



OPINION

on the materials for participation in the competition for occupation of the academic position Associate Professor, field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, 4.4. Earth Sciences, specialty Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation, discipline Ecology, announced by the University of Forestry in the State Gazette no. 4/15.1.2021, code: ELA-AsP-0121-52.

The only candidate for the competition is:

Ch. Ass. Prof. Dr. Ralitsa Todorova Kuzmanova

Opinion by:

Prof. Dr. Tzvetan Mladenov Zlatanov, Professor in code 4.3. Biological Sciences, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS.

1. Brief biographic data of the candidate:

In 1997, Ch. Ass. Prof. Dr. Ralitsa Todorova Kuzmanova graduated from the University of Forestry (LTU), specialty "Ecology and Environmental Protection". She received the qualification "Engineer in Ecology, Protection and Restoration of the Environment". In 2015 she defended a dissertation on "Phenological studies on European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) in the regions of DDS "Vitinya" and UOGS "Petrohan". From 1999 until now she has been successively assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant.

2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with the requirements of the rules of the University of Forestry

The submitted documents and materials of the applicant are in accordance with the rules of the University of Forestry and the rules for the implementation of the law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

3. Assessment of the applicant's teaching activity

As an employee at The University of Forestry – Sofia, the applicant has been a lecturer in three disciplines - "Ecology", "Ecology, protection and restoration of the environment" and "Preservation of biological diversity and ecological network".

4. Assessment of the applicant's scientific, applied and publication activities.

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

Ch. Ass. Prof. Dr. Ralitsa Todorova Kuzmanova has participated in over 15 projects. On 3 of them, related to phenological observations in various sites and to monitoring of protected natural areas she was a scientific supervisor. Since 2008, she has been a member of the working team of the "International Cooperative Program for Assessment and Monitoring of the Impact of Atmospheric Pollution on Forest Ecosystems - ICP Forests". I believe that the candidate has good results in this parameter.

4.2. Evaluation of published scientific papers

The candidate has authored/coauthored a total of 19 scientific papers, including a monograph "Phenological studies of European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.)". Eight scientific papers have been published in journals, indexed in international databases of scientific information. As such, the candidate covers the formally required points in relation to her publication activity. However, I was not able to find a single paper, authored/coauthored by the candidate, referenced by the Web of science/ Scopus platforms.

4.3. Citations

Nineteen positive citations of the candidate's scientific papers were found in total. Eleven of them are in journals, referenced and indexed in international databases with scientific information. The candidate covers the formally required points under this parameter, as well. However, I was able to find only one paper, referenced by the Web of science/ Scopus platforms, that cites the applicant's work.

4.4. Contributions of the applicant's work (scientific or applied)

I accept the contributions provided.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

Out of the 19 publications provided, the applicant is a first author in 11. I find that in most of the publications, in which the applicant is not the first author, she has significant personal contribution. Hence, I give a positive assessment regarding this indicator.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I recommend that the candidate focus her future research work on publishing in journals, referenced by the Web of science/ Scopus platforms.

7. Personal impressions

I have no personal impressions as I do not know the candidate.

8. Conclusion

I propose the candidate Ch. Ass. Prof. Dr. Ralitsa Todorova Kuzmanova to be given academic position Associate Professor, field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, 4.4. Earth Sciences, specialty Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation, discipline Ecology.

Opinion provided:

Signature

Opinion submitted on: 17 May , 2021