

REVIEW

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "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" (by branches), in the discipline "Forestry management"

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

Prepared by the reviewer: Prof. Dr. Tsvetana Aleksandrova Stoyanova, professional field 3.7. Administration and Management, University of National and World Economy (UNWE)

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Only one candidate participated in the competition for the academic position of "professor" - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev. His biographical information testifies to the gradual acquisition of professional experience and knowledge related to his academic development and growth. In 1999, the candidate graduated from the University of Applied Sciences with a "Master's" degree in "Forestry Engineer". Subsequently, he successively acquired a "Master's" degree in "Public Finance" from the University of National and World Economy (2003) and in "Statistics, Econometrics and Actuarial Science" at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (2018). In 2008, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic: "Economic Contradictions and Conflicts Caused by the Forestry Management Mechanism after 1997." for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor" in Professional Field 3.7 "Administration and Management", scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (by industry) at the University of Forestry.

His professional path and academic development began at the Institute of Forestry at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a research associate, III degree, where he worked from 2005 to 2010. From 2010 to 2014, Assoc. Prof. Kolev was a chief assistant at the University of Forestry, in the Department of "Economics and Management of Forestry", and since 2014, the candidate has held the academic position of "associate professor".

The development of his creative biography eloquently demonstrates the concentration of his research activities in a well-structured direction in the field of forestry competitiveness.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with those required under the Regulations for RAS at LTU.

The submitted documents and evidentiary materials of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev fully meet the requirements of the Law on the Prevention of Corruption in the Republic

of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and comply with the additional requirements of the Regulations on the Prevention of Corruption in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The candidate meets all mandatory conditions under Art. 15 and Art. 24 of the Law on Forestry and Forestry and Art. 60 of the Law on Forestry and Forestry, as well as the Regulations on Forestry and Forestry of the University of Forestry.

Regarding the requirement for an acquired ONS "Doctor" (Art. 60, para. 1, item 1 of the PPZRASRB) - in 2008, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev defended his dissertation at the University of Forestry, which is evidenced by an acquired diploma with No. 32802/12.01.2009.

Regarding the requirement for minimum academic experience (Art. 60, para. 1, item 2 of the PPZRASRB) - the total work experience of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolev as a lecturer at the University of Forestry is **over 15 years** (*following note No. FGS-1485#2/14.03.2025*). Obviously, the candidate exceeds the legal requirement for minimum academic experience for holding the academic position of "professor".

Regarding the requirement for a published major monographic work (Art. 60, para. 1, item 3 of the PPZRASRB) – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev has presented a habilitation thesis on the topic “Competitiveness of Forestry: Descriptive Analysis and Impact Factors”. The work was reviewed by two respected reviewers in scientific circles – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Neykov and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galin Milchev, was published in 2025 by Avangard-Prima Publishing House and is 146 pages long. The monographic work submitted for review in the form of evidentiary material allows me to conclude that the scientific work possesses all the necessary attributes of a completed monographic study.

The topic of the monographic work presented in the competition for the title of "Professor", the object, subject and time period to which they refer, do not imply overlap with the defended dissertation work for the title of "Doctor" and with the monograph for the academic position of "Associate Professor". After a check in the National Center for Scientific and Technical Research for the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolev, it becomes clear that the monograph presented in the competition **is not registered** . All this gives me grounds to declare that the habilitation work - monograph presented for review meets the legal requirement of Art. 24, para. 1, item 3 of the Law on the State Administration of the Republic of Bulgaria **and is considered** by me as such.

Regarding the requirement to submit other original scientific research works – articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Art. 60, para. 1, item 4 of the PPZRASRB) – the candidate has submitted a total of **10 articles and reports** in primary databases such as Scopus and WOS . When reviewing the publications, it was found that Assoc. Prof. Kolev participated independently in 3 publications, in another three he was the lead (first) author, and in the rest he was a co-author.

Regarding the requirement to submit other original scientific research works – articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (Art. 60, para. 1, item 4 of the PPZRASRB) – the candidate has

submitted a **total of 33 publications**. The submitted articles and reports are publications that reveal achieved results of high scientific value, which is largely a personal contribution of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolev.

