



OPINION

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 "Economics and management of landscape architecture".

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-0125-157 for the needs of the Department of Forest Management and Management at the Faculty of Forestry, Assoc. Prof. Elena Ilieva Dragozova, Ph.D. from the Department of Forest Management at the Faculty of Forestry participates as a candidate.

A member of the scientific jury prepared the opinion: Doctor of Science Pencho Stoyanov Penchev, Professor in the professional field 3.7 Administration and Management from the Higher School of Agribusiness and Regional Development – Plovdiv.

1. Short biographical data about the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dragozova has been a lecturer at the University of Forestry for more than 20 years. She graduated from the University of Forestry in Sofia in 1997 with a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture. Since 2005, she has been a full-time assistant professor at the Department of Resource and Environmental Management at the Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Forestry. She has consistently developed in her career as a senior assistant professor from 2007 to 2011, chief assistant professor from 2011 to 2016, associate professor since March 2016.

She defended her PhD Thesis in May 2012 on the topic: "Research on the management model of landscape architectural activity in the green systems of cities".

From the submitted application materials for the competition, it is clear that she lectures and leads exercises in the disciplines: Economics and management of landscape architecture; Organizational behavior; Human resource management; Business communications and public relations; Management for the specialty "Landscape Architecture"; Investment Process Management (for the specialty Ecology and Environmental Protection). Her main areas of scientific interests are: economics and management of landscape architecture, investment process management; human resources management, competence management, etc.

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 the announced competition for the academic position of "professor", one candidate has submitted documents and has been admitted to participate - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Ilieva Dragozova from the Department of Forestry and Management of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Forestry.

From the attached documents for the competition, it is clear that she has an active research, applied science and teaching career.

The materials submitted by the candidate for the competition are complete and meet the requirements of the Act on 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. During the first meeting of the scientific jury, it was established that there were no violations of the current regulations. I confirm this opinion in this document. From the attached report - self-assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements for an announced competition, it is clear that the candidate covers the MNE by all criteria, and by some of them, indicators D and F, significantly exceeds the requirements. The total number of points in the report for the MNE is 970.77 p.

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

The materials provided for the competition indicate that the candidate has the required standard teaching hours, and significantly exceeds them. Her basic higher education, and then the professional academic development of Assoc. Prof. Dragozova prove that she has the necessary pedagogical training and teaching experience. From all the materials proving: developed curricula, lecture courses, teaching aids, number of hours taught, defended graduates - over 18, defended PhD students - 1 and studying doctoral students - 2, etc. it can be confirmed that Assoc. Prof. Dragozova is an established teacher in the field of economics and management of landscape and architectural activities.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific, applied and publication activity.

The materials submitted by the candidate for the competition include:

A. 23 Scientific publications, distributed as follows- Monographs – 2, publications in IF journals- 7, including in foreign refereed – 5 and in Bulgarian refereed – 2, publications and full-text reports in non-refereed publications – 14, 1 independent manual and 1 study guide.

B. Leadership and participation in 5 research and educational projects:

C. Presented certificates, attestations and other documents for various types of scientific expertise, reviews of publications in a number of specialized publications and mobility;

D. Membership in scientific and professional organizations;

E. Awards and other scientific and professional activities.

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Dragozova presents a document that proves significant activity in terms of participation in scientific research and educational projects. Most of them are of national importance, but one of the projects is international under the BiodivRestore program and is aimed

at supporting decision-making in the field of biodiversity conservation policy on the topic: "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" - an extremely relevant and important problem for the current state of nature management.

Assoc. Prof. Dragozova is the project manager, focused on competence management in the field of specialties in which the University of Forestry is a leading center in training. As a result of the two-year work on the project, some of the scientific and applied contributions in the field of human resources management are also part of it. This is a scientific field in which the candidate has demonstrated a lasting interest throughout the years of her academic scientific career.

4.2 Characteristics of published scientific results

The general overview of the submitted publications shows that the scientific results have been published in various prestigious scientific journals and refereed editions. Three of the publications are in refereed and indexed in global databases - Web of Sci and Scopus scientific journals with an impact factor. A large part of the scientific publications 20 are plenary reports from international prestigious forums, published in full text. Four of them are in editions and collections, refereed in Web of Sci and Scopus. Thirteen of the publications submitted in the competition are in Bulgarian, the remaining 10 are in a foreign language. Four of the publications are independent, 10 publications are with one co-author, and 9 are with more than one co-author. Based on these data, it can be summarized that the larger share of the publications are the personal work of the candidate, including the two monographic studies that the candidate submits for participation in the competition.

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

A total of 36 citations are presented to the documents of the candidate in the competition. According to the type of citations, they are distributed as follows:

- In refereed journals and proceedings of scientific forums - 15 citations;
- In monographs - 7 citations.
- In non-refereed journals - 14 citations.

The data makes it clear that the scientific results are recognizable and have a significant degree of publicity and significance for representatives of the scientific community and the data show that the Minimum National Requirements for this criterion are met and exceeded.

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

The contributions of the candidate's works can be divided into the following groups:

A. Scientific:

- 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 education. (B3.1.; G .7.4.; G .7.5.; G 7.7)

- 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. [G6.2.; G6.4.; G6.6.; G7.1.]
- 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. [G6.3.; G7.8.; G7.10]
- A toolkit has been proposed and results of research on various alternatives for building green infrastructure have been obtained and summarized, which would maintain a balance in sustainability between the economic, social and environmental system. [G7.11.; G7.12.; G7.13.]
- 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. [G6.1.; G6.5.; G6.7.; G7.2.; G7.3.; G7.6.; G7.9.]

B. Scientific and applied

- The author's methodology for assessing the correspondence between educational competencies and work competencies of the landscape architect has been developed and approved. [B3.1.; G7.4.]
- 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.; G6.2.]
- 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 educational and professional knowledge and skills and the relevant European practice. [G7.14]
- A research toolkit has been proposed and approved to study the motivation and degree of satisfaction of employees in higher education institutions. [G4.1]

C. Applied contributions

- A map for assessing the correspondence between educational competencies and work competencies has been developed and proposed.
- A survey toolkit for continuous monitoring of acquired educational competencies, synchronized with the requirements of the labor market, has been developed and tested.

- 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.
- 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 contributions that stand out in the works of Assoc. Prof. Dragozova are significant for science and practice in the field of the announced competition.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The documents submitted for the competition by Assoc. Prof. Dragozova allow me to summarize:

- I do not find plagiarism in the independent scientific works with which she is presenting herself in the competition. They are the personal work of the candidate.
- For the scientific publications in the nature of articles and reports in refereed publications, which are co-authored, protocols for the candidate's share of participation are presented, and in the other articles I accept the personal contribution as equivalent to that of her co-authors. All this is also clear from the reference for the Minimum National Requirements.

6. Critical remarks

I do not find any significant weaknesses or omissions. That is why I do not make any critical remarks in the opinion.

7. Personal Impressions

My personal impressions of the candidate are entirely positive and are based on a number of participations in scientific and expert forums, as well as personal impressions of the candidate's published research results - monographs and articles.

8. Conclusion

Considering the scientific and teaching activities of the candidate in the competition and the above, I find it reasonable to propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Ilieva Dragozova be elected as a "professor" at the Department of "Forest Management " 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 "ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE".

Prepared the opinion:

(Prof. D.Sc. Pencho Penchev)

V. Tarnovo, April 18, 2025

The opinion was submitted to: