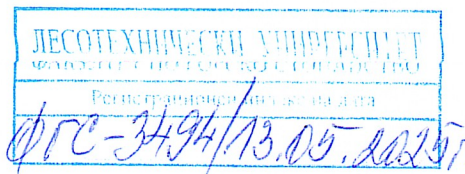


OPINION



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 „Machinery and equipment in forestry, logging, woodworking and furniture industries“ in the discipline „Forest Transport“

In the competition for professor, published in the State Gazette 7/24.01.2025 and on the site of the University of Forestry with the code FOR-P-0125-155 for the needs of the Department of „Technologies and Mechanization in Forestry“ at the Faculty of Forestry, as a candidate participate assoc. prof. eng. Stanimir Jordanov Stoilov, 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. № 3ПЦ-178/ 24.01.2025 by the Rector of University of Forestry - Sofia

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

Assoc. Prof. PhD Stanimir Yordanov Stoilov was born in the town of Elin Pelin in 1964. In 1985 he entered the then Higher Forestry Institute as a student, graduating in 1990 as a master's engineer in the specialty "Forestry Mechanization". The same year he started working at the State Forestry-Sofia. Since 1997 he has been an assistant professor at the Department of "Technologies and Mechanization in Forestry". In 2002 he was appointed as a senior assistant professor, and in 2005 as a chief assistant professor at the same department. In the meantime, from 2002 to 2005 he was a doctoral candidate in the scientific specialty "Machines and Equipment in Forestry, Timber, Woodworking and Furniture Industries". In 2007 defended his dissertation on the topic "Research on traction and traction properties of wheeled tractors in logging" and received the educational and scientific degree "doctor". After participating in a competition in 2010, he was elected as an "associate professor" at the Department of "Technologies and Mechanization in Forestry", with which academic position he is applying for a professor in the current competition. In 2002, Assoc. Prof. Stoilov successfully completed a specialization on the topic "Research on traction and traction properties of wheeled tractors for logging" at the Technical University - Sofia. In 2009, he participated in a six-month specialization at the Technical University - Zvolen, Slovakia on the topic "Use of modern multi-operation machines for work on mountain terrain and utilization of wood biomass for energy production". He has held key management positions over the years. From 1990 to 1997 was the head of the Mechanization Department in the State Forestry Department - Sofia, and in the period from 2016 to 2024 he was the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Forestry. He is a member of the "Association for Energy Utilization of Biomass".

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.

Stanimir Yordanov Stoilov, Associate Professor, PhD, Eng., meets the mandatory requirements for holding the title of "Professor". He has been an associate professor since 2010 and has participated in a number of research and educational projects. He has presented a systematically arranged list of scientific works since taking up 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 candidate's teaching and pedagogical activity is fully sufficient according to the requirements of the competition. He presents himself as an established teacher and professional with a well-earned 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. Assoc. Prof. S. Stoilov has already had over 27 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 5 academic disciplines. Leading among them is "Forest Transport", which is the subject of the announced competition. He has given lectures and exercises with students of bachelor's and master's degrees in the specialty "Forestry". He is the author of 5 approved and used curricula for disciplines of the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in the training of students. Over the years, Assoc. Prof. S. Stoilov has fulfilled his workload in accordance with the Regulations for the activities of the University of Forestry. During the current academic year (2024/25) there is a planned teaching load of 535.4 hours. He is the author of a textbook on Traction Machines (ISBN 978-954-332-157-5), as well as a textbook on "Forest Transport" (ISBN 978-954-332-151-3). In addition, Assoc. Prof. S. Stoilov is the author of a manual for exercises on Traction Machines (ISBN 978-954-332-176-6). Based on participation in Project BG051PO001-4.3.04-0052 "Development of a center for electronic forms of distance learning at the University of Forestry", he has developed a training module for distance learning on "Forest Transport". Assoc. Prof. Stoilov was the scientific supervisor of doctoral student Tihomir Krumov, who successfully defended his dissertation on the topic "Operational Research of a Specialized Wheeled Tractor for Logging" in 2017. Under his leadership, 40 graduates successfully defended their theses, with 23 of them obtaining a "Master's" degree.

