

OPINION

On the materials submitted for participation in a competition for "Associated Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, Professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty "Game Management" in the discipline "Game Management".

In a competition for Associated Professor, published in the State Gazette № 27/02.04.2021 and on the site of the University of Forestry with the code FOR – Asp- 0321-55 for the needs of the Department "Game management" at the Faculty of Forestry, Chief Assist. Prof. Stoyan Ivanov Stoyanov, PhD, from the Department "Game Management" at the Faculty of Forestry participates as a candidate.

Prepared the opinion: prof. Zaprianka Nikolaeva Shindarska, field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, Professional field 6.3. Stock-farming, Scientific specialty "Feeding of animals" from the University of forestry, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Retired

1. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Chief Assist. Prof. Stoyan Ivanov Stoyanov, PhD, was born on 11.11.1972. He graduated in 1995 his higher education master's degree in the specialty "Forestry" at the University of Forestry with excellent results. After graduating university in the period from 01.07.1995 to 27.09.1997 he worked in SFE "Tundzha" as a hunting technologist. From 10.07.1997 till present he has been working at the University of Forestry, going through being an assistant (until 2000), senior assistant (2000-2004) and chief assistant till present. In 2013 he obtained an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Game Management". During the period 1997-2004 he conducted exercises in the disciplines: Game Management, Fauna Conservation, Park Fauna and Game Breeding. As a main assistant from 2004 till present he has been giving lectures on the disciplines: Game Management, Hunting tourist resources, Park fauna, as well as exercises in the disciplines: Game Management, Park fauna and Organization and management of game farming.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Stoyanov has done foreign language specializations at New Bulgarian University - Foreign Language Center, at Sofia University - ICS and speaks English and Russian at level C1 and German at level A1. He participates as a lecturer in training courses for candidates for hunters, courses for selective hunting, as well as for hunting guides.

2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with the requirements according to the Development of academic staff at the University of forestry

In order to participate in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", Ch. Assistant Professor Stoyanov has presented all required documents and materials according to the Regulations of the Development of academic staff (DAS) of the University of Forestry on paper and on electronic files. The candidate participates in the competition with a habilitation thesis - monograph - Stoyanov, S., 2021, Population Models, Ed. Academic Publications, ISBN 978-954-2940-26-5 with reviewers Prof. Nino Petkov Ninov, DSc and Assoc. Prof.

Dr. Hristo Danchev Mihailov, 20 articles and one study. An abstract of the dissertation on the topic: Studies on the population ecology of jackals in Bulgaria, Stoyanov, 2013 is also presented.

Abstracts in Bulgarian and English of all papers are presented, as well as the number of quotes - 108. The large number of quotes of the individual scientific papers stands out, which only for paper D13.5 (from the list of quotes) is quoted 48 times. For an overall analysis of the quotes I will dwell on the quotes in a separate section of my opinion.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities (work with students and PhD students)

Chief Assistant Stoyanov presented the reported extracurricular and extracurricular employment for the last five years. During the years of his teaching activity the candidate has always fulfilled the accepted norms for teaching activity, which is noted in item 11 of the submitted documents. For the last academic year (2020-2021) the candidate has an average annual classroom employment of 342 hours and 58 hours outside classroom employment, a total of 400 hours. It makes a good impression that Chief Assistant Stoyanov taught the course "Game Breeding" in English to the students of Veterinary Medicine – a foreign language training for three academic years (2014-2017), and a total of 298 hours were conducted in English.

The candidate also presented his teaching and pedagogical activities, which are implemented in 4 faculties of the University of Forestry, namely:

- a) Faculty of Forestry - from 2018/2019 academic year for three consecutive years Chief Assistant, Stoyanov was assigned to conduct a lecture course in the discipline "Game management", Bachelor's degree, part-time study.
- b) Faculty of Landscape Architecture and Ecology - from 2017/2018 to 2020/2021 he conducted a lecture course on the subject "Park Fauna"
- c) Faculty of Business Administration - during the last two academic years he has conducted a lecture course on the subject "Hunting tourist sites" to students majoring in "Alternative Tourism", Bachelor's degree
- d) Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - in the period 2014/2017 he has conducted a lecture course and exercises to students in English in the discipline "Game Breeding"

Ch. Assistant Professor Stoyanov has also developed independently and in co-authorship curricula in the disciplines taught by him. The curriculum for the discipline "park fauna" is developed independently by the candidate - 30 hours of lectures and 30 hours of exercises. The other two curricula are co-authored.

