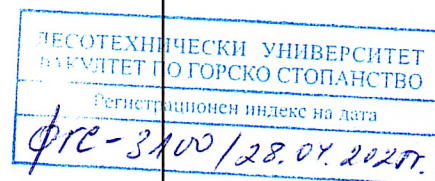


REVIEW



on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „Professor“ in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.7. Administration and management, scientific specialty "Economics and management" in the discipline "Forestry management",

In the competition for a professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 10 of 04.02.2025 and on the website of the Bulgarian University of Technology with procedure code FOR-P-0125-158 for the needs of the Department of Forest Management and Management at the Faculty of Forestry, Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev, Ph.D, from the Department of Forest Management and Management at the Faculty of Forestry participates as a candidate.

Reviewer: Ivan Petrov Paligorov, Ph.D, Professor in a Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management, from the University of Forestry

The review of the competition is prepared on the basis of a decision of the meeting of 09.04.2025 of the scientific jury, formed by Order No. ZPS-177/24.03.2025 of the Rector of the UF. The review reflects the fulfillment of the requirements of Art. 65 and 65a of the Regulations for RASD in the UF, with particular attention to all necessary documents and materials under the requirements of Art. 65a, para. 4, from item 1 to item 12 of the Regulations for RASD in the UF.

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev graduated from the Higher School of Forestry with a Master of Science in Forestry in 1999. Since 2003, he has been a Master of Public Finance from the University of National and World Economy, and since 2018, he has been a Master of Statistics, Econometrics and Actuarial Science from the Faculty of Economics of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Since 2008, he has been a Doctor of Economics and Management (by industry). During the period 2005-2010, he was a research associate of the III degree in the Institute of Forestry at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. From 2010 to 2014, he was a chief assistant, leading exercises in the disciplines "Economics and Management of Forestry", "Forestry Management" and lectures and exercises in the disciplines: "Investment Management", "Innovation Management", "International Economic and Currency Relations" to students of the "Business Management" specialty.

Since 2014, he has been an associate professor at the Department of Resource and Environmental Management of the Faculty of Business Management, leading lectures and tutorials in the disciplines of "Forestry Management", "Economics and Forestry Management", "International Economic and Monetary Relations", "General Economic Theory", "Finance of the Tourism Company", "Management of Innovation and Investment"

The above allows me to state that, in accordance with the requirements of Article 65 of the Regulations for RASD at the UF, Master of Science in Engineering Konstantin Nikolov Kolev holds

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the PhD and has held the academic position of "Associate Professor" for more than 2 years.

2. Correspondence of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant according to the Rules of the Development of academic staff at the University of Forestry.

In accordance with the requirements of Art. 65 and 65a of the Regulations for RASD in University of forestry, the candidate for the competition has an application for participation submitted, to which he has added all the necessary documents and materials under the requirements of Art. 65a, para. 4, from item 1 to item 12 of the Regulations for RASD in UF. This gives me reason to conclude that all submitted documents and materials for the competition are in full compliance with the requirements of Art. 65 and Art. 65a, para. 4 of the Regulations for RASD in UF.

3. Assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities (work with students and PhD students)

Assoc. Prof. Kolev, PhD has been a research associate at the Institute of Forestry at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and a lecturer at the University of Forestry for more than 20 years, rising through the academic ranks from chief assistant professor in 2010 to associate professor in 2014. Over the past 7 academic years, he has reported between 392 and 548 hours of annual teaching employment, teaching courses and authoring or co-authoring curricula in the following disciplines: "Forestry Management", for the specialty "Forestry" Master's degree, "Economics and Forestry Management", International Economic and Monetary Relations" and "Innovation and Investment Management" for the specialty "Business Management", Bachelor's degree. Moreover, the presentations and other teaching materials in all disciplines that he teaches are uploaded to the virtual library and can be used by students in the Black Board environment. The documents presented show that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolev lectures in 4 academic disciplines to students from the University of National and World Economy.

I would like to express my appreciation that the candidate for the competition, Assoc. Prof. Kolev, is a well-established teacher and colleague who works very hard to prepare students. He has 12 successfully defended graduates in the specialty "Business Administration", Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He has 1 successfully defended doctoral student and 1 in the process of studying.

