

ОГС 2477/31.03.2020.

STATEMENT

on the materials for participation in a competition for occupation of academic position "Associate Professor" in scientific field 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, in professional direction 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty „Silviculture, including Dendrology“, subject "Dendrology", announced by University of Forestry in State Gazette No 102 of December 7, 2021, code of the procedure: **FOR-AsP-1121-77**.

Applicant to participate in the competition: Dr. Evgeni Ivanov Tsavkov, Senior Assistant Professor

Prepared the statement: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Momchil Panayotov Panayotov, University of Forestry, Dendrology Department, Sofia 1797, Bulgaria.

1. Short biography of the applicant

Evgeni Ivanov Tsavkov was born on 21.08.1970. He graduated high school in Silistra in 1988, and then graduated as Master of Forestry in 1995. Since 1996 he worked in the University of Forestry - first as forester in the "Forestry" Department, then from 1996 to 1999 as teaching assistant in Dendrology, from 1996 to 2002 as senior teaching assistant and in 2002 after winning a competition he was elected as Assistant Professor in Dendrology. He graduated his PhD in 2017.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with those required under the Regulations for Development of Academic Staff at the University of Forestry (RDASUF)

The candidate meets the criteria set by the rules for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Forestry (RDASUF) for Associate professor. In category "A" he has the required 50 points. For category "B" no points are required for this academic position. For category "B" the required minimum points are 100, while the candidate has declared 181. In reality they should be with 17 points more, because for publications B4.3, B4.8. and B4.10 the points should be more due to calculation mistake. For category "T" the required points are 200 and the candidate declared 215 points. For category "Д" the required points are at least 50 and the candidate declared 270. In reality the citations are more and there could be more points in this category. One example is the publication "Panayotov, M., Gogushev, G., Tsavkov, E., Vasileva, P., Tsvetanov, N., Kulakowski, D., Bebi, P. 2017. Abiotic disturbances in Bulgarian mountain coniferous forests – An overview. Forest Ecology and Management, 388: 13-28" which according to the ISI Web of Science database has 11 citations, but the declared by E. Tsavkov citations are 4. For category „E“ the candidate did not declare any points (and no such are required), although he could declare points in categories E18, E19, E23. From the submitted documents it is clear that he has participation in such activities and therefore has points.

3. Assessment of the applicant's educational activities

The educational activities of the candidate are on a constant high level. In the last 5 years he always had more teaching hours than the required minimum. From the academic year 2020/2021 he is the leading lecturer for the discipline Dendrology after appointment from the Faculty of Forestry. The candidate participated in the preparation of teaching curriculums of several disciplines. He has prepared teaching materials for electronic education and was very active in the emergency response for remote teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. He

has published a number of specialized books, including regularly used by the students practical guidance book in Dendrology. He was the advisor of 4 successfully defended master and bachelor theses and the reviewer of 104 theses. He participated in national and international research projects and 11 education projects. All of this demonstrates that Evgeni Tsavkov has long teaching experience. In addition, I can declare that he is respected by his students, who appreciate very highly the quality of the teaching process lead by Evgeni Tsavkov.

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

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied science, infrastructure and educational projects

Evgeni Tsavkov has participation in 32 research, applied and education projects. He has been leading or is the active leader of 5 projects. The declared project No. 4 has higher ranking because it was actually funded by the National Scientific Fund of Bulgaria. In addition, I am aware of at least one more project with National funding, in which Evgeni Tsavkov is actively participating and this has not been listed in the documents for the procedure.

4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results

The candidate has diverse interests and publication activity related to various dendrological topics. He has participated in analysis of the dendroflora of Bulgaria, contributed to the description of new species or new localities of species, studied introduction and planting experiments, applied dendrochronological and genetic methods for revealing new data on the effects of ecological factors on the growth of trees. Much of the results are novel. The publications are in national and international journals and conference proceedings in Bulgarian, English and Russian. Due to this they are known to the local and international scientific community with interests in Dendrology.

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

The candidate has declared 82 citations in international and Bulgarian journals and books. 43 of them are in indexed and referred journals, 9 are in books, 10 are in non-referred scientific journals. As I already stated in reality the citations are even more. The high number of citations demonstrates that the publication activity of Evgeni Tsavkov is well-known and appreciated by the national and international scientific community in the field of Dendrology.

4.4. Contributions in the applicant's work (scientific, applied)

The contributions of the candidates are related to novel analysis of the flora of Bulgaria with specific focus on Dendrology, description of new species or revisions, description of new species localities. He applied anatomical and dendrochronological methods to contribute to the understanding of the reflection of various events in the anatomical structure of tree rings. Many of these results are novel for Bulgaria. I consider that the contributions of the scientific and applied-research work of Evgeni Tsavkov are high and help the gaining of new knowledge in the field.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

The personal contribution of the candidate is without doubts. Many of the papers are with two to three contributing authors which means that Evgeni Tsavkov took substantial role in data collection, analysis and manuscript preparation. As I colleague of Evgeni Tsavkov I am fully aware of his deep interests and active personal work in research.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no critical notes on the documents in the application. The above-listed and found mis-calculations or missing citation reports do not decrease any of the points, but in opposite – would increase them. I consider that Evgeni Tsavkov could expand his publishing activities on the topics of Oak species studies, in which he is well-recognized expert. He could also aim at leading more research projects in this topics and this would further contribute to gaining novel knowledge.

7. Personal impressions

I know Evgeni Tsavkov as a colleague in the Dendrology department of the University of Forestry. He devotes much effort in preparing high-quality materials for the teaching process and leading his lectures at the highest possible level. He has high moral and ethics and works very well with his colleagues. He also devotes a lot of energy in studying the collections and managing the Museum of the University of Forestry by which he contributes very much in enriching the historical knowledge.

8. Conclusion

Based on a comprehensive assessment of the qualities and the results presented by the applicant I PROPOSE the applicant Dr. Evgeni Ivanov Tsavkov to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the subject "Dendrology" in professional direction 6.5. Forestry.

Author of the statement:

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