

STATEMENT

Prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Marusya Vasileva Stancheva-Linkova, PhD,
D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov,
Faculty of Industry and Commerce, Department of Agricultural Economics,
Scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)

Subject: Competitive procedure for electing Professor in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics), at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov.

1. Introduction of the candidate for participation in the competition, the scientific specialty, and the department for which the competition is being announced.

In the competitive procedure for electing professor in the field of higher education, 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences; professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics), at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, announced in SG no. 21/07.03.2023, one candidate participated: Assoc. Prof. Marina Angelova Nikolova, PhD.

2. Grounds for submitting the statement.

The statement was written on the basis of the Decision of the Department of Agricultural Economics (Protocol No. 8/13.01.2023), the Decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Industry and Commerce (Protocol 8/26.04.2023), Rector's Order No. 363/02.05.2023 for determining the composition of the scientific jury, and the Decision of the First Meeting of the Scientific Jury held on May 15, 2023, according to Art. 134 and 135 of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff in the Academy of Economics. All the requirements according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Academy of Economics, Svishtov. Attached are all documents and publications demonstrating compliance with the legal requirements for holding the academic title "professor."

3. Personal characteristic of the candidate.

Candidate Marina Angelova Nikolova was born in 1964 in Lom, where she graduated in 1981 from the Nayden Gerov Polytechnic High School. From 1985 to 1987, she was an employee at the Zamfir Hadjiyski Agricultural Complex in Lom. From 1983 to 1988, she attended the Vasil Kolarov Higher Agricultural Institute Plovdiv, where she earned the specialization "Agriculture" and the qualification "Engineer - Agronomist." From 1987 to 1990, she worked as a "Plant Protection Agronomist" for the Georgi Dimitrov Complex Brigade in Lom.

She began a period of intensive research from 1990 to 2006 at the National Center for Agrarian Sciences, the Regional Center for Scientific and Applied Services - Vratsa, and the Agricultural Academy - Sofia, and has been a member of the Union of Bulgarian Scientists since 1990. She developed up as a research assistant (1990, III, 1992, II, and 1995, I degrees)

and studied at the Institute for Improving Personnel Qualification at the Agricultural Academy, Sofia (1992, a six-month course in English; 1998, a 15-day course for appraisers of agricultural land and improvements thereon). In 1998, she obtained a license as an appraiser of agricultural lands No. 1953 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Agrarian Reform for the period 1998-2003, and in 2004, she was added to the list of experts under the Property Law and the use of agricultural lands by the Ministry of Agriculture. From 1992 to the present, Marina Nikolova has acquired 25 certificates from professional development trainings: 2010 renewable energy training at GUSV-Vocational&Recruitment Center Ltd in Sofia; 2014 - Certificate for conducting courses under measure 214 of the Rural Development Program 2007-2014; 2018 - Competences acquired "Transfer of technologies and protection and management of intellectual property" under project BG05M2OP001-2.009-0026-C01; 2023 - Participation in a one-day StrikePlagiarism.com training on anti-plagiarism in higher education, etc. In 2000, she was awarded the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor", scientific specialty "General Agriculture" (No. 26533/21.02.2000). From 2001 to 2004, she studied "Economic and Financial Control" at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics in Svishtov, and in 2005 she earned the professional qualification "Master of Economics." In 2005, she was awarded a diploma as a Senior Research Associate, Second Degree, in the scientific specialty 04.01.01 "General Agriculture" (No. 23055/20.06.2005), and in 2006, she was awarded a diploma in the scientific specialty 04.01.14 "Plant Breeding" (No. 23825/31.07.2006).

The period from 2006 to the present is associated with intensive scientific and teaching work at the Academy of Economics Svishtov, where, in addition to the position of Associate Professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics, the candidate holds a number of administrative and managerial positions: from 2016 until now she is the Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and of the master's program "Agribusiness", a member of the Faculty Council; Deputy Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics (2007 - 2010); Chairman of the General Assembly of the Faculty of Industry and Commerce (2016 - 2020); Deputy Chairman of the General Assembly of the Faculty of Industry and Commerce (2007 - 2010); Secretary of the Faculty Certification Commission (2010 - 2016); Erasmus Coordinator (2007 - 2016); member of the editorial boards - Annual Almanac "Scientific Research of Doctoral Students" and Eastern Academic Journal (from 2015 until now).

