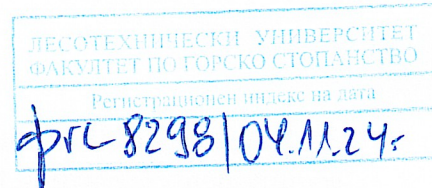


## EXPERT OPINION



on materials submitted for partaking in a state contest for acquiring an academic position  
"Professor" in the field of higher education **6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary  
Medicine, professional field 6.1. Plant breeding, scientific specialty Soil Science, announced  
in the State Gazette, issue no. 60/ 16.07.2024, procedure code FOR P-0624-144 for the needs  
of the Forest University - Sofia**

prepared by

**Prof. Dr. Eng. Margarita Pencheva Mondeshka - Nedyalkova, UACEG** (University of  
Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geodesy) - Sofia

**Professor in the scientific specialty "Land Development (incl. cadaster and real estate  
valuation)" (diploma UACEG reg. № 123 / 23.02.2016)**

**on the scientific documentation of the only candidate who has applied for the very contest -  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bisser Emilov Hristov**

### 1. Short biography

The only candidate in the competition for "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Soil Science" for the needs of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Forestry (UF) Assoc. Prof. Biser Hristov is a graduate of the Forestry University - Sofia and has a master's degree in "Ecology, Conservation and Restoration of the Environment. His scientific career started in 2006 as a doctoral student at the "Nikola Poushkarov" Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection (ISSAPP). After the acquisition of the PhD in Soil Science in 2009, his scientific development included a period as chief assistant (2011-2017) and associate professor in Soil Science from 2018 till now at ISSAPP "Nikola Poushkarov". In 2020, he was elected as an associate professor at the Forestry University - Sofia. In 2023, he was elected as chairman of the Bulgarian Soil Science Society. He is also a member of the Bulgarian Society for Humic Substances, editor-in-chief of the Bulgarian Journal of Soil Science and editor of the Journal of Balkan Ecology - both referenced and indexed in the world database for scientific information. Member of the Scientific Council for Agriculture, Soil Science, Agrochemistry and Land Reclamation at the Agrarian Academy. His teaching career also includes participation in the management structures of FU - he is a member of the Faculty Council of Forestry Faculty. Member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agriculture (FD) of FU - Sofia.

He speaks English (C1 level - TOEFL certificate), uses Russian at a very good level. In addition to the foreign language knowledge necessary for research work, Assoc. Prof. B. Hristov also has technical and computer skills - Internet, MS Office, professional programs (ArcGIS, AutodeskMap, WordPress, Photoshop).

A logical consequence of the competences and interests mentioned so far is the participation of Assoc. Prof. Biser Hristov in numerous international forums, conferences, congresses, as well as participation in over 20 scientific research projects.



- 13 articles and reports published in peer reviewed editions that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (group of indicators G7)
- 8 articles and reports published in non-peer reviewed editions with scientific reviewing and edited collective editions, incl. publications in edited proceedings of scientific forums (group G8);

I would like to summarize that the candidate in the competition participates with more than the minimum required volume of scientific production.

According to the language in which they are written:

- In English - 26 items; • In Bulgarian - 6 issues;

By number of co-authors:

- he is the only author of 8 articles [D6.1, D7.1, D7.4, D7.7, D7.9, D8.2, D8.4, D8.5];
- With one co-author – 7 articles [B4.10, D7.2, D7.3, D7.5, D7.8, D7.11, D8.6];
- With two co-authors - 1 issue [D7.12];
- With three or more co-authors – 16 issues [B4.1, B4.2, B4.3, B4.4, B4.5, B4.6, B4.7, B4.8, B4.9, D7.6, D7.10, D7.13, D8.1, D8.3, D8.7, D8.8];

#### ***4.3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature (citability)***

The only candidate for the commented competition has duly submitted evidence for a total of **46** citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information. Of these, 12 are by Bulgarian authors and 34 are by foreign authors. This is proof that his scientific output has gained recognition in the world scientific community. I assume, however, that this does not exhaust their list, but only the necessary number of citations are indicated, which ensure the fulfillment of the minimum requirements. This, of course, is also a confirmation of both the expediency of these publications and their importance.

#### ***4.4. Contributions in the works of the candidate/s (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)***

The scientific research activity of the candidate Assoc. Prof. B. Hristov is innovative, distinguished by its complexity, topicality, is applicable and has both scientific and real practical value. I would summarize the candidate's contributions as "scientific" and "scientific-applied" as follows:

Scientific contributions (in summary form) include:

- additions to the diagnostics and characteristics of Regosols, Luvisols, Vertisols and Phaeozems in Bulgaria;
- establishment of relationships between the physical, chemical and microbiological properties of leached soils (Luvisols) in Bulgaria;
- study of the content and depth distribution of heavy metals Cu, Zn, Cd, and Pb and their interrelationships with basic chemical characteristics of contaminated soils;

From the scientific and applied contributions of the candidate, I would highlight the following:



Bearing in mind the above, I propose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Biser Emilov Hristov to be appointed to the **academic position "Professor"** in professional field 6.1 Plant breeding, scientific specialty "Soil Science".

Date: 31.10.2024

The expert opinion is prepared by:

Prof. Dr. Eng. Margarita Mondeshka - Nedyalkova