

Expert opinion

by Prof. Tsvetan Iliev Petkov, PhD

of the academic and scientific-applied activity of Bartosz Mickiewicz in connection with the announced competition in the State Gazette issue 22/18.03.2022 from the Higher School of Insurance and Finance – Sofia for “professor” in the field of higher education 3. “Social, economic and legal sciences”, professional filed 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty “Green economics and Agribusiness”.

The expert opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as in connection with Order 126/30.05.2022 of the Rector of HSIF for determining the scientific jury. The opinion consists of three parts and a conclusion, including requirements for the candidate and his teaching and research activities.

Requirements for the candidate

(Art. 29 of LDASRB and Art. 60 and 61 of RALDASRB)

Bartosz Mickiewicz was born on June 7, 1969 in Poland. In the period 1988-1994 he completed his higher education at the Agricultural University in Szczecin – Poland, where he obtained a Master’s degree in Food Technology. In 1999 he acquired the ESD “Doctor” at the Agricultural and Technical University in Olsztyn – Poland, defends his dissertation on “changes in ownership of agriculture in Central P” (Diploma № 1270/June 1, 1999). In 2009 he defended his habilitation thesis on “Problems of sustainable development in Polish agriculture (theory, methodology and practice)” at the Institute for Systematic Research of the Agricultural Food Complex at the Belarusian Academy of sciences. The habilitation was recognized at the University of Economics in Poznan – Poland in 2011. Since 2012 he has held the academic position of professor at the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin. From 1996 to this day, Bartosz Mickiewicz has conducted scientific and

educational courses in countries such as Great Britain, Israel, Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Belarus and Russia.

In the period 1994-2022, Bartosz Mickiewicz participated in the development and implementation of 8 research projects with a total value of over 455 000 euros. The projects are funded by the EU's PHARE program, the Polish Ministry of education and the Polish Research Committee.

Bartosz Mickiewicz is the only one candidate in the competition. The inspection of the documents shows that no violations were committed in the competition. The legal requirements of HSIF – Sofia have been met.

Requirements for educational activity

(Art. 29 para 4 and Art. 29 b para 2 of LDASRB and Art 61 para 2 item 1 of RALDASRB)

Currently, the candidate in the competition Bartosz Mickiewicz holds the position of Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the West Pomeranian University in Szczecin. He has 26 years of professional experience in the academic field. He is a member of a number of prestigious international organizations. He speaks and uses Russian, English, German and Croatian.

The study load of the candidate corresponds to the norms adopted by HSIF, as well as to the requirements of the LDASRB for holding the academic position "Professor".

Requirements for scientific and research activity

(Art. 29(1) item 3 and 4, Art. 29 b (2) item 2 of LDASRB and Art.60(1) item 3 and 4, Art 61(2) item 2 of RALDSRB)

Bartosz Mickiewicz presents 30 scientific publications for review. Of these, 1 independent monograph, participation in 3 collective monographs, as well as 26 articles and scientific reports presented at national and international conferences. From the reference for the publishing activity submitted by the candidate for the competition it is evident that publications are in English in prestigious polish and international scientific journals. Some of the scientific works are co-authored, and for this purpose data on the author's contribution are presented.

The **main monographic work** with which Bartosz Mickiewicz participates in the competition is on “green economy and Agribusiness: The New Agrarian Transformation in Belarus”. The volume of the study is 219 pages. The monograph is structured in an introduction, and exposition in five chapters, a conclusion and a bibliography. The citation is correct. Numerous figures and tables have been used to illustrate the author’s statements. The tabular and graphic material contains the correct indication of the sources of information.

I can define the presented monographic research as topical in view of the research field in it. In particular, it puts on the agenda the issues related to:

- the theoretical and methodological basis of the sustainable development of agribusiness in general and in Belarus in particular;
- the regulatory framework as a determinant of the sustainable development of agribusiness;
- study of the foreign experience in the field of the models for sustainable development of the agrarian business applied by different countries;
- study of the state and outlining the tendencies in the agricultural production and on this basis its resource potential is assessed;
- development of a methodological approach to support the building of the innovation potential of agribusiness and acceleration of its development in Belarus;
- assessment of the possibilities for applying the principles of the “green economy” to achieve sustainable development of agribusiness in the future.

The research problems outlined in this way, in my opinion, presuppose a comprehensive view of the scientific field of sustainable development within the current perspectives of the “green economy”.

The following merits of the peer-reviewed work deserve positive evaluation: clearly set goal and tasks of the research, as well as a well-formulated scientific structure of the research - the included issues in the content fully illuminate the theoretical and methodological aspects of the sustainable development of agribusiness in the prism of the “green economy”; modern data cited by authoritative sources etc. were used.

The 26 articles and scientific reports presents in the list of publications for participation in the competition speak of Bartosz Mickiewicz’s serious research activity. Some of the overlap to some extent with the content of the monographic study,

which has already been discussed above. Others shed light on important aspects of sectoral problems in the field of agribusiness, which are not addressed in the monograph. However, they have their scientific value, as they further develop the author's point of view on the studied problems.

Regarding the scientific and publishing activity of Bartosz Mickiewicz in general, I can conclude that it covers many current issues of modern sustainable development of agribusiness- the search for a methodological approach to its support and acceleration, the need for changes in the regulatory regime of agribusiness in accordance with current and future implementation of the principles of the green economy. With the importance of an important scientific-applied contribution in the publications, I consider the application of a complex approach for stimulating the sustainable development of agribusiness in the conditions of the green economy. The main elements of this approach the author defines: economic conditions and determinants, public order and environmental requirements.

The importance of the publishing activity is evidenced by the fact that the majority of the articles are in English and have found a place on the pages of prestigious international publications. In support of my conclusion in the reference to the citation are presented 9 references and citations of publications of Bartosz Mickiewicz by Polish and foreign authors.

The data from the reference with scientometric indicators, presented in the documents of the candidate for the competition for the academic position "Professor", clearly show that Bartosz Mickiewicz exceeds the required minimum values.

The scientific and practical contributions of the candidate in the competition presented in the list to the documents for participation in the completion are accepted as realistic and actually proven. These contributions in the individual thematic areas can be summarized as the use of basic scientific knowledge and its transformation into specific-applied knowledge, introduction of new and supplementing existing requirements for sustainable development of agribusiness on the "green economy".

Conclusion

On the basis of the submitted documents on the competition and evaluation of the accepted for review publications, the following conclusions can be made for the candidate:

- 1) Bartosz Mickiewicz is the only candidate in the competition;
- 2) He holds the scientific-educational degree “Doctor” and the academic title “Associate Professor” and meets the requirements;
- 3) He has the necessary extracurricular and curricular employment;
- 4) He has published a monograph directly related to the competition;
- 5) He lectures on disciplines in the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees (including in English), which are directly related to the competition;
- 6) He is a leader of a number of research projects;
- 7) Under his scientific guidance he successfully defended three PhD students;
- 8) Scientific production was presented and accepted for evaluation, including 3 scientific publications, of which 1 independent monograph, 3 participations in collective monographs and 26 articles and scientific reports.
- 9) Some of the presented works are published in English and in co-authorship, which the author’s participation is correctly reported for.

In conclusion, I believe that the papers proposed for review in their qualitative characteristics, contribution moments and number of publications fully meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The various social, lecture, methodological, scientific and international activities of the candidate, give me reason to believe that Bartosz Mickiewicz meets all criteria and requirements for holding the academic position “Professor” in the professional field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty “Green economy and Agribusiness” in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the republic of Bulgaria.

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Prepared the expert opinion:


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