In summary, the candidate for the academic position of "professor" for the needs of the Department of Agricultural Economics is highly qualified, with extensive research and teaching experience on agricultural management and development problems.

4. General (quantitative and qualitative) assessment of the educational work (based on the submitted documents).

The applicant meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences (group E) and the additional requirements defined in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov. The academic experience of Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, as a "associate professor" at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, is 16 years (6 months and 3 days as of May 4, 2023), and in the last five years, her academic employment has exceeded 2,480 hours with an average annual over-

fulfillment of 139.5 percent. The candidate leads lectures and exercises on 11 specialized academic disciplines for students at the Bachelor degree level in Agricultural Economics (Economics of the Agrarian Enterprise, Basics of Crop and Livestock Breeding, Agrarian Ecology, Rural and Agrarian Tourism, Development of Rural Areas, Agrarian Entrepreneurship, Ecological and Sustainable Development of the Agribusiness, Agrarian Management, Small and Family Agribusiness, Non-traditional Agricultural Production, Regulations, and Standardization of Agrarian Production), 4 - for students from other specialties (Introduction to Agribusiness, Environmentally Sustainable Business Development, Ecological Tourism, Economic Entrepreneurship Sectors) and 6 - in the Master program Agribusiness (Alternative Sources of Income in Rural Areas, Diversification - a Tool for Minimizing Risk in Agribusiness, Localization of Alternative Tourism, Organization and Management of Protected Natural Resources, Digitization of Agribusiness, Master's Seminar on Agribusiness). Participated in the development of 13 academic textbooks (4 independent and 9 co-authored) and 28 lecture courses, including:

- in the Bachelor's degree: 15 courses, of which 4 are in English;
- in the Master's degree: 6 courses;
- in the Center for Postgraduate and Optional Education: 4 courses (Sustainable Development and Eco-Entrepreneurship, Business Ideas and Business Models in Eco-Entrepreneurship, Organization and Production of Bioproducts, Management of Organic Farms);
- in the Vocational Training Center: 3 courses (Organization and Management of an Aquaculture Farm, Organization and Technology of Rural Tourism, Organization and Management of Forestry).

Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, exceeds the requirements of Art. 129, para. 2, paragraphs 6.1. and 6.2. from the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, according to which the candidate for the academic position of "professor" should have: issued at least 2 independent or participated in no less than 4 academic textbooks as a co-author and developed lecture courses in no less than 4 academic disciplines for training students in the Bachelor's Degree or no less than 2 courses in the Master's Degree or 1 course in the Doctor's Degree. In the period 2012–2021, the following were developed:

4 independent academic textbooks – Basics of Crop Production, Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Agricultural Company, Agricultural Tourism and Agricultural Ecology.

9 co-authored academic textbooks – Introduction to Agribusiness, Economics of Agrarian Enterprise, Agrarian Management, Small and Family Agribusiness, Rural Development, Agrarian Entrepreneurship, Ecological Tourism, Organization and Management of Protected Natural Resources, Digitization in Agribusiness.

5 independent lecture courses for training students in the Bachelor's degree program – Basics of Crop Production, Agrarian Ecology, Agrarian Tourism, Ecological and Sustainable Development of the Agricultural Company, Non-traditional Agricultural Productions.

10 lecture courses in co-authorship for training students in the Bachelor's degree program

6 co-authored lecture courses for training at the Master's Program in Agribusiness.

The candidate exceeds the minimum requirements of Art. 129, para. 2, paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, for supervision of no less than 4 successfully defended doctoral students and supervision of at least 2 scientific research, educational, applied scientific projects, financed by the "Scientific Research" fund of the Academy of Economics, or of 1 national or 1 international project. Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, is the supervisor of 7 successfully defended doctoral students (4 on an independent form of study, 2 part-time, 1 full-time) and 2 doctoral students studying full-time on the doctoral program Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics). Actively participates in research, educational, and/or scientific-applied projects (21 projects, according to references 14 and 15), including management of: 8 scientific research projects at the Institute of Scientific Research of the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics Svishtov and 1 scientific research project KP-06-H55/1 dated 15.11.2021, financed by the Scientific Research Fund. She is a member of the project team in two of the scientific research projects of the Institute of Mountain Animal Husbandry and Agriculture (Trojan) and in a project under the Program for Research and Data Analysis of Agriculture in the Belene NPP region. In the period 2013–2022, she participated in 3 national projects and programs:

2013-2014: Project BG051PO001-3.3.07-0002 "Student Internships", co-financed by the ESF under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development 2007-2013".

2013-2014: Project BG051PO001-3.1.07-0019 "New knowledge and skills for successful professional realization of the students from the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics Svishtov" Scheme BG051PO001-3.1.07 "Updating the curricula in higher education in accordance with the requirements of the labor market" under the Operational Program "Development of Human Resources" 2007-2013

2022: Project BG05M2OP001-2.016-0004-C01 "Economic Education in Bulgaria 2030", financed by the Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth", co-financed by the European Union through the European Structural and Investment Funds.

In conclusion, it can be summarized that Associate Professor Marina Nikolova, PhD, significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3, of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and is in full compliance with the requirements of Art. 129, para. 2, paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, which is a prerequisite for a high quantitative and qualitative assessment of her educational and teaching work.

5. General (quantitative and qualitative) assessment of scientific research and research activity (based on the submitted documents).

The applicant meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria for occupying the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences and the additional requirements defined in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov:

	Indicator	Minimum points	Scored points
A	1. Dissertation work for the award of the doctor's degree	50	50
B	3. Habilitation thesis - monograph	100	100
G 4-10	6. Articles and reports published in scientific publications, refereed and indexed		62,5
	7. Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals		235
	9. Studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals		37,5
	10. Published chapter of a collective monograph		20
	Total points for indicator G:		355
D 11-13	11. Citations or reviews in scientific publications, refereed and indexed	100	105
	12. Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes		150
	Total points for indicator D:		255
E or 14	15. Guidance of a successfully defended PhD student	100	220
	18. Management of a national scientific or educational project		30
	20. Published university textbook		259
	Total points for indicator E:		509
	Total points for indicator A + B + G + D + E:	550	1269

- dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" on the topic "Research on some elements of the agrotechnics of the sunflower hybrids "Albena" and "Super Start" under the conditions of carbonate chernozem in Northwestern Bulgaria", defended in 1999;
- habilitation work: a monograph on the topic "Biological agriculture: state and potential for development" Library "Education and Science", no. 31/2013, Academic Publisher "Tsenov" Svishtov;
- chapter of a collective monograph "Utilization of plant biomass through the production of heat and electricity (assessment of potential and efficiency)" Library "Education and Science", no. 12, p. 153. Academic Publisher "Tsenov" Svishtov;
- articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 5 pieces;
- articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 26 pieces (21 independent and 5 co-authored);
- studies published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 5 studies (1 independent and 4 in co-authorship);
- published chapters in collective monographs - 1 chapter, "Utilization of plant biomass through production of heat and electricity (assessment of potential and efficiency)", Library "Education and Science", Academic Publisher "Tsenov" Svishtov, issue 12/2012;
- a declaration that no plagiarism in scientific works has been proven, according to the law.

The scientific research activity of the candidate began in 1990 at the National Center for Agrarian Sciences, the Regional Center for Scientific and Applied Services in Vratsa, and the Agricultural Academy in Sofia, and so far there have been over 150 scientific publications (monographs, studies, articles, reports, textbooks, and teaching aids). References to the included publications for ONS Doctor, Senior Research Associate Second Degree in Scientific Specialty "General Agriculture", Associate Professor in "Plant Breeding" (Nos. 6, 7, and 8 from the list of documents), and Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.8 are correctly indicated. Economics, those included in the registration at the NACID (No. 3), as

well as those under the current competition (No. 11). A declaration has been submitted that in the works of Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, no plagiarism has been proven according to the law, which fulfills the requirements of Art. 29, para. 1, paragraph 6 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 60, para. 1, paragraph 6 of the Regulations for Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, and Art. 129, para. 2, paragraph 2 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics Svishtov.

Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, is a member of the editorial boards of scientific publications from the country and abroad and actively participates in professional organizations: registered COST Expert in European Cooperation in Science and Technology; deputy editor-in-chief of the Annual Almanac "Scientific Research of Doctoral Students" at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics; Svishtov editorial board member of Eastern Academy Journal, Environmental Science and Pollution Research (indexed in Scopus scientific journal from 02.09.2016) and International Journal of Business and Economics Research (IJBER, indexed from 13.12.2021); ORCID ID; ResearchGate, Eco-Entrepreneurship Scientific Network, National Forecasting and Planning Association, etc. (reference 20.2. of the inventory of documents). She prepared 82 reviews of scientific studies and articles, including 1 as a member of the editorial board of Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 6 reviews of scientific research projects as a member of the AEK (Academic Expert Commission at the Institute of Scientific Research of the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov), etc. (reference 20.4).

