

REVIEW

by Prof. Tsvetan Iliev, PhD

chairman of the scientific jury in competition

for the academic position “Professor”

in the field of higher education 3. Social and economic sciences and law,

in professional field 3.7 Administration and Management,

scientific specialty: Administration and management.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Chapter Three, Section IV of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria, as well as with Order № 204/29.07.2021 of the Rector of UARD – Plovdiv.

The competition was announced in SG no. 43/21.05.2021 in accordance with Art. 4 of ZRASRB and Art. 28(1) of the Regulation for application of the Law on the Protection of Disabled People’s Rights of UARD.

Candidate in the competition: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucia Palashova.

1. Short Curriculum Vitae

The candidate of the announced procedure, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucia Palashova was born on June 13, 1982 in Czechoslovakia. In 2005 higher law education in the Master’s Degree Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia. In 2007, she acquired the ONS “Doctor” in Law of the Faculty of the University of Tarnava, Slovak Republic. Since 2008 she has a PhD in Economic from the University of Economics - Bratislava.

Assoc. Prof Palashova is currently pursuing her academic career at the Agricultural university in Nitra, Slovakia, as well as at UARD – Plovdiv.

Apart from the academic sphere, Assoc. Prof. Palashova has her own professional development in the law field as well. It is clear from the curriculum vitae that she has worked in as an assistant in a law firm and as assistant to the spokesperson of the Government of the Slovak Republic from 2003 to 2004.

On the basis of the copies of the diploma for acquisition ONS “Doctor” presented by L. Palashova and of the certificate for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor”

I can assert that the candidate in the competition meets the requirements of Art. 29 item 1 and 2 of ZRASRB for holding the academic position of “Professor”.

2. General description of the presented materials.

According to the hypothesis of Art. 29 item 3 of ZRASRB Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucia Palashova participates in the competition with 40 publications, realized after taking the academic position of “Associate Professor”:

Monograph – **1 issue;**

Studies and articles – **18 issues**, 5 of them in foreign magazines, 1 in referenced and indexed editions of SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE;

Scientific reports – **13 issues;**

Coursebooks – **3 issues;**

Chapters in collective monographs – **5 issues.**

From the information thus presented by the candidate in the competition for the quantitative indicators of the publishing activity I can conclude that the candidate in the competition meets the requirements of Art. 29 item 3 of ZRASRB and does not repeat the publications for acquisition of ONS “Doctor” and for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

3. Reflection of candidate’s scientific publications in the literature (famous quotations)

According to the reference submitted by the candidate in the competition, there are 46 citations of her publications. 14 of them are referenced and indexed editions of SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE and 32 in non-referenced editions with scientific review. In view of this, I consider that Lucia Palashova meets the requirements of Art. 2b of ZRASRB and Art 1a of PPZRASRB for holding the academic position of “Professor”.

4. General characteristic of candidate’s activity.

4.1 Educational and pedagogical activity (work with students and doctoral students).

The quantitative and qualitative requirements for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Palashova’ teaching activity can be presented in the following directions.

4.1.1 Study load.

From the documents submitted by the candidate in the competition is clear that in quantitative terms the candidate has teaching activity at the University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia. In addition, Assoc. Prof Palashova has taught at the program “Role of Agriculture in the Territorial Identity of the Regions” at the University of Vilnius, Lithuania, at the University of Lubin, Poland and at the University of Agriculture in Nitra. In qualitative aspect the study load can be assessed on the basis of the taught disciplines. In particular, she was assigned lectures and seminars in the disciplines “Agro-Environmental Law”, “Fundamentals of Law” and “European Legislation”.

4.1.2 Activity outside direct teaching engagements.

Lucia Palashova’s autobiographical reference testifies to the existence of professional commitments outside the teaching work. Since 2016 she has been a member of the governing body of the Law Department of the Faculty of European Studies and Regional Developments at the University of Agriculture in Nitra. In the period 2019 – 2022 she has been a member of the academic senate of the same university, where she has been serving as a chairman of the legislative committee. Since 2020 she is a Deputy Speaker of the Senate.

These commitments testify to the fact that Assoc. Prof. L. Palashova has serious managerial and professional qualities, which significantly contribute to the opportunity to hold the academic position of “Professor”.

4.2.1 Scientific and scientifically applied activity.

Scientific achievements with the nature of contribution can be found, on the one hand, in the main monographic work with which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Palashova applied in the competition, and on the other hand - in her studies, articles and scientific reports. I accept the synthesized contributions, believing that they can be divided in two directions: theoretical-methodological and with practical-applied character.

L. Palashova’s main monographic work entitled “Agricultural lands – field of conflict” was published in 2020 in a volume of 111 pages. The research focus of this work is a significant problem, as the author notes for Slovakia, and also for EU members and for the world in general. This problem is the protection of agricultural land in the conditions of conflict of interests in the variety of needs and requirements of individuals, professional communities and companies.

The main purpose of the monograph is to study the assessment of the law, economic and environmental aspects of internally present previous conflict, the search for identification, accessibility and use of agricultural land in Slovakia. More specifically, three key conflicts have been identified for evaluation, which are used with regard to agricultural land in Slovakia.

