OPINION

on the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", in the professional field 6.1. "Crop Science", specialty "Soil Science", announced in the State Gazette No. 60 of 25.07.2025

with the candidate: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova**

Member of the Scientific Jury: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miglena Atanasova Drumeva**

I. General characteristics of the research and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Naskova is the sole candidate in the current competition for the academic position of *Professor*.

The candidate's research and scientific-applied work is represented through her publications and research activities submitted for the competition, according to the groups of indicators defined by the National Minimum Requirements for the position of *Professor*, as regulated by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB).

The works submitted by the candidate for the competition for *Professor* are systematized according to the LDAS and its Implementing Regulations. For participation in the competition, the candidate presents a total list of 30 scientific publications, which are discussed, evaluated, included, and categorized in the document titled *"Reference on meeting the minimum requirements for the academic position of Professor"*, prepared by the candidate.

Indicator Group A: A diploma for the educational and scientific degree *Doctor* has been presented. The candidate meets the requirements of this indicator.

Indicator Group B: The requirement for a habilitation work/monograph or at least 10 scientific publications in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases has been fulfilled. The candidate meets this requirement by submitting a monograph titled *"Modeling the Dynamics of Organic Substances and Heavy Metals in Soil."*

Indicators from Group C: A total of 200 points are required. The candidate presents 329.85 points for this group. Under indicator C6, a published book based on her defended dissertation for the degree of *Doctor* titled *"Management of Heavy Metal Pollution in Natural, Agro-, and Urban Ecosystems"* is presented, along with copies of publications included in the competition. There are 22 publications under indicator C7 (refereed and indexed publications) and 8 publications under indicator C8 (non-refereed journals). The candidate has correctly calculated the scores, fully meeting the requirements of Group C.

From the analysis of the submitted works, it follows that the reviewed publications *do not duplicate those presented for the Doctoral degree or the position of Associate Professor*, thus meeting the requirements of Art. 29, items 3 and 4 of the LDASRB.

Indicator Group D: Requires 100 points for citations in scientific journals referenced and indexed in internationally recognized databases and/or peer reviewing. The candidate presents a list of 25 citations, corresponding to 315 points, fully satisfying Group D.

Indicators from Group E: Require 100 points. The candidate both meets and exceeds this requirement, achieving 220 points, based on supervision of two successfully defended PhD

students, participation in national and international projects, and authorship of a university textbook and teaching aids.

The above data undoubtedly demonstrate a high level of research and scientific-applied activity, thus fulfilling the requirements of Art. 29, item 5 of the LDASRB.

2. Evaluation of the pedagogical competence and teaching activities of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova has been a member of the Department of Crop Science at the Faculty of Agricultural and Technical Sciences, Technical University of Varna, since 2012, thus meeting the requirement of Art. 29, item 2 of the LDASRB.

According to the candidate's submitted reference *"Teaching hours of lectures delivered at TU–Varna over the past three years,"* where 30 points are required, she presents evidence of 70.5 points, more than double the minimum requirement. Regarding participation in curriculum development, the candidate provides proof exceeding the required minimum of 20 points by more than twice.

Assoc. Prof. Atanasova is a co-author of three teaching aids and has supervised two successfully defended PhD students.

These facts clearly demonstrate her extensive teaching experience.

3. Main scientific and applied contributions

According to the submitted report on the candidate's scientific contributions, the following are particularly significant, involving the application of new methods for studying, predicting, and managing processes in soil ecosystems. The most important contributions are:

1. Development of a simulation model of the movement of organic substances and heavy metals in soils, as well as a general model for managing heavy metal aerosol pollution in natural, agro-, and urban ecosystems.
2. Development of a comprehensive model for digitalization in agriculture, representing a platform consisting of experiments, agro- and bio-analyses, statistical processing software, hypothesis testing, recognition, and forecasting of soil ecosystem conditions.

Additionally, fifteen scientific-applied contributions, two applied contributions, and educational-methodological contributions are formulated, combining fundamental knowledge of soil science with current environmental issues such as soil pollution and remediation technologies, applicable in both practice and teaching.

I accept the contributions formulated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova in the submitted works as having scientific, scientific-applied, applied, and educational-methodological value, enriching the existing scientific field with new knowledge, thus meeting the requirements of Art. 29 of the LDASRB.

4. Significance of the contributions for science and practice.

The quantitative indicators for the position of *Professor* are met, with some groups significantly exceeding the minimum requirements.

The candidate's scientific publications include 22 papers in journals indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases and 8 publications in non-refereed but peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes.

A list of 14 citations in journals indexed and referenced in *Scopus* and/or *Web of Science*, 10 citations in monographs and collective volumes, and 1 citation in non-refereed journals is presented. It is accepted that these refer to the period up to the submission of documents for the competition and do not include new citations. These data confirm that the candidate's research enjoys the necessary public visibility.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Atanasova also meets the requirement of Art. 29, item 6 of the LDASRB, as she has declared that there is no proven plagiarism in the works submitted for this

competition.

5. Critical notes and recommendations.

I have no critical remarks regarding the scientific works presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova in this competition.

Given her extensive teaching and research experience, I would like to recommend that she focus her efforts on mentoring more PhD students, in order to pass on her scientific expertise to the next generation of Bulgarian researchers.

CONCLUSION

I conclude that the candidate has fully met the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Occupying Academic Positions at the Technical University of Varna.

Based on the review of the submitted scientific works, their significance, and the scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions contained therein, I find it well justified to propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova be appointed to the academic position of Professor in the field of higher education 6. *"Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine"*, in the professional field 6.1. *"Crop Science"*, specialty *"Soil Scie*

Заличена информация
по Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679

11.11.2025 г.
Varna

Member of the
Ass