An important criterion in the evaluation of the candidate's scientific research and research activity is her expert and consulting activity (reference 20.3) and her participation in scientific research projects (reference 15). In the period 2011–2015, Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, carried out consulting activities for agricultural producers under the Law on the Ownership and Use of Agricultural Lands as an appraiser and expert. Participated as an expert and consultant in 7 projects: 2 at the Institute of Mountain Animal Husbandry and Agriculture in Troyan, 1 under the Program for research and data analysis of agriculture in the region of the "Belene" NPP, and 3 projects implemented by the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics in Svishtov (Student internships, New knowledge and skills for the successful implementation of students from the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics in Svishtov, Economic education in Bulgaria 2030). There are 21 scientific research projects with her participation (according to references 14 and 15), including the management of 8 scientific research projects at the Institute of Scientific Research of the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics - Svishtov and 1 scientific research project KP-06-H55/1 dated 15.11.2021, financed by the Scientific Research Fund.

It can be summarized that Associate Professor Marina Nikolova, PhD, exceeds the required minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "professor" under Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of higher education 3. "Social, economic, and legal sciences" according to indicators G, D, and E, which is a basis for a positive quantitative and qualitative assessment of the candidate's scientific research and research activity. The scientific production is completely sufficient in volume and relevant in content to the announced competition for the academic position of "professor".

6. Characterization of scientific contributions

In the competition for the occupation of the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. social, economic, and legal sciences; professional direction 3.8. Economics; for the needs of the Department of Agricultural Economics, the candidate has presented 38 scientific papers:

1 habilitation work - monograph;

1 chapter in a collective monograph;

5 articles published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information;

5 studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes;

26 articles and reports in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes.

The two monographs emphasize research on *the assessment of potential and effectiveness*: in 2012, on the utilization of plant biomass from agricultural crops, and in 2013, on the development of organic agriculture in the country. In the chapter of the collective monograph developed by Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD (result of a three-year research project at the Institute of Scientific Research, the D.A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, 2009–2011), the available and forecast potential of biomass is evaluated, and the theoretical and realistic biomass capacity of cereal crops in the region of Svishtov Municipality is determined. As a habilitation thesis, a monograph on the topic "*Organic agriculture - state and potential for development*" is presented, in which the possibilities and problems for the development of the emerging sector of organic production in Bulgaria during the first reference period of EU membership are thoroughly explored. Based on an analysis of the legal framework for implementing organic production in the EU and an assessment of statistical and empirical information about registered organic operators, the potential for the development of organic agriculture in the country is outlined. The author compensates for the limited, generally available, and synthesized information on organic production through independent research and site visits to organic farms in different regions. On the basis of a field survey, the problems of occupying the emerging market niche for organic farming have been systematized, and recommendations for overcoming them have been made. From the point of view of time, the author can be congratulated that even 10 years ago he raised the topical topic of the long-term sustainability of biological farms as a set of economic, social, and ecological dimensions.

Of the 5 publications submitted for review in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, 2 are in Scopus and 3 in Web of Science, with a focus on researching *the diversification of risk in the agrarian sector* and the interdependence in the development of individual economic sectors affecting *the sustainable development of rural areas* in Bulgaria. According to this indicator, the requirement of Art. 129, paragraph 2, paragraph 7 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, for at least 2 publications in refereed publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science.

The competition includes 4 co-authored studies that reflect the results of the work on scientific research projects at the Institute for Scientific Research, the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, under the scientific supervision of Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, as well as 1 independent publication in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited

collective volumes. They expand the scope of scientific pursuits and add research on the peculiarities of the bio-products market, integrated production and sustainable development of agribusiness, agro-tourism products, and the development of rural tourism.

In the presented 26 articles and reports and 5 studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and in edited collective volumes, the author further develops her research aimed at: sustainable models for agricultural production (12 publications); external and internal impacts on the development of the agricultural sector (10 publications); coordination between stakeholders in and outside agribusiness (4 publications).

The research interest of Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, in the 38 scientific papers submitted for review is directed in several main directions:

- sustainable development and management of agrarian businesses and rural areas;
- organic farming and sustainable agricultural production models;
- external and internal impacts on the development of the agrarian sector and coordination between stakeholders in and outside agribusiness;
- diversification in and out of the agrarian sector and the development of rural, agrarian, and ecotourism businesses.

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, in the 38 scientific publications and 13 academic textbooks submitted for review can be systematized into several groups:

1) New knowledge:

1. Proposing a methodology for evaluating the potential of biomass and determining the theoretical and realistic capacity of the biomass of cereal crops. [2]

2. Analysis and assessment of the potential for the development of organic production in Bulgaria by region, even before the creation of an official register for organic operators. [1, 5, 9, 12, 15, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38 etc.]

3. Proposing a sustainable model of "biological agriculture" and arguing the multiplier effect for the rural area from the interrelationship between "biological farming" and "alternative types of tourism". [19, 20, 21, 22, 30, 35, 38]

4. Identification of the theoretical-methodological foundations in the management of the sustainable development of the rural areas in the Republic of Bulgaria, with the emphasis being placed on the functional use of the entire territory, a significant part of which is the rural area. [18, 19, 20, 21]

2) Enrichment of existing knowledge:

1. Enrichment of theoretical and practical-applied aspects in the development of agribusiness and environmental policy in Bulgaria. [6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 36]

2. Knowledge of innovative practices in agriculture and the possibilities of mitigating the consequences of climate change has been supplemented. [7, 10, 30, 32, 33, 36, 37]

3. Comparative analysis of organic and conventional agricultural systems and systematization of the main reasons for the lack of interest in the first years of the development of organic production in Bulgaria. [1, 34, 35]

4. Critical analysis of the state and prospects for the development of rural, agrarian, and ecological tourism in Bulgaria, systematizing the steps for building a complex and profitable tourist product, and the role of partnership between local authorities, non-governmental organizations, tourist companies, and suppliers. [3, 4, 18, 19, 21, 25]

2) Scientific and applied contributions:

1. Selection of effective methods for evaluating the available and estimated potential of biomass and utilization of plant biomass for bioenergy production. [2]

2. Arguing the idea that the implementation of various forms of diversification is a prerequisite for reducing risk and ensuring sustainable development in agriculture and rural areas. [6, 11, 16, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 33, 36];

3. Recommendations for solving problems with the use and ownership of agricultural land in the Republic of Bulgaria. [17, 29, 31]

4. Argumentation of organic production as a priority model for the sustainable development of Bulgarian agriculture and recommendations for the implementation of integrated agriculture in smaller farms for the production of fruits and vegetables. [7, 22, 35, 37, 38]

5. Recommendations for a new typology for the regions (NUTS-3) in Bulgaria from the point of view of the development of agriculture and the degree of use of the agricultural area. [20]

6. Recommendations for improving coordination between local authorities, businesses, and scientific and educational institutions and overcoming administrative and legal limitations in the organization of farmers' markets in Bulgaria. [11, 14, 26, 28]

7. Recommendations for improving the measures of the supply chain of organic products in Bulgaria and expanding the integration processes in the sector in a territorial or regional scope. [5, 6, 15]

8. Methodological and didactic proposals in the field of distance learning in higher education and electronic learning content. [3, 4, 8, 20, 24, 26 and academic textbooks 39-51]

Indicated by Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD, in the Reference for Scientific and Scientific-Applied Contributions in the publications submitted for review, in accordance with the requirements of Art. 60, para. 3 of the Regulations for Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 131 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov, correspond with achievements contained in the publications submitted for review.

7. Academic prominence - citation of the candidate by other researchers in their publications.

The candidate meets the minimum national requirements for a minimum of 100 points on the indicators from group D in accordance with Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3, of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and Appendix 1 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria for occupying the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics.

According to a reference from the Academician Nikola Mihov library of the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics Svishtov as of 05/02/2023, Associate Professor Marina Nikolova, PhD has accumulated 255 points from citations in scientific publications:

105 points from 7 citations in scientific publications that were referenced and indexed in widely recognized scientific databases;

150 points based on 15 citations in collective volumes with peer-review.

8. Admitted weaknesses, critical remarks, and recommendations.

Regarding the candidate's scientific teaching work, I have no critical remarks. I recommend that he focus his efforts on the scientific guidance of doctoral students and young scientists and continue the tradition of development and continuity of the scientific school of Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics) in the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov.

9. Summary assessment - conclusion and opinion.

Based on the findings regarding the scientific and teaching activities of the candidate, I propose **Assoc. Prof. Marina Angelova Nikolova, PhD, for the academic position of "Professor" at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics in Svishtov** in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics).

Date: 29.05.2023
Svishtov

Signature:
/Assoc. Prof. Marusya Linkova, PhD/