The first conflict is between public and private interest in definition and implementation of land legislation. Here the author comes to conclusion that if the state perceives to treat agricultural land as private good, it must significantly limit the public interest in it. With the importance of scientific contribution, I can appreciate Assoc. Prof. Paloashova's thesis that the favoring of private over public interests should not be at the expense of hindering socio-economic development. To this end, it proposes to adopt a number of legislative initiatives through the application of Principles of Government Soil Policy in the following areas:

- Defining in long-term strategic perspective of the land as a public good, the use of which must be brought within certain limits. This must ensure that agricultural land protection measures are properly targeted.
- Observance of the legislative norms in this area.
- Development and implementation of economic and other incentives for soil protection, through which in practice the state will share the economic benefits with owners and users of agricultural land.

The second conflict zone, analyzed by Assoc. Prof. Palashova, is related to the access to the use of agricultural land. The author sees a potential solution to the conflict in the removal of obstacles in the field of property rights.

The third conflict is identified with regard to the use of agricultural land for agricultural purpose. In her decision, Assoc. Prof. Palashova proposes that the state should introduce adequate legal norms which to a large extent set and regulate the use of agricultural land.

The issues discussed in the monograph are also covered in other publications of the candidate in the competition. The fact that they are cited by various authors in major scientific journals is indicative of the importance of the proposed solutions and proven points.

With the importance of achievements of scientifically applied nature I consider the participation in the development and implementation of research projects. In the period from 2008 until now Assoc. Prof. Palashova participates in the following research projects:

- The member of the international project "INclusive Health And wellBeing In small and medium sized ciTies" — 'IN-HABIT', granted by Horizont 2020, No. 869227 (2020 – 2025)

- The member of the international project "Quality Soil as a Pathway to Healthy Food in the EU – FOODIE", granted by Jean granted by Jean Monnet Programme, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), No. 621119-EPP-1-2020-1-SK EPPJMO-PROJECT (2020 – 2021)

- The member of the research project “Centre of Excellence for European Agri-Food Chain – CEEAG”, granted by Jean Monnet Programme, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (No. 611446-EPP-1-2019-1-SK-EPPJMO-CoE)
- The member of the international project “Centre of Excellence for European Agri Food Chain – CEEAG”, granted by Jean Monnet Programme, EACEA, No. 611446-EPP-1-2019-1-SK-EPPJMO-CoE (2019 – 2020)
- The coordinator of the national project “The protection of preserving agricultural land in Slovakia,” granted by the Scientific Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, No. 1/0220/18 (2018 – 2021)
- The member of the national project “Institutional environment as a vehicle of development policies in least developed districts“, granted by the Scientific Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, No. 1/0789/18 (2018 – 2021)
- The coordinator of the international project “Central European Initiative on Agricultural Land Protection (CEILAND)”, granted by Jean Monnet Programme, EACEA, No. 600441-EPP-1-2018-1-SK-EPPJMO-PROJECT (2018 –2019)
- The member of the national project „Revitalization of small Agricultural Farms through Energy Crops Cultivation and Biomass Production“ (RE-BIO), granted by The Slovak Research and Development Agency, No. SK-SRB-2013-0031 (2015 – 2016)
- The member of the international project „EU Land Policy - the Pathway Towards Sustainable Europe“, granted by Jean Monnet Programme, EACEA, No. 542600-LLP-1-2013-1SK-AJM-PO (2013 – 2016)
- The member of the national project “Effectiveness of administrative action of state administration bodies in the field of trade business”, granted by the Scientific Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, No. 730/06110 (2011 – 2012)
- The monitoring manager of the national research project “Supporting the innovation of technologies of special organic food products for healthy human nutrition”, granted by Operational Program Research and Innovation (2010 – 2014)
- The coordinator of the institutional project “Slovak agricultural policy and its implementation in the conditions of the Slovak Republic”, granted by the Grant Agency of the Slovak University of Agriculture (2009 – 2010)

In addition to research projects, the candidate in the competition has experience in the implementation and management of educational projects. The documentation presented by L. Palashova lists 16 different projects for the period from 2009 to the present.

This gives me reason to define the candidate in the competition as a researcher with serious scientifically applied activity. In this sense, what is presented by Assoc. Prof. Palashova in this regard, I accept that it meets the requirements of Art. 27 para 4 item 2 of ZRASRB and Art. 60 para 1 and 2 of PPZRASRB.

From the reference submitted by the candidate in the competition compliance with the requirements of NCID it is clear that it meets the minimum requirements of Art. 2b para 2 of ZRASRB and Art. 1a para 2 of PPZRASRB.

5. Assessment of candidate' personal contribution

I do not know the candidate personally but from the presented CV and scientific publications I am left with the impression of serious scientific-research look. I accept Assoc. Prof. Pashalova's scientific production as her personal achievements and I do not find evidence of plagiarism.

6. Critical remarks

I have no significant critical remarks towards the candidate in the competition.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucia Palashova meets the requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Administration and Management" in professional field 3.7 for the needs of UARD – Plovdiv and has the necessary qualities. In this view, I **vote "Yes"** and propose to the estimated members of the Scientific Jury to support the selection on the basis of Chapter Three, Section IV of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

09.09.2021
Plovdiv

Prepared the review:

/Prof. Tsvetan Iliev, PhD/