



## ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in a professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty "Forestry, incl. Dendrology ", announced by the Forest Research Institute – BAS in State Gazette no. 12/12.02.2021.

**Candidate for participation in the competition: Chef Assist. Prof. Dr. Plamen Stankov Glogov**

**Prepared the attitude: Prof. Dr. Svetlana Bancheva**

### **1. Brief biographical information.**

The only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "Assoc. Prof." in a professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty "Forestry, incl. Dendrology ", announced by the Forest Research Institute (FRI) - BAS in in State Gazette no. 12/ 12.02.2021 is Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Plamen Stankov Glogov, born in Sofia in 1975. He holds a master's degree "Environmental Engineer" from the University of Forestry (UF), Sofia, where he studied in the period 1992-1997. In 2018 he acquired the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in FRI-BAS in the scientific specialty "Forestry, incl. Dendrology "(Diploma №000985/ 16.03.2018) after successful defense of a thesis: "Study of the vascular flora and analysis of the dendroflora of Lozenska Mountain". In the period 1998-2006 he successively held the academic positions of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant at UF. In 2006 he was appointed to an expert position in the Ministry of Environment and Water, where he continued his employment until 2015. In 2017 he was started as an "assistant" at FRI -BAS, where he still works as a "chief assistant" in the section "Silviculture and Management of Forest Resources".

### **2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with the minimum requirements, according to the Regulations for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions (RASDHAP) at the FRI-BAS.**

The materials for the competition are prepared in accordance with the current regulations, such as the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Rules for its implementation, RASDHAP of BAS and FRI. A list of 47 publications is presented for participation in the competition. In addition, 2 lists with a total of 8 publications, 4 related to the PhD degree and 4 - with the competition for chief assistant (specific requirement according to RASDHAP of FRI), which are not subject to assessment in this Attitude. The scientific papers participating in the competition are grouped according to the instructions for meeting the minimum national requirements for Professional field 6.5. Forestry. Of these, 10 are publications equivalent to a habilitation report (group "B"), published in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information with a total numerical value of 117.9 points (for 100 required). Group of criteria "D" includes 14 publications in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 23 publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes with a total numerical value of 256.5 points (with 200 required). It is noteworthy that 29 of the publications (or 62%) are in Bulgarian. Although there is no explicit requirement for this in the

legislation, I believe that publications in accessible language for the international community should be included in this type of competitions. A list of 21 citations, with a total numerical value of 245 points (for the required 50), is presented to group of criteria "E". It is evident from the attached reference that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Assoc. Prof." in the respective professional field. The candidate "covers" the additional requirements of RASDHAP of FRI to be the only or leading author in at least 5 publications (he has 27); the works in press should not exceed 10% (it has 1 or 2%); to have 5 positive quotes in international publications (he has 13); to be a leader of at least 1 project or a participant in 2 (he is a leader of 1 and a participant in 2 projects).

### **3. General description of the presented materials.**

The set of documents includes: 1. Minutes of the Supervisory Board on January 26, 2021 for announcing a competition for Assoc. prof.; 2. Announcement in State Gazette no. 12/12.02.2021; 3. ADASRB of FRI; 4. CV (European format); 5.1. Diploma for PhD degree; 5.2. Certificate for chief assistant; 6. Document for work experience; 7.1. List of publications for PhD degree and chief assistant; 7.2. List of citations for chief assistant; 8. List of all publications; 9. Self-assessment certificate; 10. Information on the indicators; 11. Extended habilitation report; 12. Information on the scientific contributions; 13. Declaration of Assurance; 14. Summaries of the scientific publications; 15. Information Card of National Center for information and documentation (NCID); 16. Referred and indexed editions according to NCID; 17.1. List of participations in scientific forums; 17.2. Information about conducted lectures. The documents correspond to the required ones, although they do not follow the numbering in RASDHAP of FRI.

### **4. The main fields of research work of the candidate and the most important scientific and applied contributions.**

Dr. Glogov's research activity is focused on morphological, floristic and ecologo-biological studies of certain groups of plants (medicinal species, relics, trees, shrubs and semi-shrubs, invasive species, etc.), on the study of plant communities and habitats, as well as to the study and application of silvicultural approaches for the management of wood species important for silvicultural practice.

The main contributions presented in the habilitation report are related to: **1.** Phytocenological studies of thermophilic oak forests in Bulgaria, which used over 100 descriptions of the candidate from Lozenska mountain. During the conducted syntaxonomic analysis 19 associations and sub-associations were established, of which 6 new for science associations and 4 sub-associations; **2.** Dendrofloristic researches - a methodology for studying the dendroflora has been developed on the basis of methods and approaches used in previous researches on the composition of tree and bush species in natural territories and parks. The methodology includes approaches by taxonomic, ecologo-biological, phytogeographical, economic indicators. It is applied in the analysis of the dendroflora of Lozenska Mountain. The dynamics of growth and dendrobiometric changes in plantations formed by eastern hornbeam were also studied. **3.** Studies of the changes of the flora and vegetation in territories with intensive anthropogenic impact (including the distribution and impact of invasive alien species) under the lift line Dragalevtzi-Goli Vrah in Vitosha National Park and in Lozenska Mountain. The established invasive alien species (IAS) and potentially invasive alien species (PIAS) represent 3.46% of the flora of the Lozenska Mountain and 45% of all IAS in Bulgaria. Habitats from NATURA 2000 exposed to the risk of IAS distribution have been identified. A phytocenological

and ecologo-morphological study of the IAS *Opuntia humifusa* (Raf.) Raf. on the territory of Lozenska Mountain. Measures for control of IAS on the studied territory are proposed.

