

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ на НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ за ГОРАТ
РЕГИСТРАЦИОНЕН ИНДЕКС, № и /
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Срок за изпълнение

REVIEW

of the documents submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of Full Professor

in Professional Field 4.3. Biological Sciences, Scientific Specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation", announced by the Forest Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), promulgated in the State Gazette No. 18 of February 17, 2026

Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva

Reviewer: Prof. DSc Neli Hristova Grozeva

Trakia University, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

Appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. RD 15-209 of April 15, 2026, issued by the Director of the Forest Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

1. Brief Biographical Information

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva was born on June 4, in Blagoevgrad, Republic of Bulgaria. In 2004, she graduated with distinction from the Acad. Sergey P. Korolev High School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in her hometown, receiving honorary certificates for academic excellence and for her participation in the National Biology and Health Education Olympiad.

She pursued her higher education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology in 2008. She subsequently continued her studies at the same institution and, in 2010, completed a Master's degree programme in Botany (Vascular Plants), graduating with the highest possible academic distinction (GPA 6.00/6.00) and receiving the University's Golden Badge for Academic Excellence.

These outstanding academic achievements are fully documented in the materials submitted for the present competition. Her scientific career continued through full-time doctoral studies at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (IBER), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, from August 2012 to September 2016. On September 12, 2016, she successfully defended her PhD dissertation entitled "Biological and Phytochemical In Situ and Ex Situ Studies of Plant Species of Conservation Importance from the Genus *Sideritis* L. in Bulgaria", and was awarded the doctoral degree in Botany.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aneva's professional career has been closely and consistently linked to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She began her scientific career as a laboratory assistant at the Acad. Roumen Tsanev Institute of Molecular Biology (2007-2009). Subsequently, at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS, she progressed through the positions of biologist (2011-2012), Assistant Professor (2016-2017), and Chief Assistant Professor (2017-2019). Since December 20, 2019, she has held the academic position of Associate Professor at IBER-BAS. She currently also serves as Scientific Secretary of the BAS Scientific Division "Biodiversity, Bioresources and Ecology".

2. Compliance of the Submitted Documents and Materials with the Minimum Requirements of the Regulations for the Award of Academic Degrees and Appointment to Academic Positions at the Forest Research Institute, BAS

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva for evaluation fully comply with, and substantially exceed, the mandatory requirements established by the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the specific requirements of the Forest Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, for the academic position of Full Professor in Professional Field 4.3. Biological Sciences, Scientific Specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation".

The quantitative and qualitative indicators of the candidate's scientific achievements demonstrate an overall score of 3,881 points, representing nearly a six-fold exceedance of the institutional minimum requirement of 660 points.

A detailed analysis of the individual indicator groups shows the following: Group A: The candidate holds the legally required doctoral degree (50 points); Group B: Scientific output equivalent to a habilitation thesis amounts to 254 points, exceeding the required minimum of 240 points; Group G: The candidate's research activity is exceptionally intensive and productive, generating 782 points compared to the required minimum of 120 points; Group D: The international impact of the candidate's research is evidenced by citations indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases, corresponding to 1,600 points, far exceeding the minimum requirement of 150 points; Group E: A total of 783 points have been accumulated through the management of numerous research projects, including international projects funded under the Horizon Europe Programme, as well as through the successful supervision of doctoral students.

In addition, the supplementary indicators specific to the Forest Research Institute, related to teaching, expert activities, and editorial work, contribute a further 412 points to the candidate's overall academic profile.

From an administrative and procedural perspective, the application documents have been prepared with precision and in full accordance with all formal requirements. The submitted dossier includes the required Declaration No. 1 concerning the authenticity of scientific results, registration in the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID), and the absence of plagiarism, as well as Declaration No. 2 regarding the absence of any conflict of interest under the provisions of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Based on the above, I conclude unequivocally that the materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva fully satisfy all minimum requirements set forth in the regulations of the Forest Research Institute, BAS, and significantly exceed the criteria established for appointment to the academic position of Full Professor.

3. General description of the submitted research output

The materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva for participation in the competition for the academic position of Full Professor represent a substantial and high-quality body of scientific work that fully satisfies and significantly exceeds both the national minimum requirements and the additional criteria established by the Forest Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The candidate's overall scientific output comprises 148 publications, of which 56 have been submitted for evaluation in the present procedure. These publications are distributed as follows: 16 papers indexed in the internationally recognized databases Web of Science and Scopus and included in the habilitation portfolio (Group B indicators), and 40 additional publications indexed in recognized scientific databases and submitted under Group G indicators.

