STANDPOINT

on a 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 Plant Breeding, specialty "Soil Science", announced in the State Gazette № 60/25.07.2025.

Candidate: assoc. prof. dr. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova from the Department of Plant Breeding, Faculty of Technology, Technical University of Varna.

Member of the scientific jury: prof. dr. Antoniya Koleva Stoyanova, Trakia University, scientific specialty 6.1. Plant Breeding, order of the SAA for the appointment of a Scientific Jury No. 613/24.09.2025.

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

The documentation presented by the candidate assoc. prof. dr. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation, as well as the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Holding Academic Positions at the Technical University - Varna.

The scientific research and applied scientific activity is presented through a reference to the evidentiary scientific works that the candidate has submitted according to the groups of indicators required to meet the uniform national minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor".

For a group of indicators from category "A" (min. 50 points), the minimum requirements are covered by the candidate's doctoral dissertation - a total of 50 points.

For a group of indicators from category "B" (min. 100 points), the minimum requirements are covered by a habilitation thesis - monograph - a total of 100 points.

For a group of indicators from category "D" (min. 200 points), the minimum requirements are covered by a published book based on a defended dissertation (40 points); scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases (258.75 points); articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review and collective volumes (31.1 points) - total 329.85 points.

For a group of indicators from category "D" (min. 100 points), the minimum requirements are covered by 12 citations in refereed and indexed databases in world-renowned databases, 9 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 1 citation in a non-refereed publication with scientific review - a total of 315 points.

For a group of indicators from category "E" (min. 100 points), the minimum requirements are covered by the presented teaching aids - 1 textbook and 2 laboratory manuals.The supervision of two successfully defended doctoral students is certified, as well as participation in national scientific and educational projects - 4, participation in 2 international scientific and educational projects.

The supervision of two successfully defended doctoral students has been certified, as well as participation in national scientific and educational projects - 4, participation in 2 international scientific and educational projects. The total number of points by indicator groups, with a required minimum number of 550 points, was reported as 1014.85 points.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Atanasova meets the required minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor" at TU-Varna.

2. Evaluation of the applicant's teaching activity

Assoc. prof. dr. Pavlina Atanasova has been working since 2012 as an assistant professor in the specialty "Agronomy" at TU-Varna and has been actively involved in all levels of university education over the years.

He leads courses for students of the Bachelor's degree program in the disciplines Botany 1 and 2 parts, General Microbiology, Ecology, Technology for the restoration of damaged soils, Landscape Science and Greening, Soil Science for students in the specialty "Agronomy" and Soil Pollution and Remediation Technologies for students from the journal "Engineering Ecology". In the "Master" program, she leads disciplines in two master's programs "Seeding and planting material" and "Seed production and plant protection" and leads courses in the disciplines Ecological safety of plant production and Chemical pollutants and control methods.

During the period 2019-2022, as Director of the Directorate "International Activities and Foreign Students", Assoc. Prof. Pavlina Atanasova carries out activities related to the internationalization of the university and management of the education of foreign students and their adaptation.

She is the supervisor of 24 graduates, of which 16 in the Bachelor's and 8 in the Master's degree. In recent years, 7 student participations in a student scientific session under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Pavlina Atanasova have been registered.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Atanasova emerges as an established specialist in her professional field with high scientific and pedagogical qualifications.

3. Main scientific and applied contributions

I accept the contributions presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Atanasova, which are defined as scientific, applied science, applied and educational-methodological. The contributions correspond to the scientific interests of the candidate and the topic of the competition.

There are 5 scientific contributions, based on the development of tools for managing agricultural processes, as well as a digitalization model. (B. 3, D. 6, D. 7.1.).

The scientific and applied contributions, based on the monograph, contain developed models for the analysis of pollution in the soil horizon (B. 3). The remaining 7 scientifically applied contributions are of a confirmatory nature and are related to the management of environmental risk in microbiological approaches (D.7.1, D.7.6, D.7.18).

Two applied contributions have been made, which boil down to the possibility of developing models for assessing soil fertility, which is of extremely practical importance in assessing agro- and urbogenic soils (B. 3, D. 6).

The candidate has also identified a new group of educational and methodological contributions, as a result of many years of observations and research. The importance of the latter is evidenced by the opportunity to present technology for soil purification and visualization of some microbiological processes (E.22.1, E.23.1, E.23.2).

A large part of Assoc. Prof. Pavlina Atanasova's contributions are the result of her extremely active participation in international and national research projects.

As head of the scientific and production group in "Plant Production" at the High-Tech Park TU Varna EOOD, Assoc. Prof. Pavlina Atanasova participated in the development of a number of scientific and applied tasks related to testing fertilizers for some winter and spring crops, as well as determining the microbiological activity of the soil.

I accept the contributions formulated in this way, which reflect the significant contribution and the results achieved.

4. Significance of contributions for science and practice

The presented scientific works are developed in current areas, with the majority published in refereed and indexed databases in world-renowned databases.

My assessment of the contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Atanasova is that they are significant for science and applicable in practice.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

From the review of the submitted evidence, it is clear that all scientific works are the personal work of the candidate.

I have no reason to make critical remarks towards Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Atanasova.

CONCLUSION

I believe that the information presented regarding the candidate's scientific and teaching work meets the requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" and meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Implementation of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Holding Academic Positions at the Technical University - Varna.

Based on the familiarization with the presented scientific works, their significance, the scientific, applied science and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to propose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Naskova Atanasova to occupy the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field, 6.1. Plant breeding, specialty "Soil Science" at the Department of Plant Breeding, Technical University of Varna.

Date: 23.10.2025

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