The most significant scientific and applied contributions contained in the publications of group "D" are in the following areas: **1.** Morphological and anatomical studies of *Ligustrum vulgare* L. and *Vaccinium vitis-idea* L. **2.** Chorological studies. New localities of 18 species from the floristic region of Western Sredna Gora, 1 from the floristic region of Vitosha and 1 from the Danube plain have been established. Some of them are IAS or species with conservation status. **3.** Floristic research. For the first time a comprehensive study was conducted on the vascular flora of Lozenska Mountain, as well as a study of the impact of off-road vehicles on its territory; the composition and quantitative participation of lianas in the forest communities of the Danube islands Vetren and Chaika; of black pine crops with undergrowth of sagebrush; of the restoration processes in burned areas in the regions of towns Stara Zagora and Belogradchik; the application of the regulations on the use of ornamental plant species for landscaping of roofs and exterior walls of buildings in urban environments. **4.** Dendrofloristic studies of Lozenska Mountain. **5.** Studies of IAS. Studies related to the biological characteristics and control measures related to the spread and impact of the IAS *Impatiens glandulifera* Royale have been performed. The biological and ecological features of potential IAS *Lupinus polyphyllus* on the territory of Lozenska Mountain have also been studied. **6.** Phytocenological studies. A study of ruderal communities in coastal areas, which are subject to permanent anthropogenic pressure in four localities in the Black Sea region between the towns of Ravda and the Nessebar, as well as in black pine crops with undergrowth of sagebrush in some mountainous areas around the Sofia city - Vitosha, Plana, Lozenska Mountain and Stara planina Mountain. The data from previous studies related to the plant communities in the gorge of the Iskar River, between Plana and Lozenska Mountain, have been updated. **7.** Research in the field of forestry. Prospects for introducing of coppice with standards in Bulgaria are analyzed. The coppice with standards is recommended as a system for sustainable management of oak coppice forests, as well as an approach for their transformation into high forests. Estimate of incomes from coppice with oak standards in Bulgaria is made. In term of economic efficiency, it occupies an intermediate position between simple coppice and high forests, striking a good balance between the ecological, social and economic forest functions.

## **6. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature.**

As noted above, Dr. Glogov presented a list of 21 citations, thus exceeding the minimum requirements for the position of "Assoc. Prof." in the relevant scientific field. I am convinced, however, that if in the future my colleague publishes mainly in English or another language used in the field of investigation, the reflection of his publications in the literature would be much better. In this way, the results of his work would be significantly more visible and of greater importance, going beyond the borders of Bulgaria.

The documents for the competition include a list of 18 participations in scientific forums - 14 international and 4 national. According to the RASDHAP of FRI, these participations "carry" 32 points. Undoubtedly, they are very important for the dissemination of the results among the general public, while at the same time favoring the establishment of international contacts and the formation of research teams and publication of the results.

## **7. Participation in research projects.**

From the attached materials it is evident that Dr. Glogov is the leader of one project funded

by the NSF and is a participant in two others. The ability to work in a team, as well as to plan and lead research is extremely important for any scientist. This circumstance gives an advantage to the candidate for the competitive position.

**8. Teaching and learning activities (supervisor/ consultant for doctoral students, student training, etc.).**

In the period 1998-2006, while he was a lecturer at UF, the candidate conducted exercises in "Botany", "Phytocenology", "Medical Botany" and "Ornamental plants of the Bulgarian flora" in 7 specialties at UF. Participation in training is an extremely responsible and significant activity that adds value to the work of any scientist. These activities bring Dr. Glogov an additional 42 points.

**9. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the candidate.**

Dr. Glogov is the only or leading author in 27 publications (or 57%) of the 47 submitted ones, which is proof of his significant personal contribution to the submitted materials in the competition.

**10. Critical remarks and recommendations.**

There are a number of inaccuracies and technical errors in the submitted documents. I recommend the candidate to be more focused and precise in preparing future documents and publications. It would have been clearer if Dr. Glogov had followed the numbering from the list required by the RASDHAP of FRI when arranging the documents. In addition, many of the publications are in Bulgarian. I believe that in order for the results to be visible, it is worthy and necessary for all publications to be in a language accessible to the international community, such as English. Of course, this does not mean not publishing articles in our native language, but especially when participating in competitions for senior academic positions, I believe that publications understood by the international community should be included. I recommend "Hotly" in his future publishing activity Dr. Glogov to select journals with impact factor and impact rank, which will allow the results of his work to reach a larger number of specialists and thus increase their importance not only nationally, but also internationally. This is also a way to create international teams for solving a scientific or scientific-applied problem.

**11. Personal impressions.**

I do not know Dr. Glogov personally. We met in connection with his visits to the IBEI Herbarium, of which I am responsible. During the development of the PhD thesis and the publication of its results he was our frequent guest. The collection of data from the Herbarium shows that he is a well-trained researcher who follows the relevant methodological approaches and "good practices" in floristic and phytocenological studies.

**12. Conclusion.**

In connection with the above, I propose Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Plamen Stankov Glogov to be

elected "Associate Professor" in the professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty "Forestry, incl. Dendrology.

Date

Member of the Scientific Jury:

30.05.2021.

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