

STATEMENT

On the materials for participation in a competition for the occupation of academic position, **Associate Professor**, field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and informatics **PF 4.4. Earth Sciences**, Scientific specialty "technology for the development and treatment of waste" (recovery and treatment of waste from biodiesel production), declared by University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" in SG 1/03.01.2020, to the Department of Ecology and Environmental protection

Candidates for participation in the competition are:

1. Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Nikola Stoyanov Todorov;

Statement is prepared by:

Prof. PhD Mariana Genova Doncheva-Boneva, Professor in PF 4.4. Earth Sciences at University of Forestry; Scientific specialty "Ecology and conservation of Ecosystems »

1. Brief biographical data of the applicant

Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Nikola Stoyanov Todorov was born on October 25th 1983. In 2007 he graduated program "Tourism" in the University of Economics "Prof. PhD. Asen Zlatarov" and obtained the "Bachelor" degree. After that he continued his studies in the Master's program "International Business", University of Science "Prof. PhD. Asen Zlatarov". In 2011, he graduated another Master's program "Ecology and Environmental protection". In the period 2012 – 2015 Mr. Todorov is a PhD student in "chemistry of high molecular compounds". In 2015, he defended dissertation work on the topic "Utilization of polyethylene terephthalate waste".

In 2010, he started working as a chemist-technician at the University of Varna "Prof. PhD. Asen Zlatarov". Since 2015 he has been appointed a regular assistant, and since 2016, he has been selected as a full-time chief assistant professor.

2. Compliance of submitted documents and materials of the applicant with the required ones according to the Rules for the Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria

Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Nikola Todorov has presented a set of materials in accordance with Article 60 of Rules for the Development of Academic Staff in the University of Forestry. By groups of indicators finding is as follows:

1. Dissertation work to acquire the "Doctor" degree. To dissertation have been published 4 publications. Attached diploma for "Doctor" degree – 50 p. – **in compliance**.
2. Habilitation Work/Monograph – a Monograph of 165 pages is presented. – 1 – 100 p. – **in compliance**.
3. Publications of indicator group Г – 26 pcs. including
 - Scientific publication in issues, refereed and indexed in world famous data bases – 3 pcs. – 86 p.;
 - Scientific publication in non-refereed journals or collective volumes – 23 pcs. – 256.9 p.

Total 342,9 p. – in accordance.

4. Citations – Group Д – 38 pcs., including

- in refereed and indexed issues – 7 pcs. – 35 p.
- in monographs and collective volumes – 3 pcs. – 9 p.
- in non-refereed scientifically peer-reviewed journals – 28 pcs. – 56 p.

Total 100 p. – in compliance.

The required number of points -50 of Group A and 100 of Group B are fulfilled, and from group Г and Д there are more points than the minimum requirements – 342.9 p. (out of 200 p.) and 100 (out of 50 p.) for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" at PF 4.4 "Earth Sciences".

The applicant fulfilled scientometric requirements with total points 592,9 out of 400 required.

3. Assessment of applicant's teaching and learning activity

The teaching activity of the candidate includes conducting of lectures and exercises in the following subjects of the program „Ecology and Environmental Protection“, "Ecology and ecological Management" and "Chemistry", for Bachelor -"Protected Areas", "air pollution and impact on ecosystems", "Environmental monitoring", "ecological Regulations", "environmental monitoring and protection against disasters", "monitoring analysis of water, soils and food". In 2019/2020, the training load was around 500 h.

Chief Assist. Prof PhD Nikola Todorov is the author of course syllabuses for Bachelor – 2 in the discipline "Protected Areas", 2 in "Environmental Monitoring", 3 in "ecological regulations", for various specialties in the university.

The candidate has carried out exercises in the discipline "environmental monitoring" of 4 Master's degree students from Kazakhstan. He has trained 1 student – Bachelor of Science from Kazakhstan on "Geoecology". He is a supervisor of 2 Master's degree students and is co-supervisor of 3 Master students. He has co-authored with students 2 publications. He has 8 participations in scientific forums together with students. The applicant is author of two books for students.

4. Assessment of the applicant's scientific, scientific applied and publishing activity

4.1. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Nikola Todorov participates in 2 Scientific Research National Projects, in one of which he is a team leader, and 6 internal institutional projects, managing 2 of them.

4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results

According to the subject, publications of Chief Assist. Prof. Todorov can be divided into two main directions which are related to the announced competition and in the documents are under № 1 и №3:

1. Recovery and treatment of waste from the production of biodiesel and of waste polyethylene terephthalate (№№ 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18)
3. Study the structure of certain organic compounds or polymers by instrumental methods of analysis (№№ 3, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26).

The applicant formulates the strand 2 "environmental monitoring". A publication is provided, associated with noise load studies in the university area, but is not related to the announced competition. I do not accept on the basis of only one publication to formulate a whole direction in the research activities.

The monograph and 16 of the candidate's publications refer to the first direction. The studies in these publications are related to the utilization of crude glycerol or organic compounds in the glycerol phase as raw materials in the preparation of alkyd polyester resins. The use of waste polyethylene terephthalate from non-alcoholic beverage bottles is also available at the same time .

There are 9 publications referred to the third strand, related to the application of different methods of analysis in the study of the structure of pesticides, oils and biodiesel, unsaturated polyester resins and polymers.

4.3. Reflection of applicant's scientific activity in literature (citation)

The publications of Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Todorov are reflected in the Bulgarian and foreign scientific literature. A reference of 38 citations is presented, reflecting the interest in the scientific activities of the applicant. Todorov has participated in 14 Scientific Forums, through which he also promotes his scientific activity.

4.4. Contributions of the applicant's work (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

I accept presented in the report scientific and scientific-applied contributions from the publications included in the first strand. They fully reflect the scientific and research work of Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Todorov on the topic of the announced competition.

I do not comment on the second strand's contribution, as the topic has nothing to do with the competition.

I consider contributions from third direction publications, but not in the way the candidate formulated "..... interpretation of the results of instrumental analysis methods ". Stated as this, no contribution from the publications in this direction is shown.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

Most of the publications are in co-authorship. Most clearly the candidate's personal contribution stands out in the stand-alone publications (5 pcs.) , publications with more than 90% of participation (7 pcs. -attested by a splitting protocol) and the presented monograph.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

There is a significant discrepancy between the scientific interests of Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Nikola Todorov and his training-teaching activity.

My recommendation to the candidate is to try to match his scientific interests, research and publication activities with the disciplines he teaches in order to convey his true experience and knowledge to the students.

7. Personal Impressions

I do not know Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Nikola Todorov and I have no personal impressions.

8. Conclusion

From the foregoing, I can conclude that overall applicant's activity fully responds to the requirements for *academic position „Associate Professor“ according to the Rules for the Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria and giving my high assessment of applicant's research, teaching and expert activity, I propose Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Nikola Stoyanov Todorov to occupy the academic position „Associate Professor“ of research specialty "Technology for the development and treatment of waste" (recovery and treatment of waste from biodiesel production) .*

Submitted by:

(Prof. Mariana Doncheva-Boneva, PhD)