

ССС-3045/24.04.20

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 number 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 and management“ at the Faculty of Forestry, as a candidate participate Assoc. Prof. Elena Ilieva Dragozova. Faculty of Forestry, Department of „Forestry and management“.

Prepared the opinion: Professor Nikolay Karev Karev, a Professional Field 3.7 Administration and Management, from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

The candidate for professor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Ilieva Dragozova graduated as a master in 1997 in the specialty "Landscape Architecture" of the University of Forestry. In 2012, she successfully defended her ONS "doctor" in the professional field 3.7 Administration and Management on the topic: Research on the model for managing landscape architectural activities in the green systems of cities. During the period 1999 - 2001, she worked as an accountant, office coordinator at "Desit" OOD, from 2001 - 2002 as a landscape architect at "Rudi 92" EOOD, from 2002 - 2003 office organizer "Clerk" AD and 2003 deputy manager "Ventos" EOOD. From 2003 to the present, Assoc. Prof. Dragozova has worked at the University of Forestry, and during the period 2003 - 2005, holds the position of organizer of educational activities, after which she holds the academic positions of assistant professor in the period 2005 - 2007, senior assistant professor 2007 - 2011, chief assistant professor 2011 - 2016. From March 2016 to the present she is an associate professor. Assoc. Prof. Dragozova was the head of the Department of IURP from May 2019 to 2023, and from March 2023 to the present she is the Deputy Rector of LTU for Accreditation and Rating, Communication Policy and Career Development. She is a member of the Academic Council of LTU, the Union of Quality Specialists in Bulgaria and the Association of Teachers of Economics and Management in Industry. She participates in the organizational and editorial team of the journal Management and Sustainable Development, has completed numerous courses with acquired competencies from them and won awards from various forums. She lectures on the disciplines Economics and Management of Landscape Architecture, Human Resources Management, Organizational Behavior, Management, Business Communications and Public Relations. Assoc. Prof. Dragozova is fluent in English and Russian at a high level.

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 of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Elena Dragozova are in accordance with the requirements of Art. 65 para. 1 of the Regulations for RAS at LTU, as well as with the national requirements under Art. 26, para. 2, 3 and 6. The submitted certificate for fulfilling the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" reflects the main scientific achievements /published monographs, textbook, teaching aid, articles and conference reports, citations of scientific publications and participation in various projects/ of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Dragozova. The certificate shows that the candidate has fulfilled all the minimum requirements. The points for the individual indicators are as follows: for indicator A - 50 points out of a required 50; for indicator B - 100 points out of a required 100; for indicator D - 265.77 points out of a required 200; by indicator D – 360 points with a required 100 and by indicator E – 195 points with a required 100. All materials for the competition are described in detail and presented with evidence. The total number of points from the sum of the indicators is 970.77 with a minimum required 550 points. This shows that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Dragozova fulfills and exceeds the minimum national requirements for the academic position of professor in the scientific field of the competition 3. Social and legal sciences, professional field 3.7 Administration and management.

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

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dragozova began in 2005 and continues to this day through the developed bachelor's and master's curricula of the following academic disciplines:

- "Economics and Management of Landscape Architecture";
- "Management" for the specialty LA;
- "Organizational Behavior" for the specialty AT and SU;
- "Human Resources Management" for the specialty AT, SU and RZ;
- "Economics and Environmental Management" for the specialty EEOS;
- "Business Communications and Public Relations" for the specialties AT, SU and RZ.

Assoc. Prof. Dragozova actively participates in the final stage of the students' training as a thesis supervisor of 18 students /eight from the specialty "Landscape Architecture" and ten from the specialty "Business Management"/ and in the committees for the thesis defenses of the students from the specialty "Landscape Architecture" during the period 2019 - 2024. She is a scientific supervisor of three doctoral students - two currently active and one who defended in 2021 in the professional field: 3.7. Administration and Management. From the reference provided to me for developed curricula and classes led by her, as well as for the work with students and doctoral students, I assess that the candidate is an established lecturer at the LTU, has impeccable and sufficient pedagogical activity at the university, and the work with students and doctoral students is at a high professional level.

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

General description of the presented materials

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Dragozova participates in the 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 with the following materials:

- Monographs - 2 issues;
- Textbooks - 1 issue;
- Teaching aids - 1 issue;
- Publications - 21 issues (of which 7 issues in journals with IF and 14 issues in non-referenced publications);
- Projects - 5 issues.

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Dragozova participates in four national projects /E 16.1, E 16.2, E 16.3, E 16.4/ of which she is the leader and in one international project /E 17.1/ in which she is a team member. In the implementation of the projects, Assoc. Prof. Dragozova, as I mentioned, participated in her capacity as a leader, team member, mentor, expert, thereby demonstrating her excellent organizational, communication and creative knowledge, skills and competencies for working in national and international teams.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

For participation in the competition, the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Dragozova presents a total of 23 works and publications with supporting evidence, which are after acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor". Their distribution by indicators is as follows:

B3 Habilitation thesis – monograph – 1 issue – B 3.1

D4 Published monograph that is not presented as the main habilitation thesis – 1 issue – D 4.1

D 6 Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 7 issues – D6.1 – D 6.7

D 7 Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 14 issues – D7.1 – D7.14

D11 Citations or reviews of scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes – 15 issues – D11.1 – D11.12

D12 Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 7 issues – D12.1 – D 12.5

D13 Citations in or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 14 issues – D13.1 – D13.12

E15 Supervision of a successfully defended doctoral student – 1 doctoral student – E15.1

E 16 Participation in a national scientific or educational project – 4 issues – E16.1 – E16.4.