The candidate has also developed an e-course in the e-learning system of the University of Forestry (eelearn.ltu.bg) in the discipline "Hunting tourist sites" for students majoring in "Alternative Tourism".

In co-authorship with colleagues from the department, Chief Assist. Stoyanov has published: a textbook: Mihailov, Hr., Stoyanov S., 2001, Birds of prey and mammals in Bulgaria, ISBN 954-641-116-2; guide - Stoyanov,

S., Milchev, R. 2007, User's Guide, ISBN 978-954-332-042-4, and the book Ninov, N., Mihailov, Hr., Stoyanov, S., 2003 "Book for the young Hunter "with ISBN 954-8723-21-2 has been republished twice (2006 and 2014).

In the period from 2014 to 2021, Chief Assistant Stoyanov was the supervisor of 11 diploma theses prepared by students and reviewed 123 diploma theses, most of which are of students from the Faculty of Forestry with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree.

Based on the above, as well as on the basis of my personal impressions, I give a high assessment of the teaching experience and the degree of preparation of Chief Assistant. Dr. Stoyan Stoyanov for taking the academic position of "Associate Professor". I believe that the academic competence and degree of qualification of the candidate fully correspond to the specifics of the competition and its scientific specialty.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific, scientifically applied and publishing activities (General description of the presented materials)

The candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Stoyan Stoyanov, participated in the competition with:

- Monograph - 1 pc
- Studies - 1 pc
- Textbooks - 1 co-authored
- Books and manuals - 4 co-authored
- Publications - 20 pcs

- In foreign and refereed journals with WoS and Scopus - 8 pcs. It stands out that two of this group of publications also have an impact factor (noted in the list under № 7.1 and № 7.2), which I will consider in the relevant section.

- Foreign magazines refereed outside WoS and Scopus - 6 pcs
- In Bulgarian magazines referred outside WoS and Scopus - 6 pcs
- Projects - 5, three of which - scientific and 2 scientific - educational.

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientifically applied and educational projects

Of the total of 5 projects, the applicant identifies 3 as research, elaborated with his participation. I consider it necessary to point out that two of the three projects are international, one of which is funded by the Executive Forest Agency and the second one is funded by The University of Forestry. The candidate also participates in two scientific and educational projects co-financed by the European Social Fund.

Chief Assistant Stoyanov has taken part in advanced training courses - 12 in number, as well as in scientific forums - congresses and conferences national and international. He wrote 8 popular science articles related to different types of game. His activity as a reviewer does not end with the reviews of diploma theses, but also with those of scientific works - 20 issues.

The candidate has a significant contribution with his expert activity related to participation in expert groups in the preparation of regulations and laws related to hunting, hunting trophies and forests. He is also a member of the Golden Jackal Group in Europe (GOJAGE) scientific network.

4.2 Characteristics of the published scientific results

The monograph presented at the competition appropriately interprets the results of the research work of Chief Assistant. Stoyanov. This work will not be evaluated, due to the fact that before printing two reviewers have evaluated it with dignity I have a similar attitude to the presented study, which the candidate has printed in a scientific publication with IMPACT FACTOR - 1.546.

The total of 20 scientific articles and reports presented by the candidate for participation in the competition for "associate professor" in scientific forums at national level and abroad are classified as follows:

- to **group G7** - Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in a world-famous database - 8 issues. Two of the scientific papers are also with **IMPACT FACTOR**, which for G1 is 2,017, and for G2 is 14,919. **The total number of points for this group of indicators is 131.23**
- to **group G8** - Articles and reports published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 12 issues. **The total number of points for this group of indicators is -40.48**
- By **group G9** - Studies published in scientific journals referred and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 1 issue. **The scientific edition has a high IMPACT FACTOR - 1,546 and brings the candidate - 45 points.**

The total number of points per group of indicators G is 216.71 with a minimum requirement of 200 points.

Out of a total of 20 scientific papers, in 7 of them the candidate is the first author, in three of them - second author, and in the remaining 10 is third and subsequent author. The candidate is the sole author of the studies of the total number of the scientific papers - 17 are in English and 3 in Bulgarian.

The above, together with the data completed by Ch. Assistant Professor Stoyanov shows that the scientific, the scientifically applied and publishing activity of the candidate is significant, both in quantitative and qualitative characteristics, namely: the monograph presents up-to-date information, presented in accessible language, reflecting many results achieved by the candidate in his in-depth research work.

