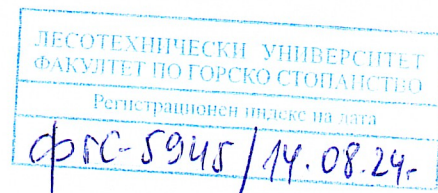


OPINION



on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „**Professor**“ in the field 6 "Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", Professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty „Technology, Mechanization and Automatisatation in Forestry and Timber harvesting“ in the discipline „Mechanization of Forestry“

In the competition for professor, published in the State Gazette 35/19.4.2024 and on the site of the University of Forestry with the code FOR-P-0324-128 for the needs of the Department of „Technologies and Mechanization in Forestry“ at the Faculty of Forestry, as a candidate participate assoc. prof. eng. Konstantin Ivanov Marinov, PhD, Faculty of Forestry, Department of „Technologies and Mechanization in Forestry“.

Prepared the opinion: prof. Dimitar Hristov Angelski, Ph.D., University of Forestry, field 6 - "Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty "Technology, mechanization and automation of the woodworking and furniture industry" appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order No. ЗПЦ-308/31.05.2024 by the Rector of University of Forestry - Sofia

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Assoc. prof. eng. Konstantin Ivanov Marinov, PhD was born in Sofia in 1961. From 1983 he entered the Higher Forestry Institute as a student, graduating in 1988 as an engineer-master majoring in "Forestry mechanization and logging". In the same year, he started working as a researcher in the research sector at the Higher Forestry Institute. Since 1989, he has been an assistant at the "Technologies and mechanization in forestry" department. In 1992 he was appointed as a senior assistant, and in 1999 as a senior assistant at the same department. Meanwhile, from 1998 to 2001, he was a self-taught doctoral student in the scientific specialty "Technology, mechanization and automatization in forestry and timber harvesting". In 2007, he defended his dissertation on the topic "Technological research of mechanical de-winging of coniferous seeds" and received the educational and scientific degree "doctor". After participating in a competition in 2009, he was selected as an "associate professor" at the "Technology and mechanization in forestry" department, with which academic position he applied for a professorship in the current competition. Since 2010, he has been a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria. Over the years, he actively participated in the activities of the commission under Article 23 of Regulation 12/2009 and Article 17 para. 1 of Regulation 1/2019 for the training of candidates for the acquisition of legal capacity to work with agricultural and forestry machinery. Since 2014, he has participated as an expert and representative of the University of Forestry in the standardization activity of BIS/TK 23 "Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forests". In the period from 2016 to 2020, he was the head of the department. In 2024, he was re-elected and is currently the head of the "Forestry technology and mechanization" department.

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.

All provided materials for participation in the competition have been prepared properly, being clearly arranged. They all comply to the recommended requirements as per the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the rules for implementing that law. All the terms and conditions for occupation of academic positions are met as specified under the Rules on development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry.

Konstantin Ivanov Marinov, Associate Professor, PhD, Eng., meets the mandatory requirements for holding the title of "Professor". He has been an associate professor since 2009, and has published a monograph on a different topic than his dissertation. He participated in research projects. He presented a list of scientific works after holding the title of associate professor. He has also presented copies of the diploma for the doctorate, a document for the academic position he holds, a reference for his contributions in scientific works and for citations of his works by other authors, a reference for academic employment at University of Forestry. According to the requirements, other materials and supporting documents for them are presented.

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

The educational and pedagogical activity of the candidate is completely sufficient according to the requirements of the competition. He presents himself as an established teacher and professional with a won authority among colleagues and students at the University of Forestry. This opinion is confirmed by available facts, duly presented in the documentation for this competition. Associate prof. K. Marinov has over 34 years of experience as a university teacher, of which 15 years as an associate professor. Over the years, he has been the holder of lecture courses in 3 academic disciplines. Leading among them is "Mechanization of Forestry", for which the competition is announced. He gave lectures and exercises to undergraduate and graduate students in "Forestry" and to students in a master's course in "Landscape Architecture". He is the author of 4 approved and used in the training of student's study programs for disciplines from the bachelor and the master degree (Reference No. FGS-3948/22.05.2024). Over the years, assoc. prof. K. Marinov has carried out his academic workload in accordance with the Rules of University of Forestry (Reference Note No. FGS-3947/22.05.2024). The academic load of Assoc. Dr. K. Marinov was reduced during the academic year. In the current academic year (2023/24) there is a planned load of 378.4 hours. He is the author of a textbook on Mechanization of Forestry (1st edition from 2013 and 2nd supplemented and revised edition from 2021), as well as co-author of a textbook "Plant Protection Machines" (ISBN: 978-619-160-419-7). In addition, Assoc. prof. K. Marinov is the co-author of a manual for exercises on Agricultural Mechanization (2011 edition). There are also published full lecture courses on the disciplines "Plant Protection Machines" (2014) and "Mechanization of Forestry Activities" (2024) studied in the master's degree (Blackboard and Moodle systems of University of Forestry), of which he is an independent author. Associate Professor K. Marinov was the academic supervisor of a part-time doctoral student who was dismissed with the right of defense

in 2022. He actively participates in the composition of the State Examination Committees for the specialty Forestry.

