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| ЛЕСОТЕХНИЧЕСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ФАКУЛТЕТ ПО ГОРСКО СТОПАНСТВО |
| Регистрационен индекс на дата |
| 250-1843/17.03.25 |

REVIEW

On the materials submitted for participation in a competition for an academic position “Professor” in professional area “6.5. Forestry”, scientific specialty “Forest plantations, breeding and seed production” declared by the University of Forestry – Sofia in State Gazette, №107/20.12.2024.

Applicant for the position: Associate Professor, Ph.D. Nasko Alexandrov Iliev

Reviewer: Professor Alexander Haralanov Alexandrov, D.Sc.

1. Brief biographic information about the applicant.

Nasko Iliev was born on 13 May 1967 in Sofia in a family: mother – high school teacher on biology and father -forester who was professor on forest mensuration (1968-1991) in the Higher Institute of Forestry and Technics – Sofia (HIFT) and rector of the same institute from year 1972 till 1979. The candidate graduated the full course from the HIFT (1987-1992) in specialty “Forestry”. His average grade during the training course was excellent (5.53) and of Diploma work – excellent (6.00) (Series B82 №007729 X 1992). After that he has worked consequently as engineer at the National Park “Vitosha” (1993-1998), Assistant professor at the Faculty of Forestry – Sofia (1998-2005), Associate Professor (2005-2025) in the same faculty. A PhD thesis on “Opportunities for enlarging the utilization of Giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Lindl.) Buchh.) by seed and vegetative propagation” he defended in 1997 and the Higher Certifying Commission (HCC) awarded him the scientific degree “Doctor” (HCC – Diploma №24802/04.07.1997). The scientific position “Associate professor” was awarded by the HCC (Diploma №23493/27.02.2006). Since 10 February 2016 till 11 March 2020 he was Deputy Dean of the Forestry Faculty at the University of Forestry – Sofia.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with those required under the Regulation for scientific degree and academic position in the University of Forestry – Sofia.

Documents and materials of Assoc. Prof. Nasko Iliev applied for scientific position “Professor” comply with the requirements in Classifier approved by the Council of Ministers (Decree №125, State Gazette №64/2002) in domain “6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine – professional area 6.5. Forestry” as well as the requirements set in the Regulation for holding academic positions in the University of Forestry.

The minimum required point scores by group of indicators (A, B, G, R, E) for “Professor” in professional area “6.5 Forestry” is 550 (50+100+200+100+100) while the applicant has 1614.1 points

(respectively 50+100+270.8+885+338.3) i. e. almost three times more. It is due to the higher points for “Citation” and “Projects”.

The other requirements are fulfilled as follows:

- 10 individual publications at least or as first author. Assoc. Prof. Nasko Iliev has 11 individual publications and 17 publications as first author i. e. up to total 28. After Associate Professorship they are respectively 2 and 13 in number.

- 5 publications in international journals, indexed in world-known basis data. The applicant has 14 publications of that sort i. e. 3 times more.

- Positive citations, from them 10 – in international and foreign issues. The applicant has pointed out 42 citations in international and foreign issues i. e. 4 times more.

- Guidance of 1 post-graduate student at least. The applicant has guided one post-graduate student defended PhD thesis.

- Leadership of 2 scientific projects and participation of 5 scientific projects at least. The applicant has respectively leadership of 2 projects i. e. as many as required and participation in 14 projects i. e. nearly 3 times more.

According to the authorship protocol of the monograph, Nasko Iliev has 40% share i.e. more than necessary pages for it.

Common description of submitted materials (by type, by importance, publication place, language of publication, the number of co-authors).

The publications of the applicant are up to total 64 (35 of them after Associate-Professorship) and they could be classified according to the following indicators:

By type

- Monographs, books and chapters of books – 2.
- Publications in scientific journals – 35.
- Publications in proceedings – 20.
- Textbooks and training appliances – 3.
- Scientific-popular articles – 4.

By importance

- Monographs – 1.
- Publications in scientific issues refereed and indexed in world-known basis data – 20.
- Publications in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited joint tomes –

15.

- Proceedings – 20.
- Books or book chapters – 1.

Publication place

- in Bulgaria – 54.
- in foreign countries – 10.

Language of publication

- in Bulgarian – 36.
- in English – 26.
- in German – 1.
- in Hungarian – 1.

The number of authors and co-authors

- Single author – 11.
- First author – 17.
- Second author – 24.
- Third author -6.
- Fourth and subsequent author – 6.

The scientific articles of Assoc. Prof. Nasko Iliev are published predominantly in the most well-known Bulgarian scientific journals on forestry and ecology as: Forest Science, Forestry Ideas, Silvae Balcanica, Ecological Engineering and Environment Protection, Management and Sustainable Development. He has published also in some international and foreign journals: Propagation of Ornamental Plants, Journal of Korean Forest Society, Oltenia journal for studies in natural sciences as well as in foreign annuals: Analele Universitatii din Craiova, Annual collection of Forestry Faculty – Skopje.

His co-authors are for the most part researchers from the University of Forestry – Sofia and from the Executive Forestry Agency as well as singly from the Forest Research Institute – BAS, the University of National & World Economy - Sofia. Foreign co-authors are from Germany, UK, Slovakia, Romania, Greece, North Macedonia, Republic of Korea.

3. Main directions in research of the applicant and the most important scientific contributions.

The directions in research of Assoc. Prof. Nasko Iliev are:

- 3.1. Forest seeds and seed production.
- 3.2. Forest nurseries.
- 3.3. Forest plantations (Afforestation).

The most significant scientific contributions of the applicant are the following ones:

- An up to date classification of forest sowing materials according to duration of their keeping

- The seed production sources of *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. in the country are studied.
- The seed quality and seed dormancy of some tree species with limited distribution in Bulgaria are investigated.
- An opportunity for vegetative propagation of tree species by rooting of cuttings and the influence of different auxins (their concentration and terms of treatment) is established.
- Methods for micro-clonal propagation in vitro of *Fraxinus excelsior* L. and *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. are developed.
- A historical review on afforestation in Bulgaria is accomplished.
- The state, growth and productivity of *Prunus avium* L., *Acer platanoides* L. and *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. in the country are studied.
- The distribution, site conditions, age structure, afforestation technology and management of *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. plantations in Bulgaria are analyzed.

4. The most important scientific-applied contributions and embedded activity.

Towards the important scientific-applied contributions of the applicant refer:

- The establishment of seed-production sources for increasing of resistance and productivity of forest plantations is founded.
- New sources of reproductive materials of *Acer platanoides* L. are studied and they are included in corresponding National Register.
- The technologies and work methods of forest nursery production incl. greenhouse and container one as well as in vitro propagation are analyzed.
- The vegetative propagation by grafting depending on applied methods, phenology phases and morphology of components for 5 tree species is experimented.
- The influence of selective herbicides at production of seedlings is established.
- Normative documents for forest nurseries are made – Decree №4/15.02.2012.
- Training on agroforestry in order to preserve the landscape and biodiversity, mitigation of climate changes and improvement of environment is developed.

5. Reflection of scientific publications of the applicant in the literature (reference).

His publications are cited 116 times, from them 56 times in 16 scientific issues refereed and indexed in world-known basis data, 26 times in 20 monographs and edited joint tomes with scientific review and 34 times in 20 non-refereed journals. From the international and foreign journals, where he is cited, more well-known are: Forestry, Plant Ecology, New Forests, Journal of Forest Research, Propagation of Ornamental Plants, Environmental and Experimental Botany etc. The number of cited him researchers exceed 200 from 22 countries in Europe and 9 countries from South America, Asia

and Africa (incl. Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabi, Turkey and Egypt).

6. Participation in scientific and applied projects.

He took part in 12 scientific and applied projects, 3 of them international and 9 – national ones. The applicant was leader of one national project. The project sponsors are: Scientific sector of the University of Forestry – 9 projects, Fund “Scientific investigations” at the Ministry of Education and Science – 2, Operative program “Intereg” – 1.

7. Teaching activity (leader) consultant of PhD students, training students etc.

The applicant is an university lecture throughout 30 years, including 3 years – as Assistant Professor, 7 years – as Chief Assistant Professor and 20 years – as Associate Professor. He is co-author of university textbook “Forest plantations - Forest seed production (2015)”.

Under his supervision was one PhD student (Ljubka Georgiewa Varbeva) who defended PhD thesis in the year 2019.

8. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the applicant.

Besides the indicated publication and teaching activity, where his personal contribution is well outlined, other contributions also should be included:

- Instructions, manuals, analyses – 4.
- Decree for registration of forest nurseries – 1.
- Standard for production and trade of ornamental plants – 1.
- Participation in organizing committees of conferences – 2.
- Participation in scientific jury – 2.
- Contracts for collaboration with firms abroad and in the country – 3 (UK, Germany, Bulgaria).
- Expert technical-economic council – 2 (The Executive Forestry Agency, Bansko Municipality).

9. Critical notes and recommendations.

They refer to the following:

- The applicant could have submitted a dissertation for scientific degree “Doctor of sciences”.
- In the book “ Opportunity for enlarging the utilization of Giant sequoia by seed and vegetative propagation” issued in 2024 on the basis of dissertation work, defended in 1997, it should be included the investigations of the author and those of other researcher during the past 27 years period (1997-2024).

- The article with signature G 7.14 (Theoretical and conceptional framework for research on competitiveness of forest company) has a partial attitude on the announced competition.

10. Personal impressions.

His consultation activity on decorative trees and shrubs is highly appreciated by some scientists of BAS.

11. Conclusion.

The applicant is up to the requirements for an academic position "professor" of the Regulations for academic staff development at the University of Forestry

Based on research and scientific-applied activity of Assoc. Prof. Nasko Alexandrov Iliev I recommend him for a position "Professor" in professional area "6.5 Forestry", scientific specialty "Forest plantations, breeding and seed production".

17.03.2025

Reviewer:

/ Prof. Alexander H. Alexandrov, D.Sc/