



## OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „Associate Professor“ in the field of higher education **5 Technical Sciences**, Professional field **5.13. General Engineering**, scientific specialty **“Ergonomics and Industrial Design”** in the discipline **“Design History, Theory and Methodology”**

In the competition for professor, published in the State Gazette issue 101/27.12.2019 and on the site of the University of Forestry with the code WWI-AsP-1119-31 for the needs of the Department of Interior and Furniture Design at the Faculty of Forest Industry, as a candidate participate Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Ivanova Angelova Ph.D., Faculty of Forest Industry, Department of Interior and Furniture Design

**Prepared the opinion:** Assoc. Prof. Silvina Dimitrova Ilieva, Ph.D. in a professional field **5.13. General Engineering**, scientific specialty **“Ergonomics and Industrial Design”**, from **Technical University Sofia - Branch Plovdiv**, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Mechanics.

### 1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Ivanova Angelova, Ph.D. was born on 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1976 in Pernik. She is part of the academic staff of University of Forestry since 12.03.2002, firstly as an Assist. Professor, and then as a Senior Assist. Professor until 2011 in “Styles in Interior and Furniture” at the Department of Interior Furniture Design.

After acquiring the Ph.D. degree in scientific specialty “Technology, mechanization and automation of the woodworking and furniture industry” at 03.10.2011 on the topic “A Research on Design Methods for Structural Construction of Sitting Furniture in Residential Buildings”, she became Chief Assist. Professor. In January 2016, after winning the competition she has been elected as Associate Professor in “Graphic design” by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Forest Industry, a position she held for more than 2 years until June 2018. During this period, except for the first two months of 2016, she also served as a Vice-Dean of the scientific and development activities at the Faculty of Forest Industry.

Her University Education finished in 2000, when she graduated from the University of Forestry as an engineer with a Master’s Degree in “Furniture and Interior Design”.

The candidate has a Secondary education from the Special Secondary School of Applied Arts “St. Luca” in the capital Sofia, specialty “Artistic Treatment of Metal”.

She served as a part-time lecturer in New Bulgarian University and High School of Civil Engineering “Lyuben Karavelov” in 2011 and 2009-10 respectively.

Desislava Angelova presented lectures and seminars in the following topics:

- “Design History, Theory and Methodology” (lectures)
- “Graphic Design” (lectures and seminars)
- „Interior and Furniture Styles” (seminars)
- „Exterior Architecture” and “Interior Architecture” in English (seminars)
- „Innovative and Strategic Design” (lectures and seminars)
- „Interior style projecting” (seminars 2010-2012)
- „Lighting Design” (seminars 2010-2012)

The contestant has a command of English and Russian language.

## **2. Correspondence of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant according to the Rules of the Development of academic staff at the University of Forestry.**

The submitted documents and materials of the candidate, Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Ivanova Angelova, Ph.D, are in conformity with the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria and Rules of the Development of academic staff at the University of Forestry.

The documents are logically connected and supported by proving material, systematized in 14 applications.

The minimal national requirements for the scientific research and educational teaching activities are also respected in the following way:

- A: Dissertation (Ph.D.) – 50 points (required – 50 points);
- B: Monograph – 100 points (required - 100 points);
- C: Scientific Publications - 306,65 points (required – 200 points);
- D: Citations - 91 points (required – 50 points).

The total score is 547,65 (required – 400 points), which completely exceed the minimum national requirements for occupying academic position “Associate Professor”.

## **3. Assessment of the candidate’s educational and pedagogical activities (work with students and PhD students)**

The candidate, Chief. Assoc. Prof. Desislava Angelova, presents lectures and seminars in the following disciplines:

- “Design History, Theory and Methodology” – specialty "Engineering Design (Interior and Furniture Design)", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- „Graphic Design” – specialty "Engineering Design", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- “Interior and Furniture Styles” – speciality "Engineering Design", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- „Interior Architecture” – specialty „Technology of wood and furniture”, Bachelor's Degree Program (incl. in English);
- “Design Project“ – specialty "Engineering Design", Bachelor's Degree Program;
- „Innovative and Strategic Design” – specialty "Engineering design", Master's degree program.

Chief Assist. Prof. Angelova has composed the following curricula:

- „Graphic Design“, Bachelor's Degree Program (2014);
- „Innovative and Strategic Design“, Master's degree program (2014);
- „Design History, Theory and Methodology“, Bachelor's Degree Program (2019).

