

OPINION

by Prof. PhD. Georgi Vladimirov Ignatov,

Lecturer from the Sport Games and Mountain Sports Division of the Sports Department of Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“

Regarding the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of „Associate Professor“,

Announced by the University of Forestry in the State Gazette, issue 27 / April 02, 2021, procedure code AGR-AsP-0321-53

in the field of higher education 7. „Healthcare and sports“, professional field 7.6. „Sport“, scientific specialty „Methodology of training in physical education and sports“

Two candidates are participating in the competition for „Associate Professor“ for the needs of the Department of Physical Education and Sports at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Forestry: Engineer Hristo Tsankov Stoyanov, PhD and Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD – Lecturer in the Department of Physical Education and Sports at the Faculty of Agronomy at the University of Forestry

I. BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF THE CANDIDATES

I.1. Eng. Hristo Tsankov Stoyanov, PhD was born on October 31, 1960 in the town of Lovech. He completed his secondary education at the Mathematical High School (Lovech). In 1988 he graduated from the University of Forestry, majoring in „Environmental Protection and Enrichment“ and acquired the title of environmental engineer. In 1992 he completed his second higher education at the Higher Institute of Physical Education „Georgi Dimitrov“ with two specialties „Physical Education Teacher“ and „Athletics Coach“. In 2009 he obtained the educational and scientific degree „PhD“ with a defended dissertation on the topic: „Improvement of special running training in the disciplines 200 and 400 m by optimizing the influence of strength and speed-strength training loads“. From 1991 to 2021 he worked as a coach in athletics at the Sports Club in Athletics „Academic“ (Sofia), and in the period 2005-2021 he was Chairman of the Board of the club. Main organizer of the international athletic tournament „Academic“ in the period 2000 – 2021. Consultant in sprint planning and hurdles in Malmö – Sweden from 2001 to 2004. The candidate is one of the founders, and subsequently was elected Chairman of the „Bulgarian Coaches Association“. He is the organizer of the largest children's format in athletics „Athletics is looking for talent“. He has a number of successes as a coach in national and international competitions.

I.2. Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD was born on April 22, 1966 in Sofia. He completed his secondary education at the 66th Dimitar Ganev Secondary School (Sofia). In 1990 he graduated from the Higher Institute of Physical Education „Georgi Dimitrov“ with two specialties „Teacher of Physical Education“ and „Swimming Coach“. In 2017 he acquired the Educational and Scientific Degree „PhD“ in the professional field 1.3. pedagogy of training in: (Methodology of training in physical education and sports) on the topic „Model for increasing the physical capacity of students at the University of Forestry“. In

the period September 1, 1990 – January 17, 2000 he worked as a physical education teacher at 132 Secondary School (Sofia). Since January 18, 2000 he has been working at the University of Forestry as a lecturer and senior lecturer. Since 2010 he has been a part-time lecturer at the Department of Physical Education and Sports at the University of National and World Economy. Chairman of the University Sports Club FORESTRY TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY SPORT from 2009 until now. Member of the Board of Directors of the University Sports Association „Academic” from December 2009 to May 2015 and from December 2019 until now. Secretary General of the University Sports Association „Academic” from May, 2014 to May, 2015. Organizes and manages over 30 sporting events per year as a member of the Board and Secretary General of the USA „Academic”. Coach in alpine skiing, snowboarding and kickboxing of the representative teams of men and women of the University of Forestry, with which he won a number of prestigious awards at the Universiade organized by USA „Academic” and competitions from the internal calendar.

II. CONFORMITY OF THE SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS OF THE CANDIDATES WITH THE REQUIRED ACCORDING TO RULES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE UNIVERSITY OF FORESTRY

II.1. The submitted documents of the candidate Eng. Hristo Stoyanov, PhD are in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry.

An exception is the lack of a document for holding an academic position.

According to the completed by the candidate Map for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position „Associate Professor” at the University of Forestry, Eng. Hristo Stoyanov, PhD with the required 400 points on indicators from groups A, V, G and D, collects a total of 1561 points. This proves that the minimum national quantitative requirements are met by the applicant.

II.2. The documents submitted by the Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD are fully in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry.

The participant in the competition, Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD from January 18, 2000 to the present is a lecturer in Physical Education and Sports at the University of Forestry.

According to the completed by the candidate Map for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position „Associate Professor” at the University of Forestry, Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD with the required 400 points on indicators from groups A, V, G and D, collects a total of 843.5 points. This proves that the minimum national quantitative requirements are met by the applicant.

III. EVALUATION OF TEACHING AND TEACHING ACTIVITY OF THE CANDIDATES

III.1. In the documentation submitted by Engineer Hristo Stoyanov on the competition I do not find information about academic and teaching activities. The candidate has not held such a position until now and has not worked as a teacher in a higher school. Eng. Stoyanov, PhD presents documents and materials related to his work as a coach, consultant and lecturer.

III.2. The documentation submitted by Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD reveals that he has been a full-time lecturer at the University of Forestry since January 2020 (as of April 15, 2021 he has 21 years, 2 months and 27 days of work experience at the University of

Forestry) and goes through all stages of its academic development, incl. lecturer, senior lecturer and doctor. Since 2010 he has been a part-time lecturer at the University of National and World Economy. The candidate submits an accurate report on classroom and extracurricular employment of his / her workload within 565 hours per year for participation in the competition, signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Forestry. Senior Lecturer Georgiev, PhD is a coach of the representative teams of the University of Forestry in alpine skiing, snowboarding and kickboxing, with which he has won a number of prestigious awards in the National Student Universiades and competitions organized by the Association for University Sports „Academic“. Zhelyazko Georgiev is also a teacher of sports: volleyball, kickboxing, swimming, alpine skiing, tennis; table tennis, fitness and football.

The accumulated knowledge and many years of practical experience in working with students in various sports disciplines define Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD as a modern and constantly evolving sports teacher in modern higher education.

IV. EVALUATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCIENTIFIC, SCIENTIFIC-APPLIED AND PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES OF THE CANDIDATES

IV.1. Publishing activity

Engineer Hristo Tsankov Stoyanov, PhD participated in the competition with:

1. Monograph – 5 pieces;
2. Published book on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree „PhD” – 1 issue;
3. Monograph-studios – 1 issue;
4. Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 2 copies;
5. Articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 37 issues.

The author's share of scientific publications is: independent author – twenty-six works, first author – eighteen works and second author – two works.

Senior lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD participated in the competition with:

1. Monograph – 1 issue;
2. Published book on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree „PhD” – 1 issue;
3. Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 3 copies;
4. Articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 19 issues.

The author's share of scientific publications is: independent author – six works, first author – six works, second author – fourteen works and third author - one work.

IV.2. Reflection of the scientific publications of the candidates in the literature (known citations)

Engineer Hristo Tsankov Stoyanov, PhD participated in the competition with a total of 12 citations, as follows:

1. Citation in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes – 1 citation;
2. Citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 5 citations;

3. Citation in unrefereed journals with scientific review – 6 citations.

Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD participated in the competition with a total of 22 citations, as follows:

1. Citation in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes – 10 citations;
2. Citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 5 citations;
3. Citation in unrefereed journals with scientific review – 7 citations.

IV.3. Participation in conferences, scientific forums and round tables

IV.3.1. Engineer Hristo Tsankov Stoyanov, PhD has participated in 11 scientific conferences.

IV.3.2. Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD has participated in 10 scientific conferences.

IV.4. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

IV.4.1. Engineer Hristo Tsankov Stoyanov, PhD has participated in 4 scientific or educational projects in the field of education and sports.

IV.4.2. Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD has participated in 11 scientific or educational projects in the field of education and sports.

V. CONTRIBUTIONS OF CANDIDATES

V.1. The following scientific contributions can be synthesized from the presented scientific production of Eng. Hristo Stoyanov, PhD:

- A new methodology for training athletes in the 200 and 400 m disciplines has been created, which has been proven in practice. Theoretical, research and applied aspects in the development of the main motor qualities, forming the sports result in the sprint of 200 and 400 m are presented. Characteristic features of the power, speed-power and special running training in the disciplines 200 and 400 m , G5-2, G5-3, G6-1, G8-4, G8-14, G8-22, G8-24, G8-26, G8-32, G8-33);
- The age dynamics in the development of motor qualities of children is considered, indicating the sensitive periods in longitudinal development, allowing to identify the negative and positive periods of its development and allowing to take measures for the development of individual qualities (G5-4). ;
- A model of the relative share of the main training tools for mesocycles of the winter macrocycle of training in the discipline 800 m men (B3-1, G5-5, G7-1) is presented;
- The characteristics of the competition models of elite sprinters in the 100 m men's and women's running (G8-2, G8-3, G8-15, G8-27) were studied;
- The possibilities for building an effective running technique with the help of different training intensities have been studied (G8-28, G8-34);
- The speed in the disciplines 200 and 400 m was studied, incl. and the speed in the phase of the starting acceleration (G7-2, G8-11, G8-16, G8-18, G8-28, G8-29);
- The peculiarities in the development of endurance have been established (G8-5, G8-8, G8-10, G8-12, G8-13);
- The power and speed-power qualities have been studied. The limits have been established in which the application of the maximum force loads has a positive effect on the level of the other types of force (G8-6, G8-7, G8-9, G8-17, G8-20, G8-21, G8-30, G8-31);
- The tendencies characterizing the different approaches in the development of the sports form are established (G8-19, G8-23);
- The achieved results in the decathlon are analyzed (G8-35, G8-36, G8-37);
- The influence of athletic training on the specific qualities of basketball players (G8-25) has been studied and analyzed.

V.2. The main scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions of the candidate Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev.PhD can be summarized in the following directions:

- Problems related to the optimization of physical education and sports classes in higher education and in particular the improvement of the physical capacity of students (3.1; 6.1; 7.1; 7.3; 8.3, 8.12);
- The effectiveness of the developed and tested specialized model for increasing the physical capacity of students from the University of Forestry as part of their healthy lifestyle, which can be multiplied in other non-specialized universities (3.1; 7.1);
- Current norms for assessment of the physical capacity of students have been developed, through which the development of their basic motor qualities is monitored and directed, as well as to what extent the choice of training aids and their volume in one activity is close to the optimal load for the respective period (3.1; 8.3);
- An innovative criterion for assessing the differences from the effect of the experimental and control impact on students has been effectively applied, by calculating the total average growth from all tests of the surveyed persons (3.1);
- On the basis of a prepared correlation matrix correlations were found between the explosive force of the lower limbs, the strength of the arms and the shoulder girdle, the strength of the abdominal muscles and the speed; between strength and endurance; between strength and agility and between agility and endurance. The establishment of these correlations helps the teachers from the higher schools in the selection of exercises for the development of the respective muscle groups and motor qualities (6.1; 8.12);
- The attitude of the students to the discipline "Physical Education and Sports" at the University of Forestry is monitored, in order to identify current issues, and recommendations are made to optimize the learning process (3.1; 6.1; 7.3);
- A methodology for training in physical education and sports, control and evaluation is proposed (3.1; 7.2; 8.1; 8.2; 8.7; 8.11; 8.13; 8.15; 8.16; 8.17);
- A program for initial ski training of the students of the University of Forestry has been developed, which was subsequently successfully applied during the training practice in this sport (8.1);
- A system has been developed for evaluating the technical implementation of elements of ski equipment in the initial ski training of students, provided in the curriculum of the training practice (3.1; 8.7);
- A set of purposeful exercises has been created to improve the mobility of the spine and all joints through active and passive exercises in the classes of physical education and sports at the University of Forestry. The level of flexibility of female students trained on the basis of curricula in four sports was studied in order to establish the effectiveness of the impact of different motor activities on the level of flexibility (8.11; 8.13; 8.15; 8.16);
- The enriched methodology for training in crawl swimming of students from the University of Forestry contributes to the learning process to be conducted at a higher theoretical and practical level (8.2);
- The influence of the discipline „Hiking“ on the attitude of students to the protection of nature and the environment has been studied. The students who took part in these activities statistically significantly increased the actions they take to protect nature. This gives grounds to claim that it is appropriate to include the discipline „Hiking“ as a possible sport in the classes of physical education and sport at the University of Forestry (7.2; 8.17);
- The state and problems of physical education and sports in higher education, in particular in the University of Forestry, the role of the Association for University Sports „Academic“ for the development of student sports (3.1; 8.4; 8.5; 8.6; 8.8; 8.9; 8.10; 8.14; 8.18; 8.19);
- A very thorough theoretical analysis of the state of the subsystem physical education and sports in higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria (3.1; 6.1; 8.4);
- The main current problems have been identified, as well as accumulated inconsistencies in laws and regulations that affect physical education and sports in universities, and

recommendations for overcoming them have been made aimed at the relevant educational and sports institutions (3.1; 8.4);

- Emphasis from his research is dedicated to the history and development of physical education and sports at the University of Forestry, as well as the successes achieved by students from the representative teams in National Universiades and National University Championships (3.1; 8.18; 8.19);

- The author has traced in historical aspect and analyzed in detail the work of the Association for University Sports „Academic“ on the organization, results and rankings in competitions of the National Student Universiades, outlining recommendations for future activities (6.1; 8.5; 8.6; 8.8 ; 8.9; 8.10; 8.14).

VI. ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE CANDIDATES

VI.1. The participant in the competition, Engineer Hristo Stoyanov, PhD presents a scientific production, which determines his personal contribution in the following:

- The deductions are the personal work of the candidate;
- The presented scientific production by the candidate meets quantitative indicators and meets the criteria for holding the academic position of associate professor;
- The candidate can be defined as a leader in the field of sprint in athletics at 200 and 400 m;
- The presented production for review does not duplicate works by other authors and there is no plagiarism.

VI.2. The participant in the competition Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD presents a scientific production related to the competition, as follows:

- The derived scientific-applied and methodological contributions are the personal work of the candidate;
- The scientific production provided by the candidate meets and exceeds in quantitative indicators the criteria for holding the academic position of associate professor;
- The candidate presents a tested, specialized model for the development of physical capacity and develops standards for assessment of physical capacity at the University of Forestry, which is closely related to his academic growth and his work at the University of Forestry;
- With his inexhaustible energy, personal example, organizational skills and personal qualities, Zhelyazko Georgiev is an example for young colleagues – teachers of sports in higher education, about their teaching and the development and promotion of student sports in the Republic of Bulgaria. ;
- The presented production for review does not duplicate works by other authors and there is no plagiarism.

VII. CRITICAL NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VII.1. The participant in the competition, engineer Hristo Stoyanov, has solid experience as a coach in athletics, especially in the 200 and 400 meters. In this area are his scientific publications and contributions, which are indisputable. He has achieved as a coach and a number of successes in competitions at the Olympic Games, World and European Championships, Universiades, Balkan Games and National Championships. In my opinion, engineer Stoyanov is closely specialized in the field of high sportsmanship in athletics. Based on information not provided in the competition documentation for academic and teaching activities by Hristo Stoyanov, I believe that he does not have the necessary pedagogical experience in working with students in higher education, which in itself is a specific activity other than that of highly qualified athletes.

In the proposed production I find some inaccuracies:

- Presented as a monograph with № G5-3 should not be considered as such, as it is 152 pages long and is co-authored and it is not specified which author has developed the relevant

section. This gives me reason to believe that this publication cannot be considered a monograph of the candidate.

- I consider that the same applies to the monograph submitted with № G5-4, which should not be considered as such, as it is 80 pages long and is co-authored and again it is not indicated which author developed the respective section.

- The development presented as studios with № G8-1, I think should be accepted as a teaching aid;

- The publications with № G8-25, 26 and 27 are not presented in their entirety, like the other reports, but only the summaries of the posters are presented.

Despite the found inaccuracies in the presented scientific production, the author meets the minimum national quantitative requirements.

Another significant weakness is that in the scientific production of Eng. Dr. Stoyanov I do not find publications and reports related to physical education and sports in higher education.

VII.2. The participant in the competition, Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD has been a full-time lecturer at the University of Forestry since January 2020, which suggests the possibility for future development in the academic environment of the university.

I have no critical remarks to Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD.

VIII. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

VIII.1. The participant in the competition, Engineer Hristo Tsankov Stoyanov, PhD enjoys a good reputation among the specialists in athletics in our country. Coach of a number of athletes with a large number of prestigious rankings at the Olympic Games, World and European Championships, Universiades, Balkan Games and National Championships. The candidate is the main organizer of the international athletics tournament "Academic" in the last 21 years, as well as the largest children's format in athletics „Athletics is looking for talent“ in the last five years. He is one of the founders and later Chairman of the Bulgarian Association of Coaches. Consultant and lecturer in Malmö, Sweden. For all these activities, the applicant receives public recognition from a number of state and public institutions.

VIII.2. The participant in the competition, Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD enjoys great authority in the academic sports circles in the Republic of Bulgaria. Along with his academic sports and competitive activities at the University of Forestry, he has been Chairman of the University Sports Club of the University of Forestry since 2009. Senior Lecturer Georgiev, PhD has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Academic University Sports Association since December 2009 until now with a break from 2015 to 2019. He was Secretary General of the USA Academic and as such participates in the organization and the management of over 30 sporting events per year. Trainer in alpine skiing, snowboarding and kickboxing of the representative teams of men and women of the University of Forestry, with which he won a number of awards in the Universiade and competitions organized by USA „Academic“ from the internal calendar. Successfully participates in scientific and educational forums, project activities and various sporting events.

Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Georgiev, PhD is a senior lecturer at the Department of Physical Education and Sports at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Forestry. It is his work with students that is a kind of continuation of his scientific research and many years of research experience. In this way, he practically shares with them his effective ways and practices of how to teach and how to achieve high quality research and publication. All this testifies that he puts many years, consistent and purposeful efforts in his academic training and in achieving high professionalism. Zhelyazko Georgiev is a respected lecturer with rich practical and excellent theoretical training. He successfully combines research with specific teaching and work. He enjoys respect among students and colleagues.

IX. CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the scientific production provided by the candidates for their research, teaching, sports and social activities, as well as my long-term personal impressions, as well as taking into account the thematic focus of the competition, I consider it reasonable to give my positive assessment and with conviction to propose that Senior Lecturer Zhelyazko Dimitrov Georgiev, PhD be elected „Associate professor” in the professional field 7.6. „Sports”, scientific specialty „Methods of teaching physical education and sports”, discipline „Physical Education and Sports” for the needs of the Department of „Physical Education and Sports” at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Forestry.

August 16, 2021
Sofia city

Prepared the opinion:

 /Prof. Georgi Ignatov, PhD/