



OPINION

on the materials for participation in a competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor", Field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, Professional field 5.13. General engineering, scientific specialty "Ergonomics and Industrial Design", in the discipline "Theory of Composition", announced by the University of Forestry in SG no. 26/21.3.2023, procedure code **WWI-P-0223-103**.

Candidate for participation in the competition is: Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva PhD;

Prepared the opinion: Silvina Dimitrova Ilieva PhD, Associate Professor in a Professional field 5.13. General engineering from Technical University of Sofia, branch Plovdiv

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Stela Borisova Tasheva PhD was born on 11.10.1978 in the city of Sofia.

In 2001, she graduated with a master's degree in "Architecture" at University Of Architecture, Civil Engineering And Geodesy (UACEG).

After graduating, she worked as an ARCHITECT for several architectural bureaus – Avangard+, Botevgrad; ERA Ltd, Sofia; Kali Ltd, Sofia; Sashetso Ltd, Sofia; Stefan Dobrev: Architecture and Design, Sofia.

In the period 15.10.2009 – 28.02.2021, she worked successively as an architect, chief assistant and associate professor at the Institute of Arts Studies (IAS) at the BAS. In 2012, she successfully defended his PhD in "Theory and History of Architecture" at IAS (BAS) with a dissertation on the topic: "Semiotics of architectural graphics".

Since October 2012, Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva PhD is a part-time teacher at the University of Forestry, and from March 2018 until now she holds the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "Theory and History of Architecture". Leads lectures and exercises on "Theory of Composition" and "Morphogenesis" for the Bachelor's Degree Program, as well as on "Presentation of Design Projects", "Introduction to Urban Design" and "Lighting Fixtures Design" for the Master's degree program.

She is a member of many professional organizations such as CAB (Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria), UAB (Union of Architects in Bulgaria), USB (Union of Scientists in Bulgaria), Balkan History Association, Docomomo.

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 Assoc. Prof. Stela Borisova Tasheva PhD correspond with the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of the Development of academic staff at the University of Forestry. All of them are organized logically and supported by evidentiary material.

The minimum national requirements for the scientific-research and teaching-tutoring activity of the candidate in the competition for the academic position "professor" have been fulfilled, as follows:

- **A:** Dissertation (Ph.D.) – **50 points** (required – 50 points);
- **C:** Monograph – **100 points** (required – 100 points);
- **D:** Scientific Publications – **613.33 points** (required – 200 points);
- **D:** Citations – **156 points** (required – 100 points);

- **E: E17; E18; E26 – 170 points** (required – 150 points).

The total number of points is 1089.33 points out of the required 600 points, which fulfills, and in some positions significantly exceeds, the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of "**Professor**".

3. Assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva PhD, leads lectures and seminars in the following disciplines:

- Bachelor's Degree Program:
 - "Theory of Composition" – specialty "Engineering Design";
 - "Morphogenesis" – specialty "Engineering Design";
 - "Anthropogenic resources 2" – specialty "Alternative Tourism";
- Master's degree program, specialty „Engineering Design“:
 - "Presentation of Design Projects";
 - "Introduction to Urban Design";
 - "Lighting Fixtures Design";
 - "Cultural-historical Heritage and Design" – optional discipline

Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva has five graduates defended their diplomas at University of Forestry, she writes reviews of diploma theses and has very good mentoring skills related to her work with students and especially with doctoral students. There are three successfully defended doctoral students under her mentorship, two at the IAS (BAS) and one at the University of Forestry, which is an excellent attestation of her qualities and expertise as a leader and scientist.

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

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva PhD has submitted the following materials for the "Professor" contest.

General description of the presented materials:

- Habilitation thesis (monograph) – **1 issue (independent)**;
- Monograph in co-authorship – **1 issue**;
- Dissertation published – **1 issue**;
- Publications and articles in scientific publications – **40 issues**;
- Recognized utility model, patent or copyright application.

4.1. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva PhD participated in the team that developed a national scientific or educational project: "Bulgarian 20th century in arts and culture" - DFNI-KO2/9, 2014-2018.

4.2. Characterization of published scientific results

The presented scientific-applied and publication activity is characterized by:

Habilitation thesis (monograph) – 1 issue (independent);

Monograph in co-authorship – 1 issue;

Publications and articles in scientific publications – 40 issues.

Total – 42 items, which can be classified as follows:

- referenced in Web of Science and/or SCOPUS – **6**;
- in non-refereed scientific journals – **23**;
- in edited collective volumes – **8**;
- in collective monographs – **3**;

Site of publication::

- In Bulgaria – 27;
- In foreign parts – 13;

Publication language:

- Bulgarian – 20;
- Russian – 2;
- English – 18;

Co-authorship:

- independent – 11;
- with co-author – 25;
- with 2 co-authors – 2;
- with more co-authors – 1.

4.3. Reflection of Candidate's Scientific Publications in Literature (citability)

In the attached list of citations, **the number of citations is a total of 22 (in Bulgarian and foreign editions)**. Mostly 16 of the candidate's publications were cited in the competition, which shows the high scientific value of Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva's research and the fact that they have become available to the scientific community in Bulgaria and abroad.

The publication "Architectural images. Bulgaria in the second half of the 20th century." Context (2022) bilingual, in Bulgarian and in English, developed by the team, in which Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva also participated, as well as the exhibition of the same name, realized with materials from the book, received a very serious response in the Bulgarian media.

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

Summarizing the content of the scientific production presented in the competition, the main contributions can be grouped as follows:

Scientific and theoretical contribution:

- Clarifying the complex concept of "project graphics", defined in a specific field between engineering and computer graphics; (B3, D.8.3, D.8.6, D.8.9, D.8.24, D.8.26)
- The creation of a short history of the introduction of digital means in Bulgaria and the proof that, despite the direct borrowings from the principles of manual design, there is a step-by-step detachment from them in modern graphics; (B3, D.8.3, D.8.6, D.8.14, D.8.23, D.8.25, D.8.27, D.8.31, D.9.15)
- The derivation of main compositional tendencies in the present, a consequence of the use of digital means such as: manipulation in the perception of scale; use of Gestalt; motion presentation and reporting; (B3, D.8.3, D.8.6, D.8.9, D.8.24, D.8.26)
- Deducing and revealing the evolutionary specificity of architectural graphics in Bulgaria, by tracing the interrelationships in the development of the graphic language and its parallels in terms of its modification and adaptation; (D.7.1, D.7.3, D.7.5, D.8.8, D.8.10, D.8.13)
- Development and testing of methodology for the analysis of architectural motifs and images in art and design objects and products; (D.7.2, D.7.4, D.7.6, D.8.14, D.8.23, D.8.25, D.8.27, D.8.29, D.8.31, D.9.15)
- The discovery of theoretical interrelationships and classifications supporting the development of design theory and architecture. (D.7.1, D.7.3, D.7.5, D.8.1, D.8.4, D.8.8, D.8.10, D.8.13, D.8.17, D.8.18, D.8.20, D.8.28,)

Scientific-applied contribution:

- Timely documentation of working practices, authors, forms of education and techniques in the field under consideration, taking into account the context of the considered era and the peculiarities of technological performances; (B3, D.7.1, D.7.3, D.7.5, D.8.8, D.8.10, D.8.13)
- Assessment of the state of the main compositional tendencies found and estimation for their future development. (B3, D.8.3, D.8.6, D.8.9, D.8.24, D.8.26)

Applied contribution:

- An accessible systematized presentation of key compositional terms and solutions; (B3, D.8.3, D.8.6, D.8.9, D.8.24, D.8.26)
- Popularization of terms and theoretical approaches that enrich not only narrowly specialized professionals and experts, but also support the teaching of composition theory, through the development of significant examples. (B3, D.7.1, D.7.3, D.7.5, D.8.1, D.8.4, D.8.6, D.8.14, D.8.16)

In conclusion, it can be summarized that the nature of the declared contributions of the candidate for the academic position "professor" can be mainly attributed to:

- enrichment of existing knowledge by obtaining corroborating facts and obtaining and proving by new means existing facts and problems;
- application of scientific achievements through implementation of the results in a real learning.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

In the submitted publication reference, the candidate shows the leading role in most of the works submitted. A large part of them are developed in co-authorship with one or two co-authors, but the candidate in the competition is the first or second author. They reveal both the professional and scientific training of the candidate, as well as her abilities for successful teamwork. A distribution protocol for the majority of publications is also attached.

After getting acquainted with all the works of Assoc. Prof. Stela Borisova Tasheva PhD, presented in the competition for "Professor", I believe that they and the contributions contained in them are her personal work or were achieved with her substantial participation.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical comments on the submitted materials for the competition.

It is obvious that the candidate's scientific, scientific-applied and educational activities definitely exceed the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor".

I would only recommend that the applicant's future research and development be published primarily in refereed and indexed scientific publications, especially those included in "world-renowned databases of scientific information".

7. Personal impressions

I have known the candidate for a short time, but I have excellent impressions of her as a scientist, as a researcher, as a teacher and as a mentor. She has sufficient teaching experience as a committed and thorough professional. Her creative biography is also impressive.

After a thorough examination of the attached materials for the "Professor" competition, I can conclude that she is a dedicated teacher and colleague, distinguished by excellent mentoring qualities, creativity and skills for working in multicultural teams.

I wish her to be healthy, still dynamic and tireless in her searches, dedicated to science and education, to continue to research and apply the most modern methods in design education.

I believe that Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva PhD has all the necessary qualities and skills to hold the academic position of "Professor".

8. Conclusion

In connection with everything stated above in the opinion, I am convinced that I vote "FOR" and I SUGGEST the candidate Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva PhD to take the academic position of "Professor" in the discipline "Theory of Composition" in Professional field 5.13. General engineering, scientific specialty "Ergonomics and Industrial Design".

Prepared the opinion: ...

(Assoc. Prof. Silvina Ilieva Ph.D.)

Opinion delivered on: 01-08-2023