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

General description of the presented materials

Candidate assoc. prof. Konstantin Ivanov Marinov, PhD participated in the competition with:

- Monographs - 1 unit;
- Textbooks - 3 units;
- Learning materials - 3 units;
- Publications - 36 units;
- Educational projects – 2 units;
- National scientific projects - 4 units;
- International scientific projects - 1 unit.

All above mentioned publications are written after the previous habilitated procedure for acquisition of the academic position “Associate professor” has taken place. Based on the presented documents and materials, it's quite clear that the scientific, applied science and publishing activities are fully compliant with the requirements for occupation of the academic position “Professor” as specified in the Rulebook for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Forestry. The style of the author is professional, academic, clear and readable.

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Konstantin Ivanov Marinov participated in the development of 5 research projects for the time after his election as an associate professor. He is the scientific supervisor of 2 of them. He participated in 2 national educational projects. Also, he participated in 2 applied projects funded by the Educational and Experimental Forestry of University of Forestry. Their topic is related to the mechanization of forestry. He actively participated in the project "Regional policies for sustainable bioenergy "BIO4ECO" financed by the INTERREG Europe program of the EU.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

Assoc. prof. Konstantin Ivanov Marinov develops in-depth scientific and scientific-applied activity. His scientific interests are wide-ranging and spread predominantly in the following summarized directions:

1. Machines for densification of wood and non-wood forest products;
2. Technologies and machines for the extraction of forest seed materials;
3. Technologies and machines for the production of forest planting materials;
4. Technologies and machines for creating forest crops;
5. Technologies and machines for utilization of forest biomass and creation of forest plantations for energy purposes;
6. Technologies and machines for wood extraction.

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

- Total - 55 citations.

By type of citations:

- In reference journals and proceedings of scientific forums - 17 citations;
- In teaching aids, monographs, dissertations, etc. - 2 citations;
- In non-refereed journals with scientific review – 36.

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

In the scientific works presented by assoc. prof. Konstantin Marinov, there are a number of contributions of a scientific, scientific-applied and applied nature, which are correctly indicated in the presented author's reference for them (13 pages). The review of the materials for the announced competition shows that the overall output of the candidate contains contributions that, in terms of volume and significance for science and practice, are fully sufficient for the academic position of "professor". I consider the high competence, professionalism and scientific-research skills of assoc. prof. Konstantin Marinov, and therefore I confidently acknowledge (in order not to repeat them) the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions indicated by him in the reference.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

The documentation lacks information about the Applicant's percentage or other shareholding in the collective publications and developments. The review of those of them, in which he is an independent author, unequivocally shows that he has his own "handwriting" of an established experimenter and researcher. This handwriting of his can easily be found in many other collective works, which gives me reason to say that his personal involvement in them is well noticeable. In addition, the majority of the publications in the competition are the independent work of associate professor Konstantin Marinov (17 items) or co-authored with only one co-author (16 items). Moreover, in the presented 48 publications on the competition, in 39 of them he is the first author or co-author.

6. Critical remarks

I have no major objections to the way the documentation for the competition was compiled, to the materials contained therein, and more specifically to the type and content of the presented copies of the publications. After my detailed review of the presented scientific works, I did not find any significant omissions, inaccuracies or contradictions.

As a more significant inaccuracy in the presented reference-self-assessment, it can be mentioned that the publications D7.1. (Marinov, K., Gochev, Zh., Stoilov, S., 2012. Screw presses study for briquettes' from densified wood. Proceedings of 8-th International Science Conference "Chip and chipless woodworking processes 2012", 6-8 September, 2012, Zvolen: 217-225. ISBN 978-80-228-2385-2) and D7.2. (Gochev, Zh., Stoilov, S., Marinov, K., Ferenčík, M., Lieskovský, M., 2012. Woody biomass utilization in Bulgaria and Slovakia. Proceedings of 8-th International Science Conference "Chip and chipless woodworking processes 2012", 6-8 September, 2012, Zvolen: 117-124. ISBN 978-80-228-2385-2.) are incorrectly placed in the section "Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information. They should be moved to section D8 "Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes".

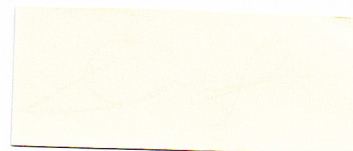
7. Personal impressions

I have many years of direct personal impressions of the personality of assoc. prof. Konstantin Ivanov Marinov. I can say with full confidence that he has distinctly positive qualities. I know him as an open, conscientious and purposeful person. Able to work and create both independently and in a team. The review of the fulfillment of the criteria for occupying the academic position "professor" shows that he not only meets the set requirements, but in most of them significantly exceeds them. All this gives me sufficient reason to express my positive opinion and my conviction about the merits that he possesses not only as a teacher, scientist and specialist, but also as well diversified personality.

8. Conclusion

In connection with the above, I propose that assoc. prof. Konstantin Ivanov Marinov, be elected as a „Professor“ in the discipline „Mechanization of Forestry“ in the Professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty „ Technology, Mechanization and Automatisatation in Forestry and Timber harvesting “.

Prepared the opinion:



Opinion delivered to: 14.08.2024