



OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of **"Professor"** in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.7 Administration and management, scientific specialty "Organization and management of production" in the discipline "Fundamentals of management"

In the competition for professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 28/01.04.2025 and on the LTU website with procedure code ELA-P-0325-163 for the needs of the Department of Alternative Tourism at the Faculty of Ecology and Landscape Architecture, **Radostina Kancheva Popova-Terziyska**, Faculty of Ecology and Landscape Architecture, Department of Alternative Tourism, participated as a candidate.

Prepared by: PhD, Nevena Vasileva Shuleva, Associate Professor in Professional Field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management" (by industry), from the University of Forestry. I participate in the scientific jury of the competition, in accordance with Order No. ZPS-251/05.05.2025.

1. Brief biographical information about the candidate

Only one candidate participated in the competition for the academic position of "professor" - Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Kancheva Popova-Terziyska. The presented biographical information testifies to the consistent acquisition of professional experience and knowledge related to her academic development and growth. In 2006, the candidate graduated from the University of Forestry and acquired the "Bachelor" qualification with a specialty in "Business Management". Subsequently, she successively acquired the "Master" qualification in "Accounting and Control" with a specialization in "Financial Control" from the University of National and World Economy (2008) and in 2012 successfully defended a dissertation on the topic: "Research on the innovation activity of small and medium-sized enterprises in the furniture sector" for the acquisition of the "Doctor" qualification in Professional field 3.7. Administration and Management", scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production" at the University of Forestry.

The candidate's professional path and academic development began at the University of Forestry as an assistant professor in 2008. From 2013 to 2016, Assoc. Prof. Popova-Terziyska was a chief assistant professor, and since 2016 she has held the academic position of "associate

professor" in the professional field 3.7 Administration and Management, scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production" (Forest Industry). The development of the candidate's creative biography eloquently shows the concentration of his research activity in a well-structured direction in the field of production management, and this corresponds to the announced competition.

Candidate Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska has fulfilled the requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" in quantitative and qualitative terms. It can be categorically concluded that Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska has all the necessary conditions for applying for the competition for holding the academic position of "professor".

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with those required under the Regulations for RAS at LTU.

The submitted documents and evidentiary materials of Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska fully meet the requirements of the Law on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment of Bulgarian Students, the Regulations for its implementation and correspond to the requirements, according to the additional requirements of the Regulations on Sexual Harassment of Bulgarian Students at the University of Technology.

The candidate meets all mandatory conditions under Art. 15 and Art. 24 of the Law on Forestry and Forestry and Art. 60 of the Law on Forestry and Forestry, as well as the Regulations on Forestry and Forestry of the University of Forestry.

Regarding the requirement for an acquired ONS "Doctor" (Art. 60, para. 1, item 1 of the PPZRASRB) - in 2013, Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska defended her dissertation at the University of Forestry, which is evidenced by an acquired diploma with No. LTU-ONS-2013-19/23.10.2013.

Regarding the requirement for minimum academic experience (Art. 60, para. 1, item 2 of the PPZRASRB) - the total work experience of Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska as a lecturer at the University of Forestry is over 16 years (following note No. ЧП-2642#2/15.04.2025).

Obviously, the candidate exceeds the legal requirement for minimum academic experience to hold the academic position of "professor".

Regarding the requirement for a published main monographic work (Art. 60, para. 1, item 3 of the PPZRASRB) - Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska has presented a habilitation work on the topic: " *Innovations in the Forest Industry - Monitoring, Measurement and Management* ", ISBN 978-619-7554-81-6. The work was reviewed by three respected

reviewers in scientific circles - Prof. PhD Nikolay Stoenchev , Prof. PhD Petar Antov and Assoc. Prof. PhD Hristina Stefanova Harizanova- Bartos , was published in 2021 by Intel Entrans Publishing House and is 112 pages long. The monographic work submitted for review in the form of evidentiary material allows me to conclude that the scientific work possesses all the necessary attributes of a completed monographic study . The topic of the monographic work presented in the competition for the title of "Professor", the object, subject and time period to which they refer, do not imply any overlap with the defended dissertation work for the title of "Doctor" and with the monograph for the academic position of "Associate Professor". After checking the National Center for Academic and Research Studies for the candidate Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska, it becomes clear that the monograph presented in the competition is not registered. All this gives me grounds to declare that the habilitation work, a monograph, submitted for review meets the legal requirement of Art. 24, para. 1, item 3 of the Act on Academic and Research Studies and is considered by me as such.