The submitted materials consist predominantly of original research articles, critical review papers, book chapters, including contributions published by the internationally renowned academic publisher Springer, and peer-reviewed conference proceedings presented at international scientific forums.

The scientific significance of the candidate's publications is clearly demonstrated by their publication in journals with established impact factors and their distribution across the quartile ranking system of international bibliographic databases. Among the submitted publications, 25 papers are published in first-quartile (Q1) journals, including 7 papers within the habilitation portfolio and 18 papers within Group G. Particularly noteworthy are publications appearing in highly regarded journals such as *Current Problems in Cardiology* (IF 16.464), *Phytomedicine* (IF 7.9), *Food Research International* (IF 6.475), *Biological Conservation* (IF 5.99), and *Frontiers in Pharmacology* (IF 5.81).

In addition, 5 publications are classified within the second quartile (Q2), 13 within the third quartile (Q3), and 9 within the fourth quartile (Q4/SJR). Only four publications are published in

journals without an impact factor or quartile ranking, including reputable specialized journals such as *Phytologia Balcanica*.

The candidate's research has achieved substantial international visibility, as evidenced by the high number of citations indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, corresponding to 1,600 points under Group D indicators.

The submitted publications have appeared in respected international and national scientific journals and academic publishing houses. These include leading journals in the fields of biological sciences, botany, ecology, and pharmacology, such as *Plants, Diversity, Life, Horticulturae, Plant Biosystems, Chemistry & Biodiversity, Forest Ecology and Management, Biochemical Systematics and Ecology*, and *Comptes rendus de l'Académie bulgare des Sciences*.

Furthermore, part of the candidate's research output has been published as book chapters by internationally recognized academic publishers, including Springer, Taylor & Francis, and Elsevier. All publications submitted for the present evaluation have been published in English, ensuring their accessibility and visibility within the international scientific community.

The submitted body of work demonstrates the candidate's ability to conduct research successfully both within large international and interdisciplinary collaborations and within smaller specialized research teams. In ten of the submitted publications, Assoc. Prof. Aneva is the first author, including several leading papers within her habilitation portfolio published in journals such as *Plants, Horticulturae*, and *Plant Biosystems*. The number of co-authors ranges from single-author publications and papers involving small research teams to large-scale international collaborative studies involving more than thirty co-authors, such as the publication in *Forest Ecology and Management*.

The thematic scope of the submitted publications is fully consistent with the scientific field of the competition, namely Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation.

4. Main Research Directions and Most Significant Scientific Contributions

The research activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva encompass the fields of ecology, botany, plant chemistry, and the sustainable management of natural resources, and are fully aligned with the scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation". Her work successfully integrates classical botanical approaches with contemporary molecular-genetic, phytochemical, and statistical methods for the study, conservation, and sustainable utilization of plant biodiversity.

The candidate's scientific interests have developed along three closely interconnected research directions.

The first direction focuses on the investigation of morphological variability, genetic diversity, phylogenetic relationships, and chemical composition of medicinal and conservation-significant plant species from the Bulgarian and Balkan flora. Among the taxa studied are *Sideritis scardica* Griseb., *Rhodiola rosea* L., representatives of the genus *Thymus* L., species of the genus *Inula* L., and other medicinally and ecologically important plants. These studies have contributed substantially to the understanding of species diversity, evolutionary relationships, and patterns of phytochemical variation within natural populations.

The second research direction is devoted to the assessment of plant resources and the development of scientifically grounded models for their sustainable management. This work includes the mapping of plant populations, evaluation of exploitable natural resources, and the formulation of recommendations for their rational utilization and conservation. The results provide an important scientific basis for evidence-based management and long-term preservation of valuable plant resources.

The third research direction encompasses studies in agroecology and ethnobotany, with particular emphasis on the effects of land-use practices on plant diversity and the traditional utilization of wild plant resources. Through these investigations, the candidate has contributed to a

better understanding of the interactions between human activities and plant communities, as well as to the documentation and preservation of traditional ecological knowledge.

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Aneva are characterized by both fundamental and applied significance. Particularly noteworthy are her studies employing modern molecular and genetic markers to elucidate the genetic structure and phylogenetic relationships of plant species of conservation concern. These investigations have revealed important relationships between genetic diversity, geographic origin, and the accumulation of biologically active compounds, leading to the identification of novel phytochemical profiles in a number of medicinal plant species. Such findings contribute significantly to our understanding of the mechanisms governing biological and chemical diversity within plant populations.