4. Assessment of candidate's scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activities

General description of the presented materials

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Kolev participated in the competition with a total of 47 publications, including: monograph - 1; published chapter of a collective monograph - 1; published books - textbooks - 2. Other publications were also presented, of which in journals with an impact factor - 10, in foreign and Bulgarian refereed and non-refereed journals with scientific review - 33. Of the publications presented, 41 were published in Bulgarian and 6 abroad, 17 in Bulgarian, and 30 in a foreign language.

It can be assessed that the candidate has presented more than the required minimum scientific production in quantitative terms, which does not repeat that for obtaining the PhD degree and for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolev has presented a report with 3 participations in scientific research and applied science projects and in 1 educational project. Of the presented projects, he was a member of the scientific team in 3 and a project manager in 1. All projects are nationally funded.

It should also be noted his participation as a member of scientific juries for the defense of dissertations for the PhD degree and for Doctor of Sciences, as well as for holding academic positions. He participates in the editorial boards of the journal "Economic Management", ISSN 2738-7399 and of the journal "Innovativity in Modeling and Analytics Journal of Research", ISSN 2534-9619.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

Publications can be classified as follows:

By importance:

- In journals with Impact Factor - 10;
- in non-refereed journals and collections - 33;

Language in which they were published:

- In Bulgarian - 17;
- In a foreign language - 30.

Number of co-authors:

- Independent - 14;
- With one co-author - 24;
- With two co-authors - 6;
- With three or more co-authors - 3

4.3 Reflection of Candidate's Scientific Publications in Literature (known citations)

A total of 52 citations are presented, of which 13 are in refereed journals and proceedings of scientific forums, 17 in monographs, dissertations and collective volumes, and 22 in non-refereed journals with scientific review. This is proof that the scientific publications have been presented to the board, have aroused a certain interest, and have been cited by colleagues in our country and abroad.

4.4 Contributions to the candidate's work (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

I accept as indisputable the claimed contributions of the candidate in the field of enriching existing knowledge, further developing known and existing methodological approaches, obtaining new scientific results. I allow myself to divide them into:

I. Scientific contributions

1. A theoretically grounded system of comparable indicators has been developed and tested, characterizing the competitiveness of forestry at the national level in a comparative international aspect [B3.1, G6.6, G7.15].

2. A theoretically grounded objective system of quantitative indicators and metrics has been developed and tested, characterizing the competitiveness of forestry enterprises [G6.2, E18.1, E20.1].

3. The four-stage institutional analysis of O. Williamson has been adapted for the study of social and economic phenomena in the forestry of Bulgaria [G6.10)].

4. A system of practically applicable quantitative indicators has been developed, objectively characterizing the process of sustainable management of forest areas in Bulgaria in economic, ecological and social aspects [G7.17].

II. Scientific and applied contributions

5. The application of a model oriented towards input resources with variable returns to scale is justified, through Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), which examines the efficiency of using owned forest resources in relation to the gross added value produced in forestry [B3.1].

6. By applying multidimensional statistical methods - factor analysis and linear arrangement in multidimensional space, indices of competitiveness of forestry at the national level and at the level of forestry enterprises have been constructed [B3.1, G6.2, G6.6, G7.15, E18.1, E20.1].

7. An approach is proposed for proving scientific hypotheses about insufficient investments in forestry in Bulgaria based on information from survey studies and application of the χ^2 -method [G6.10)].

8. An index of sustainable forest management in Bulgaria in economic, environmental and social aspects has been constructed, through the application of factor analysis [G7.17].

9. The application of Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) has been justified, a model oriented towards input resources with variable returns to scale, through which the effectiveness of the costs incurred for the acquisition of fixed assets (FIX) and foreign direct investment (FDI) is examined in relation to the employment rate and labor productivity in a regional aspect in Bulgaria [G7.26].

10. A vector model with error correction has been constructed, which allows the relationship between gross fixed capital formation, loans and household savings in Bulgaria in the short and long term [G7.32].