Regarding the requirement to submit other original scientific research works - articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Art. 60, para. 1, item 4 of the PPZRASRB) - the candidate has submitted a total of 14 articles and reports in primary databases such as Scopus and WOS. When reviewing the publications, it was found that Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska participated independently in 1 publication, in another five she is the lead (first) author, and in the rest she is a co-author.

Regarding the requirement to submit other original scientific research works - articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (Art. 60, para. 1, item 4 of the PPZRASRB) - the candidate has submitted a total of 11 publications and a chapter from 2 collective monographs published in Bulgaria - in Bulgarian, English and Macedonian, which have been scientifically edited.

The presented articles and reports are publications that reveal achieved results of high scientific value, which is largely the personal contribution of Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska.

With regard to the requirement to meet the relevant minimum national criteria and the requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2; (Art. 60, para. 1, item 5 of the PPZRASRB) - according to the submitted documents, the candidate has covered and even significantly exceeded the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activities, for occupying the position of AD "professor" in PN 3.7 "Administration and Management". The total number of points

collected by the candidate under individual indicators and criteria is 1,231.16 points, which significantly exceeds the required threshold of 550 points.

It can be concluded that all submitted documents and materials of the candidate are in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the University of Forestry.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's teaching and learning activities (work with students and doctoral students)

Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska has teaching and learning activities at the University of Forestry. She has developed and leads lectures and exercises in the disciplines "Fundamentals of Management", "Marketing", "Organization and Planning of Forest Management" and "Marketing and Advertising" for students of the specialty "Alternative Tourism", specialty "Engineering Design", specialty "Wood and Furniture Technology" and specialty "Computer Technologies in the Furniture Industry" (following notes No. FELA-2761/10.04.2025 and No. FGP-3202/30.04.2025). She also leads lectures and exercises at the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Forestry in the discipline "Teaching Methodology" for students and postgraduates studying to acquire the professional qualification "Teacher" (following note No. TSP-2774/14.04.2025). During the period, the candidate worked actively with the students, under her guidance 4 graduates successfully defended their diploma theses and prepared 7 reviews of diploma theses, which shows his professionalism and teaching results (following note № FELA-2761/10.04.2025). Under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska, doctoral student Elena Tsvetanova Stefanova successfully defended her dissertation (diploma № LTU-ONS-2021-150/27.10.2021; following note № FELA-2761/10.04.2025). The successful and consistent active work with students and doctoral students gives me reason to categorically conclude that the candidate meets all the requirements for occupying the position of "professor at the Forestry University."

4. Assessment of the candidate's scientific, applied scientific and publication activities General description of the materials presented

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska participates in the competition with:

- Monographs - 1 pc.;
- Published chapter of a collective monograph – 2 pcs.;
- Textbooks - 1 pc.;
- Publications - 25 pcs.;
- Projects - 8 pcs.

Of the total number of publications, 29, 11 are in Bulgarian, 18 are in English and 1 is in Macedonian. Fourteen articles and reports have been published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information - Web of Science and Scopus , and 11 in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

Some of the publications of Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska contain both scientific and applied science contributions, and thus are a source of utility, both fundamentally and both practical and personal. Her focus and dedication in searching, discovering, researching and solving management problems in the furniture industry.

4.1 Participation in scientific, applied science and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska has a proven track record of project participation. She participated in the competition for the position of Professor with eight projects. She is the team leader in one project, and she participated in seven of them as an expert (Self-assessment table for compliance with the minimum national requirements). The submitted reference for leadership and participation in scientific projects testifies to the professionalism and accumulated experience of the candidate.

4.2 Characteristics of published scientific results

The publications presented by the candidate represent current scientific research in the field of the announced competition and create a positive impression of competent knowledge in the field of the announced competition. At this time, no plagiarism has been found and proven in accordance with the statutory procedure.

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

Total - 45 citations.

According to the type of citations:

- In refereed and indexed scientific journals, series and conference proceedings with and without impact factor and impact rank – Web of Science and SCOPUS – 26 items;
- In non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 9 issues;
- In monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 10 issues.

This high number of citations reflects the recognition of the candidate's works and is a testament to the quality of his scientific output.

