

ЛЕСОТЕХНИЧЕСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ФАКУЛТЕТ ПО ГОРСКО СТОПАНСТВО
Регистрационен индекс на дата
410-3046/24.04.25

OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „**Professor**“ in the field
3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.7. Administration and
Management, scientific specialty Economics and Management in the discipline “Economics
and Management of Landscape Architecture”

In the competition for professor, published in the State Gazette 10/04.02.2025 and on
the site of the University of Forestry with the code FOR-P-0125-157 for the needs of the
Department of „Forest management and management“ at the Faculty of Forestry, as a candidate
participate Assoc. Prof. Elena Ilieva Dragozova, Faculty of Forestry, Department of „Forest
management and management”.

Prepared the opinion: Marina Petrova Mladenova, PhD, Professor in a Professional Field
3.7. Administration and Management, from University of Forestry.

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Elena Ilieva Dragozova studied and graduated from UF in 1997 with a Master's degree in
Landscape Architecture. In 2012 she completed her Doctoral degree in Landscape Architecture.
In 2005, she started working as an assistant at UF, where she has been working to this day. She
has consistently risen to senior assistant, chief assistant, and since 2016, she has been an
associate professor. In the period 2019-2023, she was the Head of the Department of Economics
and Management of Natural Resources, at the Faculty of Business Management at UF. From
2024 to the present, she has been the Vice-Rector Accreditation, Communication Policy and
Career Development. She is fluent in English and Russian. She has excellent computer literacy
and digital skills. She has the ability to work in a team, the ability to transfer experience and
train a team, and good communication skills. She was the chairwoman of the Federation of
University Trade Unions at the UF, has organizational skills in conducting scientific forums
and mentoring skills in working with student teams.

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.

The submitted documents and materials are in accordance with the requirements of the
Law on Academic Staff Development of the Bulgarian University and the Regulations for the
Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry, which was established at the
first meeting of the Scientific Jury and reflected in Protocol No. 1 of 07.04.2025.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova has submitted an accurate report
on compliance with the minimum national requirements (MNR) for an announced competition
for occupying an academic position for the individual groups of indicators and the
corresponding number of points.

Group of indicators	Content	Professor	Points completed by the candidate
A	Dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor"	50	50
B	Habilitation work - monograph	100	100
C	Publications	200	265.77
D	Citations	100	360
E	Guidance of a successfully defended doctoral student, projects, textbook and handbook	100	195
TOTAL POINTS BY INDICATORS A + B + C + D + E:		550	970.77

As can be seen from the table and textbook the relevant references with the total number of 970.77 points, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Ilieva Dragozova convincingly covers, and in some indicators significantly exceeds, the MNR for occupying the academic position of professor in the scientific field of the competition.

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

Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova is an erudite, demanding and dedicated lecturer with over 20 years of experience. She lectures and leads exercises in the following disciplines:

- "Economics and Management of Landscape Architecture";
- "Management";
- "Organizational Behavior";
- "Human Resources Management";
- "Economics and Environmental Management";
- "Business Communications and Public Relations".

She is the author of the textbook "Economics and Management of Landscape Architecture, Part: Management", which is intended for the students of the "Landscape Architecture" at the UF and the handbook "Business Communications and Public Relations - a Guide for Seminar Classes", which is intended for the students of the AT, BM and PP at the UF.

She has supervised 18 graduates who have successfully defended their theses. Of these, 8 in the specialty "Landscape Architecture" and 10 in the specialty "Business Management".

She supervised a doctoral student who successfully defended her thesis in 2021 and is currently the supervisor of two more doctoral students.

Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova is a university lecturer using modern approaches in education. She organizes and manages the educational process at a high academic level. Her professional qualities contribute to the motivation of students and their high results in the acquisition of modern knowledge and competencies.

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

General description of the presented materials

Candidate Assoc. Prof. Elena Ilieva Dragozova participated in the competition with:

- Monographs - 2 number (s);
- Textbooks - 1 number (s);
- Learning materials - 1 number (s);
- Publications - 21 number (s).
- Projects - 5 numbers (s).

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

2021-2022 Scientific research sector – UF Project. Contract No. NIS-B-114/05.04.21
Project name: Research, analysis and modeling of educational competencies (acquired in LTU specialties) in accordance with competency profiles by positions from the National Curriculum Framework.

Head: Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Dragozova.

2018-2021 Project funded by the National Science Foundation at the Ministry of Education and Science. Contract No. 939/2018 (KP-06-OPR 03/7). Project name: "Assessment of the ecosystem service "water" provided by water protected forest areas in Bulgaria".

Head: Assoc. Prof. PhD Nevena Shuleva.

Position held: Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Dragozova - team member.

2016-2018 PROJECT BG051PO001-3.3.07-0002 "Student Internships" funded with the support of the Operational Program "Human Resources Development", co-financed by the European Social Fund of the European Union. Head: Assoc. Prof. PhD Rumen Tomov.

Position held: Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Dragozova - mentor.

Project BG051PO001-3.3.06-0040 "Building interdisciplinary teams of young researchers in the field of fundamental and applied scientific research of importance for medical practice", Operational Program "Human Resources Development", Base Organization - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Faculty of Medicine - 2013-2015,

Position expert in Activity 1.

2023-2025 Project BIOCONSENT (KP-06-D002/1) under the BiodivRestore Program N 559 "Decision-making Support for Forest Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration Policy and Management in Europe: Trade-offs and Synergies at the Forest-Biodiversity-Climate-Water Nexus"

Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Dragozova - member of the international team.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

For participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova has submitted 23 publications.

