

OPINION

ЛЕСОТЕХНИЧЕСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
ФАКУЛТЕТ ПО ГОРСКО СТОПАНСТВО
Регистрационен индекс на дата
фгс-3038/24.04.25.

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of 'Professor' in the field of higher education 6. Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty 'Forest Plantations, Selection and Seed Production' in the discipline 'Forest Plantations'

In the competition for a professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 107/20.12.2024 and on the website of the University of Forestry with procedure code FOR-P-1124-153 for the needs of the Faculty of Forestry, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nasko Alexandrov Iliev** participated as a candidate.

Prepared the opinion: Prof. Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva, professional field 6.5. Forestry from the Forest Research Institute of – Bulgarian Academy of Science.

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nasko Alexandrov Iliev was born in Sofia on 13.05.1967. In 1988, he graduated from the Higher Forestry Institute (University of Forestry) with honors, where he obtained the educational qualification degree (EKS) 'Engineer' in the specialty 'Forestry'. In 1997, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic 'Opportunities for increasing the use of the giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Lindl.) Buchh.) through seed and vegetative propagation' and obtained the educational and scientific degree 'doctor' in the scientific specialty 'Forest plantations, selection and seed production'.

Since 1995 until the present competition, the candidate holds the academic positions of part-time assistant (1995-1998), chief assistant (1998-2005) and associate professor (2005-2025) at the University of Forestry, Faculty of Forestry, Department of Silviculture, where he conducts teaching and research activities, participates in the development of curricula, publication of textbooks and teaching aids in the field of mechanization and technologies in forestry.

For the period 2016-2020, Assoc. Prof. Dr. N. Iliev is the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, is a member of the Commission on the Quality of Education of the Academic Council of University of Forestry (2016-2024). He participates in committees on attestation and accreditation, is the deputy chairman of the organizing committee of international and national scientific conferences organized by University of Forestry, etc. He is a leader and participant in national and international research projects and a compiler of national educational programs, a participant in national and international forums, etc. He speaks Russian and English.

Assoc. Prof. N. Iliev is a member of the Association of Ornamental Plant Producers in Bulgaria, Union of Foresters in Bulgaria, International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS).

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with the required ones according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry.

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. N. Iliev for participation in the competition for the academic position of 'Professor' meet the national minimum requirements for holding this position and the requirements specified in the Regulations for the Development

4.2 Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. N. Iliev has participated in 14 scientific research, applied science and educational projects and has led 2 national scientific research projects, as follows:

- E18. Participation in national scientific or educational projects funded by the Bulgarian Fund 'Scientific Research', Operational Program of the Ministry of Education and Science 'Science and Education for Smart Growth', NIS at the University of Forestry, etc. (11 items).

- E19. Participation in an international scientific or educational project - scientific research project funded by the Bulgarian Fund 'Scientific Research' (1 item) for a comparative study of the state of chestnut forests (*Castanea sativa*) in Bulgaria and Macedonia, 1 project under the Intereg Greece-Bulgaria program, and 1 item for the study of arable forestry practices in the Western Balkans for sustainable development.

- E20. Management of national scientific and educational projects funded by the University of Forestry (1 pc.) and the Sofia Municipality for the afforestation of Borisova Gradina (1 pc.).

4.3 Characteristics of published scientific results

Out of a total of 33 publications in scientific journals and collections, 16 are referenced in the global databases Web of Science and SCOPUS (G7.1-7.16), of which 12 have Impact Factor or SJR Index, the remaining 17 are in non-refereed journals and collections (G8.1-8.17), as well as one book based on a dissertation (G6.1) and one textbook (E22.1). Associate Professor Dr. N. Iliev presents a co-authored monograph 'Production of seedlings of tree and shrub species' (B3.1) as a habilitation work, where original results at a modern level for the application of activities and technologies in nurseries for the production of planting materials, which are used for afforestation for forest and decorative purposes in Bulgaria, are presented. The monograph is divided into two main parts: general principles of nursery production, as well as features of the production of seedlings of various tree and shrub species.

In co-authorship, Assoc. Prof. N. Iliev publishes a textbook on 'Forest plantations. Forest seed production' (E22.1).

4.4. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

Associate Professor Dr. N. Iliev has presented a list with a total of 77 citations, which according to the type of citations are divided as follows:

- D13. Citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes – 37 pcs.

- D14. Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 20 pcs.

- D15. Citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 20 pcs.

4.5. Contributions to the candidate's works (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

The candidate's scientific, applied and theoretical contributions are related to the significant results obtained, structured thematically in three areas: forest seed production, nursery seed production and afforestation. The most significant contributions achieved are the following:

- In a monographic work, an analysis of the nursery production of seedlings of various tree and shrub species, of the activities and technologies in nurseries for the production of planting materials, which are used for afforestation for forest and ornamental purposes in our

publications, the author is in second or third place. Of all the materials, 26 are in English, and the remaining 10 are in Bulgarian.

6. Critical remarks

The report on the scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. N. Iliev has been prepared correctly, as the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions are original and clearly outlining the candidate's scientific research activity. Citations with numbers 1 and 37, which are in articles published in the Journal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (issue 2/2021), cannot be assigned to category D13, since the journal is not indexed in the world-renowned databases Web of Science and Scopus.

7. Personal impressions

My personal impressions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nasko Iliev are related to his research and teaching activities. Assoc. Prof. N. Iliev is a respected lecturer, an erudite scientist, presenting his experience with high competencies in applying modern knowledge for the implementation of activities and technologies in the production of planting materials used for afforestation, forest seed production and the creation of forest crops, etc.

8. Conclusion

The presented original scientific, applied and theoretical contributions in the field of forest crops, the presented high-quality scientific production and analysis of its significance, the long-term experience in teaching and expert activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nasko Iliev give me reason to positively assess the submitted materials for participation in the competition.

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nasko Alexandrov Iliev be elected as a 'Professor' in the discipline Forest Crops in the professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty 'Forest Plantations, Selection and Seed Production'.

Drafted the opinion:

(Prof. Dr. Margarita Georgieva)