4.4 Contributions to the candidate's works (scientific, applied science, applied)

The publications submitted for review contain a number of scientific, applied scientific and applied contributions. I accept the applicant's prepared summary of the contributions that can be found in the applicant's publications, as follows:

1. Scientific contributions

- Are defined the main ones groups forestry production sector , in accordance with the classification of economic activities and depending on the purpose and consumption of the final products . (publications No. D 7.6.; D 7.8.; D 10.2.; E 20.1.) ;
- It was developed general supply chain and its sub-chains in the forest sector , according to the classification of products by economic activities , which are implemented in a joint Bulgarian-Macedonian virtual consulting office . (publications No. D 7.6.; D 7.8.; D 10.2.) ;
- It is designed and used methodology for diagnostics of student opinion regarding the importance of sustainability development in forestry training university , reflecting the principles of sustainability development and the good European practices , applicable in other higher education institutions. (Publications No. D 7.7.; D 7.10 .)

2. Scientific and applied contributions

- Characterized is the sectoral development of the forest industry in Bulgaria , based on the influence of micro and macro factors the environment , and the results of the functioning of enterprises in it , through the use of a complex methodology . (publications No. D 6.1.; D 6.2.; D 6.5.; D 6.8.; D 6.14.; D 7.1.; D 7.2.; D 7.3.; D 7.8.; D 7.9; D 10.1.; E 20.1.)
- The main ones have been identified management problems and opportunities of the forest industry in conditions of crises caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine , through the application of scientifically based quantitative methods . (publications No. G 6. 8 .; G 6.9.; G 6.12 .)
- *the sectors Furniture production , Wood production is characterized . wood material and products , Paper and cardboard production* , based on the use of three bases data for innovative activity in the forestry industry in Bulgaria for the period 2014-2018, including 938 small , medium and large enterprises , using the official methodology in the EU. (Publications No. B 3; D 7.11.)
- It is appreciated. the innovation activity of the sectors *Furniture manufacturing , Wooden production material and products made of wood material and Production of paper and cardboard* by periods and by types proceedings through use of indicators set out in the methodological OECD documents on the study of innovation in the EU , and the levels of R&D, innovation activities and expenditure are established. (Publication No. B 3)

- The implemented digital marketing tools of leading companies have been evaluated big enterprises for wooden production wood material and products , furniture production and mattress production in Bulgaria . (publications No. D 6.4.; D 6.13.; E 20.1.)
- Recommendations are defined for making management decisions and determining the need for innovations in the forest industry in Bulgaria through application of econometric models. (publications No. D 6.6.; D 6.7.; D 6.10.)
- Identified and summarized are good innovation management practices in the large - scale forest industry enterprises , among which Videnov Furniture E Ltd., Furniture Steel Ltd., Kastamonu Bulgaria AD, Kronospan Bulgaria Ltd. , Ted Bed EAD. (publications No. B 3 ; D 6.13.; D 7.5.)

3. Applied contributions

- Toolkits have been developed for primary surveys of students , teachers and managers from the forest industry in the context of sustainable development and effective interaction between science and business . (publications No. D.6.4.; D.6.13.; D 7.1.; D 7.7.; D 7.10.)

I accept the contributions in the indicated areas. They are undeniable proof of Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska's ability to generate new ideas, to research and substantiate their significance and applicability.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The review of the independent publications categorically proves the presence of his own scientific handwriting. It can also be found in the other publications in which he participates as a co-author. The review of the submitted publications shows that out of all 29, 11 are independent; 9 with one co-author; 7 with two co-authors; 2 with three or more co-authors. We must take into account that the main monographic work submitted, as well as one textbook, were prepared independently by Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska. This gives me reason to conclude that the candidate's personal contribution is significant.

6. Critical notes

I have no significant critical remarks towards the candidate, but I will make a recommendation related to strengthening his/her activities in supervising doctoral students and their successful defense and participation in Bulgarian and international research projects. In this way, Assoc. Prof. Radostina Popova-Terziyska will establish herself in the academic community as a researcher who creates her own school.

7. Personal impressions

I have known Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Popova-Terziyska since she was my student and throughout her professional career. I have had the opportunity to work with her in activities at the Center for Continuing Education and various scientific and conference events. I firmly believe that as a teacher she is not only responsible and demanding, but also creative and inspiring, which motivates students to achieve high results. As a researcher, she is precise, ethical and sought after for participation in scientific and educational projects due to her broad scientific and research interests. In addition, she has excellent communication skills and the ability to create a positive working atmosphere.

8. Conclusion

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. PhD Radostina Kancheva Popova-Terziyska be elected as a "professor" in the discipline "Fundamentals of Management" in Professional Field 3.7 Administration and Management, scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production".

Prepared the opinion:

/Assoc. Prof. PhD Nevena Shuleva /

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