Including: Monographs - 2 pcs. (of the Monograph "Research on Motivation and Job Satisfaction", I am a reviewer); Publications in journals with an impact factor - 7 pcs.; Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 14 pcs.

According to the language in which they were published: in Bulgarian - 13 pcs.; in a foreign language - 10 pcs.

According to the number of co-authors: Independent - 4; With one co-author - 10; With two co-authors - 2; With three or more co-authors - 7.

The published scientific results are in the scientific field in which the candidate works and in the scientific specialty in which the competition is announced. They are distinguished by authenticity, practical usefulness, and compliance with current research trends.

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

- Total - 36 citations.

By type of citations:

- In reference journals and proceedings of scientific forums - 15 citations;
- In monographs and non-refereed journals, etc. - 21 citations.

The scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova is very well represented in the literature. Evidence of this is the fact that the points presented as a result of citations far exceed those required by the MNR criteria for a professor and, moreover, the citations are to a significant extent in prestigious publications /in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases and in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review/. The presented citation characteristics show the relevance and visibility of the candidate's scientific work among specialists not only in our country, but also abroad.

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

I accept the scientific, applied scientific and applied contributions formulated by the candidate.

SCIENTIFIC

1. Enrichment of scientific knowledge about the specialization of labor and its influence on the level of well-being of society. Based on a twenty-year study on the specialization of labor in the profession of "landscape architect", for the first time in Bulgaria, an analysis of the content of the educational competencies of graduates of the specialty "Landscape Architecture" is being made, in the context of the European Qualifications Framework and international standards for landscape architecture training. (B3.1.; D.7.4.; D.7.5.; D7.7)

2. Scientific theories have been studied and applied for the development of research tools in poorly researched aspects of human resources management for the implementation of the principles of sustainable development of green infrastructure. A scientific contribution has been made with models for improving training, with the aim of acquiring competencies for applying the principles of sustainable development. (D6.2.; D6.4.; D6.6.; D7.1.)

3. It has been proven that the formation of modern general and professional competencies, through the application of the competency approach, is a key factor for good implementation in the profession and indirectly affects the improvement of well-being and sustainable

management of the social, economic and environmental conditions of development of modern society. (D6.3.; D7.8.; D7.10)

4. A toolkit has been proposed and results of research on various alternatives for building green infrastructure that would maintain sustainability between the economic, social and environmental systems have been obtained and summarized. (D7.11.; D7.12.; D7.13.)

5. Approaches have been developed and proposed for studying factors, relationships and dependencies influencing the behavior of stakeholders in green infrastructure management, attitude towards various ecosystem functions and services. (D6.1.; D6.5.; D6.7.; D7.2.; D7.3.; D7.6.; D7.9.)

SCIENTIFIC-APPLIED

1. The author's methodology for assessing the correspondence between the educational competencies and the work competencies of the landscape architect has been developed and approved. (B3.1.; D7.4.)

2. A scientific toolkit has been developed to study the opinion of stakeholders regarding the quality of the specialized work of landscape architects, which has been systematized and verified. The proposed toolkit can be used periodically to identify educational deficits of landscape architects. (B3.1.; D6.2.)

3. Based on the results obtained from the research, the need for regulation of the profession of "Landscape Architect" has been justified, which would be in accordance with the educational and professional knowledge and skills and the relevant European practice. (D7.14)

4. A research toolkit has been proposed and approved to study the motivation and degree of satisfaction of employees in higher education institutions. (D4.1)

APPLIED CONTRIBUTIONS

1. A map for assessing the correspondence between educational competencies and work competencies has been developed and proposed.

2. A survey toolkit for continuous monitoring in assessing acquired educational competencies, synchronized with the requirements of the labor market, has been developed and tested.

3. Based on the results of long-term research on competencies, competency profiles have been developed for the specialty "Landscape Architecture", the "Master" OCS and the "Doctor" OCS.

4. Methodological elements in the training in "Economics and Management of Landscape Architecture" have been developed and proposed, including content specifically oriented towards the acquisition of specialized, educational competencies.

The presented scientometric data report highlights the significance of the contributions from the candidate's research activities. Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova has a clearly expressed and recognizable scientific profile. It should be noted that the candidate's research activities demonstrate consistency, logic, continuity, scientific correctness and constructiveness. Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova has an affinity and ability to connect scientific research with its practical applicability.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

The indicated contributions are the personal work of the candidate. The candidate in the competition has a clearly established own style and can confidently highlight her own contribution in the collective developments. I am familiar with a large part of the presented scientific production and can confidently confirm that the indicated contributions are the personal work of the candidate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova.

6. Critical remarks

I have no substantive comments on the presented scientific works of Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova that would change my final positive assessment.

7. Personal impressions

I know the candidate very well and have direct personal impressions of her work. My personal impressions of the candidate are entirely positive. I firmly believe that she is an erudite, competent and dedicated scientist, an experienced teacher introducing the most modern teaching methods, and a responsive colleague who knows how to work in a team.

8. Conclusion

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. PhD Elena Ilieva Dragozova be elected as a „Professor“ in the discipline „Economics and Management of Landscape Architecture“ in the Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management, scientific specialty „Economics and Management“.

Prepared the opinion:

/Prof. PhD Marina Mladenova/

Opinion delivered to: 24.04.2025