Regarding the requirement to meet the relevant minimum national criteria and the requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2; (Art. 60, para. 1, item 5 of the PPZRASRB) – according to the submitted documents, the candidate has covered and even **significantly exceeded the minimum national requirements** for scientific and teaching activities, for occupying the position of AD "professor" in PN 3.7 "Administration and Management". The total number of points collected by the candidate under individual indicators and criteria is 1,167.49 points, which significantly exceeds the required threshold of 550 points.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's teaching and learning activities (work with students and doctoral students)

Assoc. Prof. Kolev provides information on 3,232 hours of classroom work for the period 2017 - 2024 (following note No. FGS-1549/12.03.2025). The candidate has developed and successfully teaches the disciplines - "Forestry Management"; "Economics and Forestry Management"; "International Economic and Monetary Relations"; "Innovation and Investment Management" (following note No. FGS-1539/12.03.2025). During the period, Assoc. Prof. Kolev worked actively and successfully with students, and under his leadership, 12 graduates successfully defended their diploma theses, which shows his professionalism and teaching results (following note No. FGS-1884/17.03.2025).

Under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Kolev, doctoral student Zlatina Todorova successfully defended her dissertation (subsequent note No. FGS-1548/12.03.2025).

The successful and consistent active work with students and doctoral students gives me reason to categorically conclude that the candidate meets all the requirements for occupying the position of "professor" at the University of Forestry.

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

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev participated in the competition with:

- Monographs - 1 pc.;
- Chapter from a monograph – 1 issue;
- Textbooks - 2 pcs.;
- Articles and reports published in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 10 pcs.:
 - publications in Web of Science journals – 4 items;
 - publications in Scopus journals – 5 items;
 - journal publications in Scopus and Web of Science – 1 item;
- Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 33 pcs.;

- Projects - 5 pcs.

The review and analysis of the publications submitted for review show that several scientific directions of the candidate's research activity can be identified - competitiveness of forestry; macroeconomic analyses aimed at assessing consumer behavior, employment factors; and research into the relationship between innovation, investment and economic development of Bulgaria. The candidate's peer-reviewed publications combine scientific with applied research results.

From the review of the evidentiary material regarding publication activity, it can be confidently asserted that Assoc. Prof. Kolev demonstrates in-depth knowledge and skills, expressed in a wide and diverse methodological toolkit that he uses in his research and the scientific and applied results presented in the publications.

4.1 Participation in scientific, applied science and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev has extensive research experience, as evidenced by his participation in 3 national scientific projects and the leadership of two - one national and one university scientific projects (Table for self-assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements). The submitted reference for leadership and participation in scientific projects testifies to the professionalism and accumulated experience of the candidate.

4.2 Characteristics of published scientific results

The results of the publication activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev are both scientific and applied. They are concentrated in several scientific areas and are characterized by high scientific value. The main scientific results are the following:

- the essence, indicators and factors of forestry competitiveness have been analyzed;
- macroeconomic analyses examining investments, the consumer market, employment, consumer credit and savings and the interrelationship between them.
- the efficiency of using the owned forest resources in relation to the gross added value produced in forestry was studied;
- the process of sustainable management of forest areas was analyzed and evaluated, using a sustainable management index;
- Forestry competitiveness indices have been constructed at the national and enterprise level;

4.3 Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

From the presented reference it is evident that Assoc. Prof. Kolev's research has been cited 42 times.

According to the type of citations:

- In refereed journals and proceedings of scientific forums - 11 citations;
- In textbooks, monographs, dissertations, etc. - 31 citations.

This high number of citations reflects the recognition of the candidate's works and is a testament to the quality of his scientific output.

