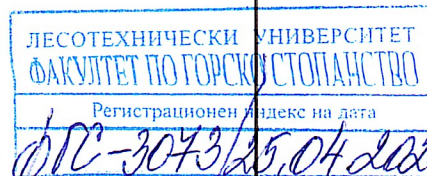


OPINION



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" (by branches), in the discipline "Forestry Management"

In the competition for professor, published in the State Gazette No. 10/04.02.2025 and on the site of the University of Forestry with the code FOR-P-0125-158 for the needs of the Department of „Forestry and Management“ at the Faculty of Forestry, as a candidate, participate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev, Faculty of Forestry, Department of „Forestry and Management“

Prepared the opinion: PhD, Galin Iliev Milchev, Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management /Application of Computer Technology in Economics/, University of Forestry – Sofia.

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Only one candidate participated in the competition – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev. The candidate graduated from the University of Forestry – Sofia in 1999, majoring in “Forestry” with the qualification “Forestry Engineer (Master)”. After graduation, he began his scientific career at the “Institute of Forestry – BAS”, where he was appointed as a Research Associate III degree. In 2004, he enrolled in doctoral studies at the University of Forestry – Sofia, where from 2010 to the present he has established his place as a lecturer, successively as a chief assistant /2010 – 2014/ and associate professor /2014 – to the present/. He lectures and leads exercises in the disciplines: “Economics and Management of Forestry”, “International Economic and Currency Relations”, “General Economic Theory”, “Finance of the Tourism Company” “Management of Innovation and Investment”. After reviewing the candidate's CV and the attached certificates for completed training related to "Preparation and Management of International Scientific Projects", "Online Information Systems", "Circular Economy in the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources" and a number of others, I can conclude that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev is permanently and gradually building his competencies by expanding the range of his scientific interests.

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 supporting materials of the Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev fully meet the requirements and comply with the requirements under the Regulations for the Regulation of Academic Development (RAD) at the University of Forestry.

The candidate meets all the mandatory conditions under Article 15 and Article 24 of the Academic Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADARB) and Article 60 of the ADARB, as well as the Regulations of Academic Development of the University of Forestry.

Requirement	Reference to the candidate's performance /according to the evidence provided/
Acquired PhD	<i>2004 – 2008 Topic of the dissertation - "Economic contradictions and conflicts caused by the forestry management mechanism after 1997."</i> <u>Diploma for PhD No. 32802/12.01.2009 HAC,</u> <i><u>Professional field 3.7 "Administration and Management",</u></i> <i><u>scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (by</u></i> <i><u>branches)</u></i>
Minimum academic experience	<u>over 15 years (following note No. FFI-1485#2/14.03.2025).</u> <i><u>Note: the candidate exceeds the required minimum</u></i>
Published major monographic work	<u>"Competitiveness of Forestry: Descriptive Analysis and Impact Factors"</u> <i>Reviewers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Neykov and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galin Milchev</i> <i>2025, Avangard-Prima Publishing House</i> <i>ISBN 978-619-279-092-9</i> <i>volume 146 pages.</i>
Other original scientific research works presented - articles and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information	<u>A total of 10 pieces</u> • <u>publications in Web of Science journals – 4;</u> • <u>publications in Scopus – 5;</u> • <u>publications in Scopus and Web of Science – 1;</u>
Requirement to meet the relevant minimum national criteria of the ADARB	TOTAL POINTS BY INDICATORS A + C + D + E + F <u>1167,49 points</u> Note: the candidate significantly exceeds the required minimum

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

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev, in the attached evidence, indicated over 3,200 hours of classroom work for the period /equated to exercises/.

In addition, as a lecturer at the University of Forestry, Faculty of Forestry, Department of Forest Management, he has developed the curricula for the following disciplines:

- "Forestry Management" from the curriculum of the specialty "Forestry", educational and qualification degree "Master" adopted by the Academic Council of the University of Forestry with protocol 7/07.07.2021;
- "Economics and Forestry Management" from the curriculum of the specialty "Business Management", educational and qualification degree "Bachelor", adopted by the Academic Council of the University of Forestry with protocol M) 17/07.07.2021;
- "International Economic and Currency Relations" from the curriculum of the specialty "Business Management", educational and qualification degree "Bachelor", adopted by the Academic Council of the University of Forestry with protocol N917/07.07.2021.
- "Management of Innovations and Investments" from the curriculum of the specialty "Business Management", educational and qualification degree "Master" adopted by the Academic Council of the University of Forestry with protocol N917/07.07.2021.