11. A vector model with error correction was constructed, which allows analyzing the relationship between the amount of consumer loans, gross fixed capital formation and the effective interest rate on consumer loans in Bulgaria in the short and long term [G7.33].

III. Applied

12. The competitiveness of the forestry enterprises of thirteen European countries was assessed during the period 2015-2020 [B3.1].

13. Using a DEA, BCC model oriented to the input, the efficiency of the use of forest resources was assessed in terms of the gross added value produced in the forestry enterprises of thirteen European countries during the period 2015-2020 [B3.1].

14. The competitiveness of the six state enterprises for the management of state-owned forest territories in 2014 was assessed [G6.2].

15. Factors influencing the number of employed persons in the Bulgarian economy are substantiated and a multiple regression model is specified. Conclusions are formulated that may be useful in making management decisions by the competent authorities on certain hypotheses related to the national employment policy [G6.3].

16. It has been established that the internal rate of return (IRR) of an investment in a poplar crop located in Southern Bulgaria is not attractive enough for potential investors [G6.5].

17. A model for assessing the financial efficiency of an investment in logging equipment by a business organization operating in the forestry sector of Bulgaria has been developed [G7.6].

18. By analyzing the movement of shares and the concept of the economic base, the output by economic activities of the NACE Rev. 2008 BDS in Bulgaria and the EU-28 has been studied. On this basis, the economic activities for which favorable conditions for development exist on the territory of Bulgaria [G7.16].

19. A quantitative assessment of the level of sustainable management of forest areas in 35 territorial divisions of the Southwestern State Forest Enterprise (SWSFE), Blagoevgrad in 2017 was made [G7.17].

IV. Contributions to education and training

1. Curriculums for the disciplines taught in 2 faculties have been developed, presented and adopted by the relevant Faculty Councils.

2. A textbook and a manual for exercises have been developed and published, which are used to train students in the disciplines taught by Assoc. Prof. Kolev. The curriculum is also adapted for distance learning and has been uploaded to the Black Board platform for electronic learning support and distance learning, which UF has at its disposal.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

From the publications and documents submitted for the competition, it is evident that the claimed contributions are the personal work of the candidate for the competition. The contributions are primarily in the monograph and the published independent chapter of the monograph. For the collective publications, they are presented in specialized scientific publications, with the leading participation of the candidate for the competition and the other co-authors clearly defined.

6. Critical remarks

I am familiar with the work of Assoc. Prof. Kolev and a thorough re-acquaintance with the presented publications allowed me to conclude that no significant gaps or contradictions were found. What I would recommend in his future work is that he avoid this style, which is on the one hand quite economical, probably clear to him, and on the other hand quite difficult to understand with complex international terms, with large paragraphs, which sometimes makes it difficult even for readers who are prepared and have adopted the scientific style.

7. Personal impressions

I have known the candidate in the competition since his student's years, and later as a colleague and lecturer in the department. He leads the lectures and exercises in one of the disciplines in the specialty "Business Management", which I also lead lectures in the specialty "Forestry". A very characteristic feature of the candidate is his focus on personal scientific growth and this is naturally reflected in the publications and documents submitted in the competition. The self-assessment made significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements.

8. Conclusion

Considering that the submitted publications and other documents in the competition are in full compliance with the requirements of Art. 65 and 65a of the Regulations for RASD at UF. The assessment for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements exceeds and is above the minimum in all indicators. Considering that the candidate has the PhD and has held the academic position "Associate Professor" for more than two years, that he has presented scientific production that does not repeat the one submitted for obtaining the PhD degree and for holding the academic position "Associate Professor". I assess that the submitted scientific production contains indisputable and proven scientific contributions in the scientific specialty Economics and Management and more specifically in the field of Forestry management, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev, PhD, be proposed by the scientific jury to be elected by the Faculty Council in the competition for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.7. Administration and Management, scientific specialty "Economics and Management" in the discipline "Forestry Management", announced in the State Gazette, issue 10 of 04.02.2025 and on the website of the Bulgarian Forestry University with procedure code FOR-P-0125-158 for the needs of the Department of Forest Management and Management at the Faculty of Forestry.

Signature of the reviewer:

Review submitted to: 28.04.2025