

STATEMENT

НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ	
Изм. №:	20
Вх. №:	1940/14-06 20 21

by assoc. professor Rossitsa Borisova Georgieva, PhD
“Analytical and Laboratory Activities” Directorate
National Center of Public Health and Analyses

Of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in the field of higher education 7. “Healthcare and sports”, Professional field 7.1 “Medicine”, Scientific specialty ‘Hygiene’ (for the needs of the “Microbiological factors” department of the “Analytical and Laboratory Activities” directorate at the National Center of Public Health and Analyses), published in SG, issue # 14/19.02.2021, p. 213.

Within the legal deadline only one candidate has submitted an application and the accompanying documentation for participation in the competition – assist. prof. Vesela Ivanova Georgieva, PhD

Assist. prof. Vesela Georgieva has submitted all required documents in accordance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application, the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions of the NCPHA. The presented documentation has been prepared correctly, meticulously, and in accordance with all requirements and recommendations.

I. Candidate’s personal and professional data

In 1998 assist. prof. Vesela Georgieva, PhD obtained the "Master of Biology" educational qualification degree with a particular focus on "Hydrobiology and water protection", at the Faculty of Biology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2014 she defended a dissertation on "Biological contaminants in the hygienic assessment of bottled water" as a doctoral student in independent training at NCPHA and acquired the educational-scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty 03.01.32 Hygiene. The scientific specialty of the doctoral dissertation that the candidate defended fully corresponds with the scientific specialty in which the competition has been announced.

Assistant professor Vesela Georgieva has 29 years of specialized work experience. Her professional career began in 1992 as a biologist at NCHMEN. In 1998 she was appointed as a research associate, and later occupied the positions of "Assistant" and "Assistant professor" in the “Microbiological Factors” department. She has headed the department since 2014.

II. General characteristics of the scientific, applied science, and teaching activities

Assistant professor Vesela Georgieva has presented a total of 37 publications in scientific journals and proceedings of scientific conferences. As participation in this competition she presents 27 publications (10 publications published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases; 17 publications and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals

with scientific review or in edited collective volumes). The information is summarized in tabular form as follows:

Number and content of the indicators	Min number of points	Score Vesela Georgieva
Group of indicators A		
Indicator 1. PhD thesis	50	50
Group of indicators B	100	277
Indicator 4. Habilitation work / monograph or publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (at least 10)		277
Group of indicators Γ	200	228,5
Indicator 8. Publications and papers published in non-refereed scientific peer reviewed journals or in peer-reviewed collective volumes		228,5
Group of indicators Δ	50	145
Indicator 10. Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information or in monograph and collective volumes		105
Indicator 11. Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review		10
Indicator 12. Citations or reviews in non-referenced scientific peer-reviewed journals		30

With a needed a minimum of 400 points (Groups of indicators A ÷ Δ) the scientific output presented by assist. prof. Vesela Georgieva amounts to 700.5 points.

The fact that Vesela Georgieva is the sole author of 5, and the first author of 8 of the 27 (48%) scientific publications submitted for the contest makes a very good impression. The articles published in journals with impact factor are 3, and she is the first author of 1 of them.

There were 14 citations on publications submitted for participation in the competition, according to the statement presented by the applicant. There are 7 citations in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases (Scopus and Web of science); 1 in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review, and 6 in unreferenced journals with scientific review. According to a reference from the Central Medical Library, 9 citations were found in Bulgarian sources from the CMB fund.

The report on scientific contributions is written concisely and clearly outlines Vesela Georgieva's personal contributions. The achieved results with which the candidate participates in the competition are divided into two areas: (1) Carrying out of microbiological analyses of waters,

cosmetic products, sediments from WWTP, air in work and living premises. (2) Hydrobiological analyses of samples from water reservoirs, bottled waters, soft drinks.

Assistant professor Vesela Georgieva's vast activity in projects on current scientific and applied problems in the field of using of WWTP sludges, quality of the surface and drinking waters, environmental protection in Sofia area is noteworthy. Between 1998-2021, according to the statement presented by the applicant, she participated in 7 projects (4 national, 3 international scientific project), in 2 national programs and in 1 program of Sofia Municipality. She is a leader of the team from NCPHA, which is a partner scientific organization for a project at the NSF on "Socio-economic efficiency of the use of WWTP sludges in agriculture".

Vesela Georgieva promotes the achieved scientific results at national and international conferences - she has 13 participations in scientific conferences with 6 papers and 7 posters.

The 2014-2020 study load is 95 class hours, according to the Reference for teaching load in NCPHA. She has participated as a lecturer in postgraduate courses in "Sanitary Microbiology", under the program of NCIPD, and the total workload for the period 2014-2020 is 71 hours according to data from NCIPD.

III. Major scientific contributions

Assist. prof. Vesela Georgieva's scientific activity is mainly in the field of Sanitary microbiology. The microbiological analyses of water samples, boreholes, surface water bodies, swimming pools, cosmetics, WWTP sediments, childrens' sand pits and sand from the Bulgarian Black sea coast beaches help the hygienic assessment of compliance of the sanitary-microbiological indicators with the established norms and health protection. Another area in which the candidate has scientific interests is the performance of hydrobiological analyzes in the study of the hygienic condition of various dams. The resulting data were used to objectively assess the state of water bodies and for the assessment of the possibility that cyanotoxins-producing blue-green algae develop in them.

The research interests of the candidate are focused on studies of surface water bodies, mainly dams for water supply of the settlements with drinking water - Iskar Dam, Dyakovo Dam, Asenovets Dam, Bebreesh Dam; Hygienic assessments were made on two of the largest rivers in Bulgaria - the Iskar River and the Danube River.

The main scientific focus is the study of bottled water (mineral / spring / table) – important current topics, as global and national consumption of bottled water is constantly growing.

Another focal point in the scientific interests are the microbiological analyzes of various cosmetic products - creams, shampoos, toothpastes, etc., as well as cosmetic products containing natural ingredients which have recently gained popularity among consumers.

Much of the research contributes to the use of WWTP sludges. The results of the studies show that they are a rich source of nutrients for soils, their use contributes to increasing the yields in agriculture and can be used as an alternative to fertilizers.

I find it extremely positive that many of the studies were carried out with participation in interdisciplinary teams with diverse research interests. The role of assist. prof. Vesela Georgieva in the organization of the microbiological / hydrobiological studies, the interpretation of the results obtained and the preparation of scientific publications is unquestionable.

The main scientific contributions in the works of assistant prof. Vesela Georgieva can be split in the following categories: (i) expanding existing scientific knowledge; (ii) scientific achievements in practice.

I do not find information about proven plagiarism in the scientific works of the candidate assist. prof. Vesela Georgieva, PhD.

IV. Personal impressions

My professional contact with Vesela Georgieva allows me to characterize her as an established specialist in the field of hygiene science and practice. I appreciate her professionalism, loyalty and responsible attitude to work.

CONCLUSION

The scientific production submitted for the competition by assist. prof. Vesela Ivanova Georgieva, PhD exceeds the quantitative criteria for the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to Annex 1 of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions in NCPHA. The scientific contributions, the publishing, the teaching and the extremely active applying activity of assist. prof. Vesela Georgieva, PhD, as well as my personal impressions of her allow me to give a positive evaluation and to strongly recommend to the Scientific Council of NCPHA to award academic title "Associate Professor" to assist. prof. Vesela Ivanova Georgieva, PhD in Professional Field 7.1 "Medicine", specialty "Hygiene".

Sofia, 11.06.2021

Assoc. prof. Rossitsa Georgieva, PhD

