proves himself as a distinguished scientist and researcher and fully meets the criteria of Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for application of the law for development of the academic staff in UARD.

**Having in mind the above, I propose ch. assistant Angel Stankov Sarov, PhD to be elected "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agribusiness).**

August 10, 2021  
Plovdiv

Member of the scientific jury:  
(assoc. prof. Biser Krastev, PhD)

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