Along with his teaching, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev works very actively with students, and during the period 12 graduates in the specialty "Business Management" have successfully defended their degrees. This is a result of the successful teaching and teaching activity of the candidate, as the number of graduates has been stable over the years, which speaks of the serious attitude towards their leadership.

Under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev, doctoral student Zlatina Ivanova Todorova successfully defended her dissertation on 24.10.2019 with the topic "Opportunities for integrated management of forest territories".

From the information provided, I can conclude that the candidate has a high level of teaching and teaching activity, and the disciplines he teaches are widely used in the works of graduate and doctoral students.

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

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS – 47

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

The submitted publications form an area of several scientific directions in which the candidate develops his professional, expert and scientific activity, namely: economics and management of forestry; valuation of investments in real assets; analysis of company competitiveness; application of quantitative methods in economics. The review and analysis of the publications submitted for review show, in combination with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev in the mentioned projects, the skillful combination of scientific with scientific-applied results. This proves his in-depth knowledge and rich toolkit, through which the results presented in the publications were achieved.

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev has the necessary research experience, which is evident from his participation in 3 national projects /as an expert/ and participation in one international scientific project (Self-assessment table of compliance with minimum national requirements).

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

The results of the publication activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev can be characterized as scientific, scientifically applied and applied. The main scientific results are the following:

- a theoretically justified and tested system of internationally comparable indicators, characterizing the competitiveness of forestry at the national level;
- a theoretically justified and tested objective system of quantitative indicators and metrics, characterizing the competitiveness of forestry enterprises;
- a developed system of practically applicable quantitative indicators, objectively characterizing the process of sustainable management of forest areas in Bulgaria in economic, environmental and social aspects;

In terms of scientific and applied results:

- through the application of multidimensional statistical methods - factor analysis and linear arrangement in the multidimensional space, indices of competitiveness of forestry at the national level and indices of competitiveness at the level of forestry enterprises have been constructed.

- an approach has been 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.

- a vector model with error correction has been constructed, which allows to study the relationship between gross fixed capital formation, loans and savings of households in Bulgaria in the short and long term.

In terms of applied results:

- an assessment of the competitiveness of forestry enterprises in thirteen European countries during the period 2015-2020 was made;
- factors affecting the number of employed persons in the Bulgarian economy were substantiated and a multiple regression model was specified
- a model was developed for assessing the financial efficiency of an investment in logging equipment by a business organization operating in the forestry sector of Bulgaria

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

After reviewing the presented reference for the citations of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev, after his election as Associate Professor, the information about them can be summarized as follows:

TOTAL - 52 CITATIONS.

According to the type of citations:

- In scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science - 7 pcs.;
- In scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Web of Science - 5 pcs.;
- In scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus - 1 pc.;
- In monographs with scientific review - 17 pcs.;
- In non-refereed journals - 22 pcs.

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

I agree with the proposed categorization of contributions, which divides them into scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions. Evidence for them is found in the candidate's publications, the results of which I find to be widely applicable. As an assessment - I accept the report on contributions thus prepared by the candidate.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

From the review of the independent publications, it is evident that there is a developed own scientific style and manner of presentation. This is also evident from the publications in co-authorship. The review of the submitted publications shows that out of all 47 – 14 are independent; with one co-author – 24; with two co-authors – 6; with three or more co-authors – 3. In the presented monograph, the author is only Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev, one textbook is independent, and in the other there is one co-author, and in all of them the candidate's own contribution is evident.

6. Critical remarks

I have no significant critical remarks towards Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev. As a recommendation, I would point out, based on his accumulated rich experience, that he should strengthen his project activities, which will enable him to expand his contacts and opportunities for a more complete presentation of his scientific and educational potential.

7. Personal impressions

I have close impressions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Nikolov Kolev. Throughout the time we have known each other as colleagues, I can only express positive things related to our common work. He always manages to find an approach to achieve the desired results, and during the administrative duties we perform, he proves to be a good and responsive colleague who can be relied on. I know the field of his scientific interests closely, which, in addition to the review of the publications submitted for review for participation in the competition, confirms that he is an established scientist and teacher.

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 the Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management, scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (by branches).

Prepared the opinion:

Assoc. Prof. Galin Iliev ~~Milchev~~, PhD

Opinion delivered to: 25.04.2025