The candidate has had the experience as a scientific supervisor of 52 successfully defended graduate from both the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree program. In addition to that, she has prepared 116 reviews of graduates’ thesis works and has had the role as an academic mentor to 45 students in the project № BG051PO001-3.3.07-0002 "Student practices".

The curricular and extracurricular workload of Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Ivanova Angelova, Ph.D. in the last 5 years completely correspond to and exceed the normative requirements.

#### **4. Assessment of candidate's scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activities**

General description of the presented materials

Candidate Desislava Ivanova Angelova participated in the competition with:

- Monographs - 2 number (s);
- Books - 1 number (s);
- Publications - 19 number (s).

##### **4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects**

The candidate presents an evidence of participating in:

- 9 educational projects, financed by different operational programs;
- 3 applied projects, financed by Scientific Research Sector of University of Forestry.
- 2 projects for partial funding of the conference organized by the FFI.

##### **4.2 Characterization of published scientific results**

The presented publications in the competition may be classified in the following way:

**Total: 22**

**Type of publication:**

Monographs – 2;

Published books – 1;

Publications in scientific magazines:

- In foreign referenced magazine in the Web of Science и SCOPUS – 1;
- In foreign referenced magazine outside the Web of Science и SCOPUS – 7;
- In Bulgarian referenced magazine outside the Web of Science and SCOPUS – 5;

**Site of publication:**

- In Bulgaria – 12;
- In foreign parts – 10;

**Publication language:**

- Bulgarian – 7;
- Russian - 1;
- English -14;

**Co-authorship:**

- stand alone - 9;
- with co-author - 8;
- with 2 co-authors - 3;
- with 3 or more co-authors – 2.

**Publications in international symposium from scientific forums: 5;**

**Scientific popular publications: 1.**

##### **4.3 Reflection of Candidate's Scientific Publications in Literature (known citations)**

- Total - 17 citations.
- Reviews of realized authors products in specialized issue on the topic of design – 1.

**By type of citations:**

- In referenced and indexed journals and proceedings of scientific forums (in Web of Science and SCOPUS) – 5 citations;
- In referenced monographs and proceedings (outside the Web of Science and SCOPUS) – 7 citations;
- In unreferenced scientific journals and series (outside Web of Science and SCOPUS) – 5 citations;

#### **4.4 Contributions to the candidate's work** (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

Drawing a general conclusion from the contents of presented scientific production in the competition, the main contributions may be classified, as follows:

##### ***Scientific and theoretical contribution:***

- A new trend has emerged in the design of furniture from the second decade of the 21st century, due to the great interest of designers in weaving and knitting techniques. (B3.1)
- Basic concepts in design theory and the historical development of design methodology have been researched, systematized and theoretically explained. (G6.1)
- The influence of certain design methods on the effectiveness of the creative process has been investigated and established. Some basic guidelines are emphasized. (G6.1; G8.1; G8.2; G8.5; G8.7; G 8.8)
- Extensive comprehensive studies have been conducted on the factors that influence the design of contemporary sitting furniture. The main factors that are essential for the development of theory in the field of furniture design and, in particular, sitting furniture, have been extracted and systematized. (B3.1; G5.1; G8.4)
- A new functional chair has been discovered and described - for use with a laptop computer whose shape and function are different from the standard ones. (G5.1)

##### ***Scientific-applied contribution:***

- Through classification, visual identification and comparative morphological analysis, it has been proven that the application of textile techniques in furniture design is an inexhaustible source of ideas. The dual role of weaving and knitting is revealed both for the design of sitting and reclining surfaces of furniture, and as a technique providing construction. (B 3.1; G 8.18)
- It has been found that the interest of designers in the use of textile yarn knitting techniques is a relatively new phenomenon and leads to the creation of furniture patterns with completely new shapes and types, as well as with new, improved qualities. Applying textile techniques, designers create both series furniture and experimental objects at the boundary between applied and fine arts. (B 3.1)
- It has been established that the shape of seating furniture throughout their historical development has always been at the heart of the process of their creation. The role of craft traditions, abstract art, organic sculpture, etc., in the development of contemporary design of mass-produced products is explored. (B 3.1; G5.1; G8.4; G8.10; G8.14; G 8.18)
- The terms "psychology" and "emotionality" have been found to be key to the design of the 21st century. Modern technological advancements lead to a greater role of color and design in achieving highly emotionally impactful objects. (B 3.1; G 6.1)
- The term 'dynamics' has been found to be placed before the term 'ergonomics' to emphasize the fact that there is no single ideal sitting posture. 'Dynamic seating' is a

new way of thinking about the seating process, which shows a different path for the development of 'functional' design. (G5.1; G8.13)

- Based on the studies done, the changes in the positioning of the human body in sitting are revealed, as well as the new approaches in the construction of the three-dimensional structure of the chairs. A fifth way was established - a semi-reclining seat with a backrest, which necessitates the design of a fundamentally new type of sitting furniture other than the standard height, with a forward seat and no backrest. (G5.1; G8.13)
- Wide integration of the environmental aspect into modern methods and practices for the design and production of furniture and living environments has been identified. The main objective is to minimize the harmful effects, conserve resources and stimulate the human-nature relationship. (G5.1; G8.9; G8.12; G8.15)
- Specific features of design students' training are identified. Creativity has been found to be the main factor influencing the process of improving products and the environment. This raises the need to study contemporary design methods that stimulate creative thinking and to consider their relation to design training. (G8.7; G8.1; G8.2; G 8.8)
- A methodology has been developed for carrying out design-based design tasks, characterized by placing participants under actual working conditions, where they have to solve a specific problem in a short time. The methodology helps conducting these design tasks properly and guarantees a good result in the end. (G7.1; G8.6; G 8.8; G8.17)

#### ***Applied contribution:***

- A design methodology has been developed and tested, which is followed during the different phases of the process when designing seating furniture, with the aim of facilitating and increasing the efficiency of the design process. The elaborated model is approved in the projecting of a program, consisting of seating modules, document filling, awaiting, working with a laptop, which helps the furnishing of university's shared areas. (G6.1)
- A methodology for conducting a project module "Project Week" in the course of training students in the specialty "Engineering Design" was developed and tested. The important steps for conducting this type of student modules are determined: topic selection, stages of conducting, composition of students, preparation and organization of conducting, etc. (G 7.1; G 8.6; G 8.8; G 8.17);
- The researched and analyzed design methods from the new generation are approved in the educational process of "Engineer design" students, Master's degree of education, subject "Innovative and Strategic Design". (G6.1; G8.1; G8.2; G8.5; G8.7);
- Publications for the examined topics may be a source and a reference book of design studies and feasibility studies. The information is systematized and vividly follows the timeline. The results of the researches may serve as benefit for the design students and may help them in the process of extending and updating their knowledge and abilities according to the needs of their future clients (B3.1; G5.1; G6.1).

#### **5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate**

In the presented information for the publications, the candidate shows a leading role in the presented works. Chief. Assist. Prof. Desislava Angelova, Ph.D. is the author of 9 independent publications. As far as the collective publications are concerned, she is: first in 8



works, second in 3, third in 2. They reveal the professional and scientific preparation of the candidate as well as her teamwork abilities.

After the introduction to all works of Chief. Assist. Prof. Desislava Angelova, Ph.D, presented in the Associate Professor competition, I consider them and the contributions, contained in them, are her personal deeds or reached due to her significant role.

## **6. Critical remarks**

My personal opinion does not consist of any large critical remarks in terms of the presented materials for the competition. It is obvious that the scientific, scientifically-applied and education activities of the candidate undoubtedly exceed the minimums set for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

The only recommendation I can make is related to the list of contributions. The candidate may present it in briefer way as some the contributions may be united by appropriate signs.

## **7. Personal impressions**

Personally, I have no impression of the candidate since I have not met her yet, but after a diligent examination of the applied materials in the competition for "Associate Professor", I can conclude, that she is in fact a much productive young scientist and designer, dedicated lecturer and colleague, who can be distinguished for creativity and teamwork abilities.

My wishes to her consist of staying in good health and being as devoted to art, science, education and creation as before, combined with endless examining power to apply modern methods in design.

I consider Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Ivanova Angelova Ph.D. possesses all abilities and skills needed for the academic position "Associate professor".

## **8. Conclusion**

**In connection with the above, I propose that Chief Assist. Prof. Desislava Ivanova Angelova Ph.D., be elected as an "Associate Professor" in the discipline "Design History, Theory and Methodology" in the field of higher education 5 Technical Sciences, professional field 5.13. General Engineering, scientific specialty "Ergonomics and Industrial Design".**

Prepared the opinion: ....  
(Assoc. Prof. Silvana Ilieva Ph.D.)

Opinion delivered on: .04.2020