



OPINION

On the materials for participation in the competition for occupying the academic position “dozent” (associated professor), field of high education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional line 4.4. Earth Sciences, scientific specialty „Ecology and protection of the ecosystems“ on discipline „Ecology“ in the Forestry University, declared in State Gazette 4/15.01.2021, procedure code ELA-AsP-0121-52.

Candidate:

1. Chief assistant Ralitsa Todorova Kuzmanova, PhD

Opinion prepared by: Mayya Petrova Stoyneva, DrSc, PhD , professor, professional line 4.3. Biological Sciences, from Sofia University “ST. Kliment Ohridski”

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Chief assistant Ralitsa Kuzmanova, Ph.D., born 04/06/1974, is a graduate of Sofia Mathematical Gymnasium and afterwards of the Forestry University, in which since 13.05.1999 she holds the position of chief assistant and gives lectures and exercises in two specialties and also participates in conducting classes in master's modules. She has a total experience of 21 years, 9 months and 5 days as of the date of the competition.

2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with the required ones according to the Regulations for RAS in Forestry University (LTU)

The submitted documents and materials are in accordance with the Rules for RAS in LTU.

3. Assessment of the teaching activity of the candidate

I highly appreciate the teaching activity of the candidate, who, according to the submitted documents, is the holder of two bachelor's degrees with lectures, exercises and practices, as well as a master's module in one discipline with lectures and exercises. As a lecturer, I would like to pay special attention to this labor-intensive and time-consuming part of the candidate's activities, which is extremely important. In addition, I would like to emphasize the fact that the candidate was a thesis supervisor and a reviewer of a total of three students graduates with diploma theses.

4. Evaluation of the scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activity of the candidate

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

Candidate is a leader of three projects (Contracts NIS-B-1003/2019, NIS-OD-1043/06.11.2019 and NIS-OD-1103/2020) and is participant in 9 projects, out of which one is international, one is infrastructural, two are from operational programs and five are intradepartmental. The duration of the international project “International Co-operative

Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests)” is impressive, covering the period 2008-2020 and including annual contracts with annual reports, which is evidence of its successful development and completion.

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results

There are 23 publications on points "G7, G8 and others". The publications with numbers from 1 to 19 are peer-reviewed, and three of the others are presented as posters, which is why I accept them in the presented form and will not take a stand on them. I would like to mention with a positive sign a publication presented with number 21, which is not awarded points, but which is a valuable textbook for students in the specialties in which the candidate conducts lectures and exercises.

4.3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature (citations)

The presented list of citations includes 80 citations of four points "D10, D11, D12 and Citations without points". On the latter I have made a remark in the interest of the candidate below in item 6. The total number of citations testifies to the scientific recognition of the candidate in the competition among specialists in the relevant scientific field.

4.4. Contributions in the works of the candidate (s) (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

The scientific and scientific-applied contributions are described in detail in the Reference submitted by the candidate in the competition documents. For greater convincingness, the main results obtained are successfully included, thus proving the indicated contributions are in them. I accept the presented author's structuring in five main directions and the seven contributions in direction 1, three contributions in direction 2, five contributions with three sub-contributions to direction 3, five contributions in direction 4 and five contributions in direction 5, as far as it actually reflects the received from the candidate results. I find that the candidate should highlight the methodological contributions, which are not less important. Such is, for example, contribution 1 in direction 1, namely: The methodology of MCP "Assessment and monitoring of the impact of polluted air on forest ecosystems" has been supplemented in the section "Phenological observations", as the model trees for monitoring the phenological phases in the hospital "Vitinya" were selected after a geodetic survey of all 157 trees in the sample area. A "location" indicator was used, on the basis of which 20 trees were identified for observation, in groups with a planting density of 0.7 and 0.8. (B3)".

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

I highly appreciate the personal contribution of the candidate in the scientific papers and research projects presented at the competition. This contribution is clearly seen in the fact that the candidate is the first author of 14 publications and the second author in 6 of the publications.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have the following remarks to the candidate: 1) The name of the Journal of Balkan Ecology for publication 2 is not added to the list of publications in the competition; 2) In the list of citations there is a citation without points for the publication "Kuzmanova R. 2015. Phyto-phenological studies of *Fagus* ecosystem in Vitinya hospital. Autoreferat of PhD thesis in the Forestry University", cited in "3. Pavlov D., 2019. Fluctuations of Ground Vegetation in Beech Forest of Vitinya Stationary Location, Western Stara Mountain, Bulgaria. Journal of Balkan Ecology. 22, (2), p. 159-166". The rest of the citations from this magazine are included in section D10 and by the same logic this quotation should be added there.

I would like to make the following recommendation: Under item G7, I would like to note that these journals are referenced but not indexed in world databases and this should be noted in the submitted documents.

7. Personal impressions

I do not know the candidate in the competition personally and I have no personal impressions.

8. Conclusion

Based on the above I SUGGEST candidate Chief assistant Ralitsa Todorova Kuzmanova, PhD to occupy the academic position "dozent" (associated professor) on discipline "Ecology" of the professional line 4.4. Earth Sciences.

Opinion prepared by:

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