



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 "Technologies for restoration of damaged soils and terrains", announced by the University of Forestry in the State Gazette no. 101 of 27.12.2019, code: ELA-AsP-1119-29.

The only candidate for the competition is:

Ch. Ass. Prof. Dr. Petar Gospodinov Petrov.

Opinion by:

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

1. Brief characteristic of the candidate:

The candidate is a Chief Assistant Professor in the disciplines "Reclamation of Degraded Terrains" and "Reclamation of Technogenic Degraded Lands" at the Faculty of Ecology and Landscape Architecture at the University of Forestry. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Ecology and Environmental Protection and Master's Degree in Environmental Monitoring and Eco-Management from the University of Forestry, Sofia. PhD holder in Technology in Waste Recovery and Treatment from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia.

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 University of Forestry, the applicant has been a lecturer in six disciplines - from General Biological Monitoring to Disturbed Terrains Rehabilitation, which implies is a multi-profile qualification. The latter is also reflected in his publishing activities.

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

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

More than satisfactory. This seems to be one of the candidate's main priorities.

4.2. Evaluation of published scientific papers

I need to mention here that publishing in prestigious scientific journals, has not been among the first priorities of the candidate. Accordingly, the only journal referenced by the Web of science, where the candidate is first/corresponding author, is "Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology" (IF 0.634), issued by a Bulgarian publisher. Five of the publications, including "D 7.1", "D 7.2", "D 7.3", "D 7.13" and "D 7.14" are not listed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases for the respective years. This required a reduction of the overall score of the group "D" indicators. Still, the corrected score of 252.8 points is above the required minimum.

4.3. Citations

Part of the assets listed in E10, including "Citations in or reviews for scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases or in monographs and collective volumes", must be moved to D12 "Citations in or reviews in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals". The justifications for this are the same as those mentioned in point 4.2. Evaluation of published scientific papers. Nevertheless, the total number of points in the respective set of indicators remains above the required minimum.

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 21 publications provided, the applicant is a first author in five. I find that in most of the publications, in which the applicant is not the first author, he has a significant personal contribution. Hence, I give a positive assessment on this indicator.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I recommend that the candidate focus his research work on a narrower range of scientific fields and direct his publishing activity mainly to prestigious international journals.

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. Petar Gospodinov Petrov to be given the academic position of Associate Professor in the discipline "Technologies for Restoration of Degraded Soils and Terrains", 4.4. Earth Sciences.

Opinion provided:

Signature

Opinion submitted on: 23 March , 2020