An additional important contribution is represented by her studies on the distribution, conservation status, and resource potential of medicinal plants in Bulgaria. The obtained results support the assessment of threatened species and facilitate the identification of major factors associated with climate change and anthropogenic pressure. Particularly valuable are the discoveries of new localities of rare plant species and the documentation of previously unreported plant communities within the country.

In the field of sustainable resource management, the candidate has developed scientifically based recommendations regarding harvesting regimes and collection quotas for wild medicinal plants, aimed at ensuring their natural regeneration and long-term conservation. She has also proposed approaches for the cultivation of threatened species outside their natural habitats, thereby contributing to both biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of plant resources.

Her contributions to agroecology and ethnobotany include the elucidation of relationships between agricultural practices and changes in plant community composition, as well as the preservation and scientific interpretation of traditional knowledge concerning the use of medicinal plants. These studies highlight the potential of traditional plant resources for future applications in medicine, pharmacology, and sustainable rural development.

The scientific achievements and contributions presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva firmly establish her as a researcher of national and international standing whose work has made a substantial contribution to the advancement of ecological, botanical, and biodiversity research in Bulgaria.

5. Most Significant Applied Scientific Achievements and Practical Impact

The applied research activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva are closely associated with the conservation of plant biodiversity, the sustainable management of natural resources, and the application of modern scientific approaches to the study of medicinal plants. The outcomes of her research possess considerable practical relevance for biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource utilization, medicinal plant cultivation, and the preservation of traditional knowledge related to plant use.

Among her most significant applied scientific achievements is the development and implementation of molecular approaches for the identification and assessment of genetic diversity in economically and conservation-important plant species. A particularly valuable contribution is her application of DNA barcoding techniques to representatives of the genus *Thymus*. This work provides a reliable scientific basis for accurate species identification and contributes to the standardization of plant raw materials used in the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, and food industries.

Another noteworthy achievement is her participation in the discovery and formal description of the species *Sideritis elica* Aneva, Zhelev & Bonchev, a taxon new to science. The identification and characterization of this narrow endemic species from the Rhodope Mountains has enriched our knowledge of Bulgaria's floristic diversity and has provided an important foundation for conservation actions aimed at protecting its critically endangered populations.

The candidate has also made substantial contributions to the sustainable utilization and cultivation of medicinal plants. Through comparative studies of different *Thymus* species, she has identified taxa characterized by high productivity and distinctive phytochemical profiles, creating opportunities for the introduction of new crops into medicinal plant cultivation and for the production of standardized plant material with high added value. This species-oriented approach to cultivation has direct practical implications for sustainable agriculture and the essential oil industry.

Of particular societal importance are the candidate's ethnobotanical and ethnopharmacological studies conducted in the Rhodope Mountains and throughout the Balkan Peninsula. These investigations have documented traditional knowledge concerning the use of more than one hundred medicinal plant species, thereby contributing to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage and providing valuable information for the identification of promising species for future pharmacological and phytochemical research.

The results of these studies have applications in biodiversity conservation, education, pharmacology, and the sustainable use of plant resources. They also facilitate the transfer of traditional knowledge into modern scientific contexts and support the development of evidence-based approaches to the utilization of medicinal plants.

Further important applied contributions include research on the floristic and habitat diversity of grassland ecosystems in Bulgaria. The resulting data have contributed to the identification and monitoring of habitats of high conservation value, the implementation of European biodiversity conservation policies, and the development of management measures for the sustainable maintenance of grassland ecosystems.

The practical relevance of the candidate's work is also evident in her studies on the effects of different land-use systems on plant diversity within agroecosystems. The findings support the development of policies for sustainable agricultural land management, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of valuable habitats and species. The database developed on weed flora and the documented relationships between land use and species richness represent valuable tools for both conservation practice and agricultural management.

Overall, the applied research achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva demonstrate a strong practical orientation and a substantial contribution to biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and the implementation of modern scientific approaches in conservation biology, agroecology, and medicinal plant production.

6. Impact of the Candidate's Scientific Publications in the Scholarly Literature (Citation Record)

The scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Aneva have been widely cited in the international scientific literature indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases. The high citation rate of her scientific output, together with an H-index of 19 in Scopus, is indicative of the scientific significance, relevance, and international recognition of her research results.

The bibliometric indicators presented in the application materials demonstrate a citation impact that significantly exceeds the national minimum requirements for the academic position of Full Professor. According to the submitted documentation, Assoc. Prof. Aneva has an h-index of 19 in Scopus, further confirming the sustained influence of her scientific work within the international research community.

The candidate's publications are cited predominantly in high-quality international peer-reviewed journals with established impact factors. These include journals such as *Plants, Diversity, Plant Biosystems, Horticulturae, Life, Phytotherapy Research, Pharmacological Research, Food and Chemical Toxicology, Journal of Ethnopharmacology, Chemistry & Biodiversity*, and numerous other respected periodicals in the fields of ecology, botany, phytochemistry, pharmacology, and biodiversity sciences. The appearance of citations in such journals demonstrates both the scientific relevance and the broad applicability of her research findings.

Particularly noteworthy is the wide geographical distribution of the scientific community citing her work. Her publications have been referenced by researchers from Europe, Asia, North America, and South America, indicating the global significance and interdisciplinary relevance of her scientific contributions.

This international recognition extends to both her fundamental and applied research. Her studies on molecular taxonomy, genetic diversity, phylogenetic relationships, and biodiversity conservation have attracted substantial attention within the scientific community. At the same time, her applied research in phytochemistry, ethnobotany, medicinal plants, and sustainable resource management has provided valuable scientific foundations for subsequent investigations conducted by researchers worldwide.

A significant proportion of the citations relate to publications addressing DNA barcoding, genetic characterization of species within the genus *Thymus*, and investigations of medicinal plants rich in biologically active compounds. These studies have served as important references for further research on plant chemistry, the pharmacological potential of natural products, species identification, and biodiversity conservation.

Considerable citation activity is also associated with publications examining the ecological effects of land use, agroecosystem dynamics, and sustainable natural resource management. In particular, studies focusing on biodiversity patterns in agroecosystems and agricultural landscapes have been widely utilized in international research concerning ecosystem services, sustainable agriculture, and climate change adaptation.

Furthermore, the candidate's publications have been cited in interdisciplinary fields, including agroecology, soil ecological assessment, and bioindication methodologies such as the QBS-ar index. This broad citation spectrum highlights the versatility and practical applicability of her research outcomes across multiple scientific disciplines.

The strong citation performance of Assoc. Prof. Aneva's publications reflects both the contemporary relevance of the scientific problems addressed and the high quality of the journals in which her work has appeared. The cumulative impact factor of her publication record further underscores the scientific significance of her contributions.

Overall, the citation record and international visibility of the candidate's research provide compelling evidence of her established reputation as a scientist whose work has made a significant contribution to the advancement of ecology, botany, phytochemistry, and biodiversity science at both the national and international levels.

7. Participation in Scientific and Applied Research Projects

The project-related activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva are characterized by a high level of intensity, diversity, and scientific significance. Throughout her academic career, she has participated in a total of 31 national and international research, educational, and applied projects focused on biodiversity, phytochemistry, genetics, medicinal plants, nature conservation, sustainable resource management, and climate change adaptation.

Particularly noteworthy is her role as a project leader and coordinator. Assoc. Prof. Aneva has served as principal investigator or coordinator of ten national and international projects, including the leadership of Bulgarian research teams within prestigious European Union programmes under Horizon Europe. Through her successful project management activities, she has secured external research funding amounting to BGN 989,731, demonstrating both her scientific excellence and her strong organizational and leadership capabilities.

Among the projects coordinated by the candidate are studies addressing the metabolic profiling and genetic variability of species within the genus *Thymus*, the development of innovative technologies for obtaining bioactive products from medicinal plants, and investigations aimed at the conservation and sustainable utilization of valuable plant resources. As leader of the Bulgarian research teams participating in the MSCA-NET, CASRI, and RADIANCE projects, she has made a

significant contribution to the integration of Bulgarian science into the European Research Area and to the strengthening of international scientific collaboration.

In addition to her leadership roles, Assoc. Prof. Aneva has participated as a member of research teams in 21 national and international projects funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund, the Ministry of Education and Science, COST Actions, Horizon Europe, and other competitive funding programmes. These projects have addressed topics such as plant DNA barcoding, ecosystem service assessment, adaptation of forest ecosystems to climate change, conservation of medicinal plants, and sustainable management of protected areas.

The candidate has also contributed substantially to projects involving the mapping and assessment of the conservation status of plant species and habitats, the development of management plans for national parks and nature reserves, and the coordination of scientific activities within national research programmes dedicated to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources.