E 17 Participation in an international scientific or educational project – 1 issue – E17.1

E20 Published university textbook or textbook used in the school network – 1 issue – E20.1

E21 Published university teaching aid or teaching aid used in the school network – 1 issue – E21.1

Of the 21 articles and reports presented, 2 are independent, 11 are with one co-author, 7 are with three or more co-authors. Regarding the language in which they were published – thirteen publications in English and eight in Bulgarian.

The two monographs "Management of Competencies for Better Professional Performance", part 1: Landscape Architect and "Research on Motivation and Job Satisfaction", as well as the textbook "Economics and Management of Landscape Architecture", part: Management and the textbook "Business Communications and Public Relations" are independent developments of the author published in Bulgarian for students of various specialties of the LTU with a scientific and applied focus.

The documents correctly present general lists of all publications in previous competitions and for the current procedure for a professor supported by evidentiary material.

The published scientific results are in the professional field and scientific specialty for which the competition was announced and prove the process of building and establishing Assoc. Prof. Dragozova as a scientist.

4.3 Reflection of Candidate's Scientific Publication sin Literature (known citations)

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Dragozova presents a reference and evidence for a total of 36 known citations by other authors.

According to the type of citations:

- In scientific publications, referenced and indexed in global databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes – 15 citations;
- In monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 7 citations;
- In non-refereed journals with scientific review – 14 citations

31 publications were cited – independent and co-authored, which is evidence that the candidate's professional results have become known to the scientific community.

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

In the competition for professor, Assoc. Prof. Dragozova has declared five scientific, four scientific-applied and four applied contributions, which are correctly indicated in the submitted author's reference for them. My acquaintance with the materials of the announced competition allows me to confidently acknowledge the contributions indicated by the author /without repeating them/ and to conclude that they contain the indicated scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, which in terms of volume and significance for science and practice are completely sufficient for the academic position of professor.

I must note that Assoc. Prof. Dragozova's research activity has consistency and logic. Her enduring interest in the study of problems related to the management of competencies for better professional performance, motivation and job satisfaction, as well as business communications and public relations is evident. She has demonstrated the ability and skills to systematize and critically evaluate theories and methodological approaches in the researched scientific fields, to clearly define problems and formulate guidelines for solving them, as well as the ability to closely connect scientific research with its practical applicability.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

From the submitted evidentiary materials for the announced competition for the academic position of "professor", it is established that the two monographs, the textbook, the teaching aid and two of the scientific publications were entirely developed by the candidate. Of the publications co-authored, Assoc. Prof. Dragozova is the lead author in 11 of the publications, in second place in 4 publications, in third and following place also in 4 of the publications. From the submitted separation protocols for articles in co-authorship, it is established that Assoc. Prof. Dragozova has a greater contribution than the other co-authors. Based on the indicated information, it can be argued that the presented scientific, applied scientific and applied contributions in the works of Assoc. Prof. Dragozova are her work. The contributions achieved are significant in the scientific field in which the competition is announced, namely 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" and will be useful for science and practice.

6. Critical remarks

I have no critical remarks about the scientific research, teaching and expert activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Dragozova. The materials provided are well structured, the evidence provided is convincing. I find no gaps and contradictions with well-known and established theoretical statements, inaccuracies and errors in the interpretation of facts and results.

7. Personal impressions

I know Assoc. Prof. Dragozova from our joint participation in the international scientific conference "Management and Sustainable Development" organized by the University of Forestry and from our participation in other conferences and seminars, as well as from our joint participation in the meetings organized by the Association of Teachers of Economics and Management in Industry. With her we have discussed scientific problems related to the papers we presented, curricula and programs, opportunities for joint work.

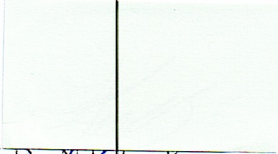
My impressions are that Assoc. Prof. Dragozova is a serious, disciplined and correct person, striving to improve her qualifications and help her colleagues. She is a purposeful and correct researcher, an established scientific worker and a good teacher with very good organizational and communication skills and high pedagogical training, which contribute to her successful work with students, graduates, doctoral students, as well as in team work.

8. Conclusion

The review of the scientific production, educational and applied activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Dragozova in the above points of the opinion shows that she fulfills all the requirements set out in the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations for RAS at LTU for holding the academic position of "professor" at LTU, and in a number of indicators she exceeds them.

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena 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. Dr. Nikolay Karev

Opinion delivered to: 24.04.2025