The significant scientific results achieved by the candidate are popularized in his 20 publications in the form of articles in scientific journals and as reports in scientific forums. 40% of these publications have been published in foreign publications, and 20% of them are in publications with IMPACT FACTOR.

The candidate actively participates in a total of 5 projects. 3 of which are research (two of them with international participation and two are scientific – educational).

4.3 Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in literature (established quotes)

The candidate submitted a list of the quotes he has established. The total number of quotes is 108, 98 of which are referenced and indexed in scientific journals in world famous databases, 4 quotes are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 6 are citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review. It is noteworthy that two of the articles that have been published in scientific journals with impact factor have the most quotes, such as, article number D13.6 is quoted 48 times. With the quotes, the candidate scores 1540 points, which is many times more than the minimum requirements for "an associate professor".

4.4 Contributions in the candidate's work (scientific, scientifically-applied, applied)

The contributions of the candidate for associate professor analyzed on the basis of a total of 22 scientific papers (1 monograph, 1 study and 20 publications) can be referred to the following areas:

1. Application of the population models for analysis and assessment of the impact of hunting on the demographic structure, dynamics and viability of game populations.
2. Research on the population ecology of the partridge and establishing the relationship between climatic factors and the impact of modern agriculture.
3. Taxonomic and morphometric studies on jackals.
4. Anatomical and histological studies on the jackal and the wolf.
5. Research related to the influence of large game on woody vegetation.
6. Studies related to the density of the rabbit, as well as the survival rate after resettlement of pheasants, partridges and cupcakes.
7. Game monitoring and creation of a model of information system for hunting statistics.

After analyzing the scientific papers and the contributions declared by the candidate, they can be considered as:

- Scientific contributions - 11 issues, which include works from the above areas
- Scientifically applied - 5 pieces. I accept two of them as contributions with an original nature - it has been proposed a method for estimating the number of jackals and other hunting species by analyzing and comparing data from hunting statistics and the demographic structure of the population (1st in this group), as well as the contribution related to radiotelemetric tracking of displaced partridges, pheasants and partridges in connection with their tracking.
- Applied contributions - 2 pieces, including application of a model of information system database for hunting statistics, as well as application of new criteria for hunting trophies for jackals.

5. Evaluation of the applicant's personal contribution

In the works submitted at the competition, a total of 23 works as autonomous are: abstract, monograph, studies and 7 scientific publications. Of three of them he is the second author, and of the remaining - third and next

author. This gives me a reason to assume that the contributions mentioned above are the personal work of the applicant or have been achieved with his active participation.

6 .Critical remarks and recommendations

I did not find any significant omissions in the evaluated works and the very well-formed materials. I allow myself to make a recommendation for the future research work of the candidate, which should be aimed at publishing the results not only in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals, but also in publications with IMPACT FACTOR, which would be prestigious for him, the department, the faculty and the university. This recommendation of mine convincingly confirms the high number of points many times more than the **Minimum National Requirements (MNR)** for quotes, which the candidate receives exactly from the three issues of scientific papers with a high IMPACT FACTOR.

The materials presented at the competition complement and confirm my long-term impressions of the development and activity of Chief Assistant. Dr. Stoyanov. The presented diplomas show that he was an excellent student, and currently a highly intelligent, motivated teacher and researcher with established qualities of a researcher and creative implementer of solutions useful for science, higher education and practice. Demanding of himself and the students, hardworking, energetic and communicative, he proved his skills to work in team to solve problems in his scientific field.

Important merits of Ch. Assistant Professor Stoyanov as a lecturer and researcher is his strong desire for quality education of students, using modern computer technology for research, which he applies in the learning process. Good command of three foreign languages allows the candidate to be an active participant in many scientific forums at home and abroad.

8. Conclusion

The proven relevance and significance of the achieved scientific, pedagogical, scientifically applied and applied results from Ch. Assistant Professor Stoyanov, their significance for the practice and the learning process, their reflection in the large number of quotations at home and abroad mostly give me reason to evaluate that the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff and of the Regulations for its application in the University of Forestry for the academic position "associate professor" are fulfilled.

Based on all the above, I convincingly propose Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Stoyanov to be elected "Associate Professor" in the discipline "Game management" in the professional field 6.5. Forestry, Scientific specialty " Game management".

Sofia

19.08.2021

Prepared the opinion:

/ prof..Ph.D. Z.Shindarska/