

ИНСТИТУТЪТ НА НАУКИТЕ	
ИНСТИТУТЪТ НА ГОРАТА	
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STATEMENT

on the contest for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.1 Plant Growing, scientific specialty "Soil Science", announced by the Institute of Forestry - BAS in SG no. 35 / 27.04.2021.

Candidate for participation in the contest: Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Vanya Georgieva Kachova, Section "Forest Genetics, Physiology and Cultures", Institute of Forestry - BAS

Prepared the statement: Prof. Dr. Toma Angelov Shishkov, Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnology and Plant Protection "Nikola Poushkarov", Sofia.

Content overview

The contest for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, in the professional field 6.1 Plant Growing, scientific specialty "Soil Science" has been announced for the needs of the Institute of Forestry, BAS, Sofia. The only candidate in the contest is Vanya Georgieva Kachova, Senior Assistant Professor, doctor, at the institute in the section "Forest Genetics, Physiology and Cultures". The materials of the contest contain evidence with the necessary documents certifying the fulfillment of the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at BAS, as well as the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at the Institute of Forestry at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

1. Brief biographical data

Vanya Georgieva Kachova was born on April 20, 1964. In 1988 she graduated with a master's degree in analytical and organic chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2006 she successfully defended the thesis on "Trace elements in soils from urban oak ecosystems in the Sofia region" and received the educational and scientific PhD degree. The professional career of Dr. Vanya Kachova passes in the Institute of Forestry at BAS with 25 years of work experience, which defines her professional sphere of development. For the period 1989-1992 she worked consecutively as a biologist at the Institute of Plant Physiology BAS, in 1996-1999 as a chemist at the Institute of Forestry at BAS, in the laboratory "Forest Soil Science", during the period 1999-2007 she was Research Associate III and II degree, in 2007-2013 she was a Senior Assistant Professor in the section "Forest Ecology", and from 2013 until now in the section "Forest Genetics, Physiology and Cultures".

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 at the Institute of Forestry - BAS.

The total number of scientific papers of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Vanya Georgieva Kachova, submitted for the current contest for the academic position of "Associate Professor" is 55 scientific papers, published for the period 2000-2021. The papers are distributed as follows: 47 issues in specialized scientific journals and 6 of scientific-applied publications. There are 2 publications, related to the educational and scientific PhD degree. I accept that all the presented scientific papers are on the topic of the announced contest.

3. General description of the submitted materials

Most of the papers presented in the contest are co-authored with one or more authors. 10 are with single participation. Dr. Kachova is the first author of 36 issues or the second author of 7 issues of the articles. A total of 55 publications were presented, 5 of which were listed with IF (with Q index), in 4 of which Dr. Kachova was the first author, 9 articles were published in impact-rated journals (SJR). To participate in the contest, the candidate has submitted to indicator (A1) - a thesis for the educational and scientific PhD degree (50 points), as well as 2 publications related to obtaining the PhD degree. Indicator (B4) presents 3 publications with IF index Q1, Q3 and Q4; 2 publications with impact rank (SJR) and 5 publications from the NACID list (240 points in total). To indicator (D 7.8) - 1 publication with IF index Q3 is presented; 1 publication with impact rank (SJR) and 7 publications from the NACID list (207.5 points in total); publications in international journals not referenced in the world system or edited collective volumes are 8 issues (total 32 points). Dr. Kachova has presented 8 papers in specialized international scientific series and national scientific conferences, which proves her scientific activity for presenting the results of research at national and international forums. The candidate's publications in English are 35, which makes them widely available to scholars around the world. To indicator (D 13,14) - 14 citations in scientific journals referred and indexed in the world system and 7 citations in collective volumes with scientific review (a total of 280 points) are presented. Indicator (E) comprises participation in the ERASMUS program, preparation of 11 reviews of articles for various scientific journals and expert activity on prepared statements. Dr. Kachova's scientific indicators fully cover the requirements of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Forest Institute for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

4. Main directions in the research work of the candidate and the most important scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

Thematically, the scientific publications of the candidate in this contest correspond to the author's report on the contributions to the research and enrichment of existing knowledge about forest soils, in particular the soils under forest crops, which I accept. The report corresponds to the presented scientific publications and shows both the obtained original results and with scientific and scientific-applied contributions and with some planned measures for improvement of the condition of the forest soils for sustainable development. The scientific-applied contributions are grouped in areas such as application of sludge, organic fertilizers and assessment of biological reclamation, confirming the field of the research. The scientific contributions of Dr. Kachova as a researcher of forest ecosystems have a significant role in enriching knowledge in the field of trace elements pollution assessment and agroforestry as a method for improving soil condition. Research on the behavior and mobilization of trace elements in soils occupies a significant part of the candidate's research. Particularly original are the contributions related to biodiversity, such as regional inventory from the region of Sandanski, Sofia region, Central Balkans, Pernik region and the Danube region.

5. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature.

There are 14 citations in scientific journals referenced and indexed in the world system and 7 citations in collective volumes with scientific review. Reference is according to Web of Science / Scopus.

6. Participation in research projects.

Dr. Vanya Kachova has extensive laboratory experience, as well as experience in field research, which is proven by her research activities, including work on a total of 8 research

projects. Of which 4 international: 2 COST, 1 with NSF and 1 (with bilateral cooperation of BAS), of which she is the head; and 4 national projects, 3 of which she is the head (funded by BAS); her participation in 8 national and 8 international conferences, as well as in international working groups is proof of her successful teamwork.

7. Teaching activity (supervisor / consultant of doctoral students, student training, etc.). None specified.

8. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate.

The presented publications, the participation in conferences and the citations prove that the scientific activity of Dr. Kachova has a definite contribution character. According to the presented scientific indicators number of publications, including IF and number of articles of which she is the first author, Dr. Kachova fully meets the criteria set in the Regulations of the Forest Institute at BAS for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

9. Critical remarks and recommendations.

No abstract is presented related to obtaining the educational and scientific PhD degree. Many international conferences have been held in the country. These remarks do not significantly affect the candidate's performance in the contest.

10. Personal impressions.

My positive assessment of the research activity of Dr. Kachova is also based on personal impressions of her, such as professional qualities, mastery of modern methods and approaches in the work, expressed interest in research and new methods applicable in analytical work and her potential for independent work as a scientist.

11. Conclusion.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the contest and based on the analysis, that give me a reason for a positive statement and suggest that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Vanya Georgieva Kachova to be elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.1 Plant Growing, scientific specialty "Soil Science".

Date 12.08.2021.

Member of Scientific Jury: Prof. Dr. Toma Shishkov