4.4 Contributions to the candidate's works (scientific, applied science, applied)

The publications submitted for review contain a number of scientific, applied scientific and applied contributions. I accept the applicant's prepared summary of the contributions that can be found in the applicant's publications, as follows:

Scientific contributions

- A system of internationally comparable indicators characterizing the competitiveness of forestry at the national level has been theoretically justified and tested (*publications No. B3.1, No. D6.6, No. D7.15*).
- An objective system of quantitative indicators and metrics characterizing the competitiveness of forestry enterprises has been theoretically substantiated and tested (*publications No. D6.2, No. E18.1, No. E20.1*).
- The four-stage institutional analysis of O. Williamson has been adapted for the study of social and economic phenomena in the forestry sector of Bulgaria (*publication No. D6.10*).
- A system of practically applicable quantitative indicators has been developed, objectively characterizing the process of sustainable management of forest areas in Bulgaria in economic, environmental and social aspects (*publication No. D7.17*).

Scientific and applied contributions

- The application of Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), an input-oriented model with variable returns to scale, is justified, through which the efficiency of use of owned forest resources is examined in relation to the gross value added (GVA) produced in forestry (*publication No. B3.1*).
- By applying multidimensional statistical methods - factor analysis and linear ordering in multidimensional space, indices of competitiveness of forestry at the national level have been constructed and
- level of forestry enterprises (*publications No. B3.1, No. D6.2, No. D6.6, No. D7.15, E18.1, No. E20.1*).
- An approach is proposed to prove scientific hypotheses about insufficient investments in forestry in Bulgaria based on information from survey studies and application of the χ^2 method (*publication No. D6.10*).
- By applying factor analysis, an index of sustainable management of forest areas in Bulgaria in economic, environmental and social aspects has been constructed (*publication No. D7.17*).
- The application of Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), an input-oriented model with variable returns to scale, is justified, 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 (*publication No. D7.26*).
- A vector model with error correction has been constructed, which allows for the study of the relationship between gross fixed capital formation, loans and household savings in Bulgaria in the short and long term (*publication No. D7.32*).

- A vector model with error correction has been constructed, which allows for the analysis of 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 (*publication No. D7.33*).

Applied

- The competitiveness of forestry in thirteen European countries was assessed during the period 2015-2020 (*publication No. B3.1*).
- Using a DEA, input-oriented BCC model, the efficiency of forest resource use in terms of GVA produced in forest holdings of thirteen European countries during the period 2015-2020 was assessed (*publication No. B3.1*).
- The competitiveness of the six state-owned forest management enterprises in 2014 was assessed (*publication No. D6.2*).
- 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 (*publication No. D6.3*) .
- It has been found that the internal rate of return (IRR) of an investment in poplar cultivation located in Southern Bulgaria is not attractive enough for potential investors (*publication No. D6.5*) .
- A model has been developed to assess the financial efficiency of an investment in logging equipment by a business organization operating in the forestry sector of Bulgaria (*publication No. D7.6*) .
- Through an analysis of share movements and the concept of the economic base, the production of the BDS by economic activity of the 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 have been revealed (*publication No. D7.16*).

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The competition lacks data on the percentage of the candidate's participation in the collective publications submitted for review. The review of the independent publications categorically proves the presence of his own scientific handwriting. It can also be found in the other publications in which he participates as a co-author. The review of the submitted publications shows that out of all 47, 14 are independent; 24 with one co-author; 6 with two co-authors; 3 with three or more co-authors. We must take into account that the main monographic work submitted, as well as one textbook, were prepared independently by Assoc. Prof. Kolev, and the other was prepared with one co-author. This gives me reason to conclude that the candidate's personal contribution is significant.

6. Critical notes

I have no significant critical remarks towards Assoc. Prof. Kolev, but I will make a recommendation related to strengthening his activities in supervising doctoral students and their successful defense. In this way, Assoc. Prof. Kolev will establish himself in the academic community as a researcher who creates his own school. I believe that the candidate

has undoubted potential and participation in research projects in the European scientific area and has the knowledge to expand his research in the field of European competitiveness of forestry.

7. Personal impressions

I have no personal impressions of the candidate, but the materials presented in the competition create positive impressions of his work.

8. Conclusion

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev be elected as a "professor" in the discipline "Forestry Management" in Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management, Scientific Specialty "Economics and Management" (by industry)".

Prepared the review:

/Prof. Dr. Tsvetana Stoyanova/

The opinion has been forwarded to: