

OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „**Professor**“ in the field Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.7. Administration and management, scientific specialty “Economic and management (by sectors)” in the discipline “Management of forestry”

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-0125-158 for the needs of the Department of „Forest management and management“ at the Faculty of forestry, as a candidate participate Assoc. Prof. PhD Konstantin Kolev, Faculty of forestry, Department of “Forest management and management”.

Prepared the opinion: Tsvetka Atanasova Stoencheva, PhD, Professor in a Professional Field 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty “National economy /regional economy/ from University of National and World Economy.

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

One candidate participated in the competition for professor – Assoc. Prof. PhD Konstantin Nikolov Kolev. From January 2010 to this moment, the candidate for professor Konstantin Kolev has successively held the position of chief assistant and associate professor. When following his professional development from the submitted documents, a consistent upgrade and growth in the field of forestry management is visible, and this corresponds to the announced competition. Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Kolev has a very solid theoretical preparation: “Master of Forestry Engineering”, “Master of Public Finance”, PhD with code 05.02.18 in the scientific specialty “Economics and Management (by sectors)”, “Master of Statistics, Econometrics and Actuarial Science”. He has held the academic position of associate professor since April 2014.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Kolev has fulfilled the requirements for holding the academic position of professor in quantitative and qualitative terms.

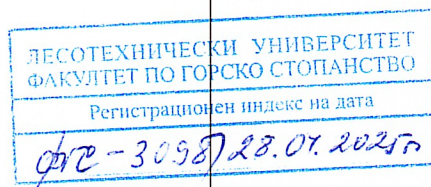
It can be categorically concluded that the candidate possesses all the necessary requirements for participating in the competition for professor.

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.

From the submitted documents for the competition and the supporting evidence becomes clear that the candidate Assoc. Prof. Kolev meets the requirements for holding the academic position of “professor”. More precisely, the documents include:

- Diplomas for completed education, diploma for acquiring the ONS “Doctor”.
- Master's diplomas.
- Publications - monographs, articles, reports, etc.
- Participation in projects.

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- Participation in projects.

- Study load in relevant disciplines;
- Etc.

It can be concluded that all submitted documents and materials of the candidate are in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Forestry.

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

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kolev read lectures and has research activities at the University of Forestry – Sofia and the University of National and World Economy – Sofia. He read lectures on the disciplines Management of Forestry, Economics and Management of Forestry, International Economic and Monetary Relations, General Economic Theory, Finances of tourist company, Management of Innovations and Investments etc. During his many years of teaching experience, he is the author of the curricula of the relevant disciplines. He has been the scientific supervisor of a large number of successfully defended graduates from the Faculty of Business Administration. He actively participates in conducting online training using a specialized training platform (Blackboard and Moodle), for which he has prepared the necessary teaching materials. It can be confidently concluded that Assoc. Prof. Kolev is an experienced and erudite lecturer with an affinity for implementing innovations in lecturing.

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

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

- Monographs – 2 numbers;
- Textbooks – 2 numbers;
- Publications/Scientific articles and reports/ – 43 numbers.
- Projects – 4 numbers.

From the total numbers of 47 publications, 41 are published in Bulgaria, and 6 are published abroad. 17 of the publications are in Bulgarian language and 30 are in English language.

Ten articles and reports are published in journals referenced and indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. Four of the publications are in Web of Science and five of the publications are in Scopus, one publications is in Web of Science and Scopus.

33 publications are in journals and proceedings of international scientific forums referenced outside the Web of Science and Scopus.

Part of the publications of Assoc. Prof. Kolev contain both scientific and applied scientific contributions, and thus are a source of utility, both fundamentally and practically. His focus and dedication in searching, discovering, researching and solving management problems in forestry are impressive.

4.1. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Kolev has a proven participation in research projects. He participates in the competition for the title of “Professor” with four projects. He is the team leader in one of the projects. He participated in three of them as an expert. In two projects he participated in a team at the University of National and World Economy and Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. His participation is distinguished by a creative approach to the researched problems and proves his ability to work in a team.

4.2. Characterization of published scientific results

The publications presented by the candidate represent current scientific research in the field of the announced competition and create a positive impression of competent knowledge in the field of the announced competition.

At this time, no plagiarism has been found and proven in accordance with the procedure established by the law.

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

- Total – 52 citations.

By type of citations:

- In journals and proceedings of scientific forums reference and indexed in Web of Science and Scopus – 13 citations;
- In peer-reviewed monographs and peer-reviewed journals referenced outside the Web of Science and Scopus – 39 citations.

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

In the presented scientific publications of the candidate Assoc. Prof. PhD Konstantin Kolev, the following more important scientific, scientific-applied and applied proposals with character of contributions stand out:

Scientific contributions

In publications № B3.1, № Г6.6, № Г7.15, a system of internationally comparable indicators characterizing the competitiveness of forestry at the national level has been substantiated and verified.

In publications № Г6.2, № E18.1, № E20.1, a system of quantitative indicators and sub-indicators characterizing the competitiveness of forestry enterprises has been verified.

In publication № Г7.17, a system of applicable quantitative indicators has been developed that objectively characterize the process of sustainable management of forest areas in Bulgaria.

Scientific-applied contributions

In publication № B3.1. is presented model for studying the efficiency of using of the possessed forest resources in relation to the gross value added produced in forestry.

In publications № B3.1, № Г6.6, № Г7.15, № E18.1, № E20.1. are constructed indices of competitiveness of forestry at the national level and indices of competitiveness at the level of forestry enterprises.

An approach is proposed for verification of scientific hypotheses about the insufficient investments in forestry in Bulgaria /publication № Г6.10/, an index of sustainable management of forest territories in Bulgaria in economic, ecological and social aspects is constructed /publication № Г7.17/.

The application of a model is justified, through which is studied the efficiency of the costs incurred for acquisition of long-term tangible assets and the foreign direct investments in relation to the employment rate and labor productivity in a regional aspect in Bulgaria /publication № Г7.26/.

In publication № Г7.33 is specified a regression model through which in short and long terms period is analyzed the relationship between consumer loans, gross fixed capital formation and the effective interest rate on consumer loans in Bulgaria.

Applied contributions

In publication № B3.1 is assessed the competitiveness of the forestry enterprises of thirteen European countries in the period 2015-2020.

In publication № Г6.2 is assessed the competitiveness of the six state enterprises for the management of state-owned forest territories in 2014.

In /publication № Г7.6/ is developed a model to assess the financial efficiency of an investment in timber logging equipment by a business organization operating in the forestry sector of Bulgaria and in publication № Г6.5 is proved that the rate of return on investment in poplar culture located in Southern Bulgaria is not effective enough for the potential investors.

In publication № Г7.17 is done a quantitative assessment of the level of sustainable management of forest territories of 35 territorial divisions of the Southwestern State Enterprise Blagoevgrad in 2017.

I accept the contributions in the indicated directions. They are undeniable evidence about the ability of Assos. Prof. Kolev to generate new ideas, to research and substantiate their significance and applicability.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

Assoc. Prof. Kolev is participating with a significant number of publications. They are published in reputable editions and have received publicity. In connection with the candidate's personal contribution, it should be emphasized that in 14 of the publications with which he participated in the competition he is the only author, 24 of the publications are with one co-author, 6 of the publications are with two co-authors and only 3 of the publications are with three or more co-authors.

6. Critical remarks

I do not have critical remarks.

I recommend the candidate to continue his work on writing university textbooks and participating in international projects.

7. Personal impressions

Very hardworking, responsible, disciplined and dedicated to his work.

8. Conclusion

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. PhD Konstantin Kolev to be elected as a „Professor“ in the discipline „Management of forestry“ in the Professional field 3.7. Administration and management, scientific specialty „Economic and management (by sectors)“.

Prepared the opinion:

/Prof. PhD Tsvetka Stoencheva/

Opinion delivered to: 25.04.2025