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

Candidate assoc. prof. Stanimir Yordanov Stoilov, PhD participated in the competition with:

- Articles equivalent to a monograph – 10 pcs.
- Articles and reports published in scientific publications – 23 pcs.
- Studies published in scientific publications – 1 pc.

- Book based on a defended dissertation - 1 pc.
- Educational projects - 4 pcs.
- National scientific projects - 4 pcs.
- International scientific projects - 1 pc.

All of the publications mentioned were written after the previous habilitation for "associate professor" or were not used. 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

Assoc. Prof. Stanimir Yordanov Stoilov participated in the development of 5 research projects since his election as an associate professor. He is the scientific supervisor of 3 of them. Their topics are related to the mechanization of forestry and the scientific direction of the competition for the title of "professor". He has participated in 4 national educational projects.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

Assoc. Prof. Stanimir Yordanov Stoilov develops scientific and applied scientific activities. His scientific interests are wide-ranging and extend to the following summarized areas:

1. Machines for short-distance transport of wooden materials.
2. Transport development of forest territories.
3. Utilization of wood biomass for energy.
6. Technologies and machines for wood extraction.

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

- Total - 82 citations.

By type of citations:

- In reference journals and proceedings of scientific forums - 72 citations.
- In teaching aids, monographs, dissertations, etc. - 1 citation.
- In non-refereed journals with scientific review – 9 citations.

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

In the scientific works presented by Assoc. Prof. Stanimir Stoilov for participation in the competition, there are several contributions of a scientific, scientifically-applied and applied nature, which are correctly indicated in the presented author's reference for them (9 pages). Additionally, the habilitation reference presents contributions from 10 articles, which are equivalent to a monograph. The review of the materials for the announced competition shows that the candidate's overall production contains contributions that, in terms of volume and significance for science and practice, are completely sufficient for the academic position of "professor". I acknowledge the professionalism and scientific research skills of Assoc. Prof. Stanimir Stoilov and therefore I confidently acknowledge (in order not to repeat them) the scientific, scientifically applied and applied contributions indicated by him in reference.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

The competition documentation lacks information about the percentage or other share of the Candidate in the collective publications and developments. A review of those of them in which he is an independent author shows that he has the characteristic handwriting of an established experimenter and researcher. This handwriting is found in many other collective works, which gives me reason to claim that his personal participation in them is clearly noticeable. Through scientific production (7 publications), which is included in the habilitation report, the scientific work in foreign teams is shown. It gives reason to claim that the Candidate has experience, contribution and capacity to participate in international scientific activity. Most of the publications in the competition are co-authored with one (12) or two co-authors (9), which is a sign of very good teamwork by Assoc. Prof. Stoilov.

6. Critical remarks

I have no significant comments on the way the competition documentation was compiled, the materials contained therein, and more specifically, the type and content of the copies of the publications submitted. After my detailed acquaintance with the submitted scientific works, I did not find any significant omissions, inaccuracies, or contradictions.

As a more significant comment, the lack of a description of the locations of the research conducted in the submitted habilitation report can be noted. Also, it would be appropriate to make a logical connection and/or analytical transition between the scientific research placed in consecutive paragraphs of the habilitation report. The habilitation report should also outline the prospects for scientific research in the coming years.

7. Personal impressions

I have long-standing direct personal impressions of the personality of Assoc. Prof. Stanimir Yordanov Stoilov. I can state with complete confidence that he possesses clearly expressed positive qualities. I know him as an open, conscientious and purposeful person. He can work and create both independently and in a team. The review of the fulfillment of the criteria for occupying the academic position of "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 of the merits that he possesses not only as a teacher, scientist and specialist, but also as a prominent personality.

8. Conclusion

In connection with the above, I propose that assoc. prof. Stanimir Yordanov Stoilov, be elected as a „Professor“ in the discipline „Mechanization of Forestry“ in the Professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty „Machinery and equipment in forestry, logging, woodworking and furniture industries “.

Prepared the opinion:

/prof. Dimitar Angelski/

Opinion delivered to: