ВИСШЕ УЧИЛИЩЕ ПО АГРОБИЗНЕС
И РАЗВИТИЕ НА РЕГИОНИТЕ
Вх.№ 1098 / 14.08.2015
гр. ПЛОВДИВ

Opinion

by prof. Ing. Pavol Schwarcz, PhD.,

The Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia
Faculty of EU Studies and Regional Development, Department of European Policies

on documents, presented by:

JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD.

to obtain the academic position "associated professor"
on professional field 3.6. Law, specialty: Environmental Law

In the concurs for associated professor, announced in State gazette No. 24 from 07/04/2015 for the needs of the University of agribusiness and rural development participates the candidate JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD. from the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra.

1. Brief biography

JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD. submitted her application as a candidate for the academic position associated professor in the professional field Law, speciality Environmental law. Currently she works as an assistant professor at Department of Law, Faculty of European Studies and Regional development, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. She is Deputy Head of the Department of Law and Deputy Chairman of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development SUA in Nitra.
Her educational background is related to legal studies in environmental issues. She graduated at the Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava (2005). She passed the rigorous exam at the Faculty of Law, Trnava University in Trnava (2007). She obtained the PhD. degree in 2008 in the study field 3.3.5 Public Administration and Regional Development at the Faculty of National Economy, Economic University in Bratislava. During her PhD. studies she actively participated in educational and research projects in the field of Environmental Law at the Department of Law, Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development, SUA in Nitra. In 2013 she completed the pedagogical complementary studies at SUA in Nitra (pedagogical minimum for higher educational schools).
During her PhD. studies she participated in number of national and international courses and study stays (in the frame of Erasmus programme, National Scholarship programme of the Slovak Republic, Intensive programme). The applicant completed also number of training courses in order to increase her qualification. The applicant's lecture activities deal with legal aspects of environmental issues, especially land protection. She gave lectures in the frame of international projects as well as based on the official invitations.

2. General description of the presented materials

The candidate participates in the concurs with 43 published outcomes in the following categories:

- Monographs - 1 ;
- Scientific papers/articles – 30 ;
- Scientific reports – 3
- Handbooks – 2
- Training materials - 6
- Other publications - 4

Her scientific outcomes were published and presented at international and national events (scientific journals, international conference proceedings, textbooks).

Her scientific and research focus is connected mainly to the field of Law (environmental law) as well as is linked to agri-environmental policy and economic issues. Based on the scientific outputs of the applicant it is evident that these are accepted at the international level moreover they brought further initiatives in international project development and cooperation.

4. General characteristics of the activities of the applicant

4.1. Pedagogical and teaching activities

JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD. as assistant professor focusing on pedagogical and teaching activities within following courses:

- Bachelor students: she teaches Basics of Law and Environmental Law for full-time and part-time students. Both courses are taught in Slovak and English language. She was also a supervisor of the 43 bachelor thesis for the study programs: European Development Programs, Regional development in both Slovak and English language.
- Master students: she teaches Environmental Law, Agri-environmental legislation of the EU, EU legislation. She was supervisor 40 master thesis for the study program Management of Development of Rural Area and Rural Tourism Slovak and English language.
- Life-long learning students- applicant also teaches selected aspects of Environmental law.
- International students - the applicant was also a lecturer of environmental law and environmental policy of the EU for international students in the frame of the Erasmus programme, CEEPUS programme, International Master of Science in Rural Development, Erasmus - Intensive programme at the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and abroad.

The applicant's main pedagogical focus connected with the professional fields with the environmental legislation at the national and European level with particular regard to different aspects of the land protection, organic farming, and legal aspects of implementation process of direct payments in Slovakia and land ownership and other rights to the agricultural land. She has implemented the research results of research tasks to the pedagogical activities.
The applicant created the new course within the frame of Jean Monnet programme - she is a grant holder of the Jean Monnet Module "Agri-environmental legislation of the EU". This course is offered for students who are not connected with European studies in their study programmes (e.g. Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources). Such interdisciplinary legal course brings at SUA new approach for education of students in the field of agricultural and environmental disciplines. Teaching activities has been developed by the applicant coherently with published textbooks demonstrated in the frame of her list of publications.
The applicant completed the pedagogical complementary studies at SUA in Nitra with the thesis focused on the publishing values and scientific ethics of university students, in particular students of Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra.

4.2. Participation in scientific projects at national level

JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD. participated in scientific projects at the national level granted by the Scientific Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (VEGA) and structural funds - Operational Programme Research and Development.
She was a member of scientific teams which carried out in the frame of the research tasks on:

- identification and assessment of the conditions for market development with agricultural land in chosen regions of the SR after EU accession; the applicant focused on the impact of the market development on the agricultural land protection, land ownership and land tenancy;
- analysing and assessment of the structural changes of agricultural subjects after 1990 in V4 countries with special focus on the agricultural land protection, land ownership and land tenancy; within the project that applicants assessed impacts of legislative on the structural changes in agricultural subjects.

- assessment of the efficiency of the state authorities in the field of small trade business- the applicant focused on the quality of the legal environment for small trade business in Slovakia;
- identification and assessment of the possibilities for revitalisation of small agricultural farms through energy crop cultivation and biomass production with regard on legal aspects of the environmental and land protection; within the project the needed legal amendments will be proposed.

Beside the active participation on the national research projects, the applicant used the research outcomes of various projects in preparation of the scientific papers which linked to agricultural land protection, organic farming, land ownership and other rights related to the agricultural land and implementation of Common agricultural policy (I. Pillar) to the Slovak legal order.

4.3. Participation in international projects

JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD. has actively participated in several international research and educational projects. Her professional interest in international projects is connected to legal aspects of selected aspects of environment, especially land protection.
She is a member of international project Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "EU Land Law - the pathway towards sustainable Europe", which combines experts from legal, political, economic, environmental field in order to ensure complex information on land protection.
The applicant was a project coordinator of two international educational projects:

- Jean Monnet Module "Agri-environmental legislation of the EU"
- Leonardo da Vinci project- Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation "Implementation of practical experience of European educational project in regional development"

She actively participated in international educational projects:

- Jean Monnet Chair "EU Agrarian Law", the applicant teaches the course EU legislation
- Extended Standard Grants, Visegrad Fund, the applicant participated on the preparation of the handbooks related to introduce new model for Moldova in the field of strategy planning and establishing of the agribusiness associations.

4.4. Contribution

JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD. has initiated and actively participated in projects related to the legal aspects of environmental protection of the agricultural land and related issues. Research outcomes of the research and educational projects were processed and worked out in scientific papers published by the author. The following thematic fields within her scientific work can be defined:

- Legal aspects of organic farming
- Legal aspects of agricultural land protection
- Legal aspects of implementation process of direct payments in Slovakia
- Agricultural land ownership and other rights to the agricultural land
- Publishing values and scientific ethics of university students
- Preparation and implementation of Visegrad fund projects (Extended Standard Grants)

I appreciate the educational skills and practices provided by the applicant at the SUA as well as at partner institutions where she:

- participated actively as coordinator and partner in several international educational projects;
- carried out lecturing in several EU countries as well out of the Europe;

- participated in several placements in the EU;
- was a facilitator and teacher of international Intensive programme "The role of agriculture in territorial identity and competitiveness of rural areas" and Case study for students of International master in rural development;
- is a supervisor of bachelor and master thesis;
- Introduces new course "Agri-environmental legislation of the EU" at SUA in Nitra.

I evaluate positively the scientific profile of the applicant which is proved by the presented membership in international associations and structures.

5. Personal impressions

Based on the materials demonstrated by the applicant in my point of view she proved scientific and research abilities required for the position of an "associated professor". Her research and scientific outputs are acceptable at international and national level. Her skills and abilities provide her the solid basis for further academic development and performance.

Conclusion:

Based on the above mentioned I would like to recommend JUDr. Lucia Palšová, PhD. to take the position of associated professor in the field 3.6. Law, specialty: Environmental Law.

10/8/2015 Reviewer: prof. Ing. Pavol Schwarcz, PhD.