The overall project portfolio of Assoc. Prof. Aneva demonstrates a high level of scientific competence, extensive experience in the management and implementation of research activities, and a proven ability to attract competitive funding at both the national and international levels. Her project work has significantly contributed to the advancement of biodiversity research, conservation science, and the sustainable management of natural resources, while simultaneously strengthening the international visibility and competitiveness of Bulgarian scientific research.

8. Teaching and Educational Activities

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Aneva has served as the principal supervisor of one PhD student and as the scientific advisor of one PhD candidate in professional field 4.3. *Biological Sciences* (scientific specialty *Botany*) at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER-BAS). Her activities as a PhD supervisor and advisor in the field of botany demonstrate her contribution to the training of highly qualified specialists and to the development of scientific capacity in the professional field of *Biological Sciences*.

Assoc. Prof. Aneva has developed an active and diverse teaching profile, successfully transferring her theoretical knowledge and practical expertise to students in higher education institutions. Her academic teaching activities reflect a strong commitment to the education and training of future specialists in the fields of biological and environmental sciences.

The total volume of her teaching engagement exceeds 400 academic hours and includes 242 hours of practical instruction conducted at the University of Forestry, as well as 150 hours of lectures delivered at New Bulgarian University. These activities demonstrate her substantial contribution to university education and her active involvement in the preparation of undergraduate and graduate students.

In addition to her teaching activities in Bulgaria, Assoc. Prof. Aneva has also contributed to international academic education through lectures delivered at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. This international teaching experience further illustrates the recognition of her expertise beyond the national academic environment and contributes to the dissemination of scientific knowledge at the international level.

Her teaching activities are closely connected to her research interests and scientific expertise, enabling students to benefit from contemporary knowledge and practical experience in areas such as biodiversity conservation, ecology, botany, medicinal plants, phytochemistry, and sustainable natural resource management. The candidate's educational activities demonstrate her dedication to academic mentoring, knowledge transfer, and the development of highly qualified professionals. Through her teaching, she contributes not only to the education of students but also to the strengthening of academic capacity and the advancement of biological and environmental sciences in Bulgaria. Overall, the teaching portfolio of Assoc. Prof. Aneva reflects a sustained commitment to higher

education and confirms her ability to successfully integrate research excellence with academic instruction and professional training.

9. Assessment of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

The personal contribution of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva to the submitted scientific publications, research projects, and scholarly achievements is substantial, clearly identifiable, and indisputable. Her role extends beyond participation in research activities and includes the conceptual design of studies, organization and implementation of field investigations, application of advanced analytical approaches, and interpretation of complex ecological, genetic, and phytochemical data.

The candidate has demonstrated the capacity to initiate and lead independent research directions while simultaneously contributing effectively to interdisciplinary and international scientific collaborations. Her scientific productivity, leadership in research projects, and active participation in collaborative studies provide convincing evidence of her significant individual contribution to the achieved results.

The quality and impact of her scientific work have received formal recognition through numerous national and international awards. Among these distinctions are the prestigious Pythagoras 2020 Grand Award for Young Scientist and the Honorary Badge "For Merits to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences", awarded in recognition of her outstanding scientific achievements and contribution to the development of Bulgarian science.

At the international level, her research excellence has been acknowledged through the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Young Scientists Award, one of the most prestigious distinctions granted to young researchers working in the fields of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and environmental sciences.

These achievements, together with her scientific productivity, international visibility, project leadership, and societal engagement, provide compelling evidence of her personal contribution to the advancement of contemporary ecological, botanical, and biodiversity research.

10. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

The submitted materials have been prepared with a high degree of precision, scientific depth, and methodological rigor. The scientific works are characterized by clearly formulated objectives, appropriately selected methodology, and accurate interpretation of the results. Therefore, I find no grounds for substantive critical remarks regarding the candidate's research and applied scientific activity.

As a recommendation for the future development of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva's academic career, I would encourage her to further expand her involvement in the supervision and mentoring of doctoral candidates and early-career researchers. Her extensive scientific expertise, international experience, and successful project leadership represent a valuable resource for the training and development of the next generation of scientists. Given her established scientific authority and broad interdisciplinary expertise, her continued engagement in doctoral education, research mentoring, and the formation of scientific schools would further strengthen her contribution to the advancement of ecology, botany, biodiversity conservation, and environmental sciences in Bulgaria and beyond. This recommendation should be viewed not as a criticism, but rather as a natural direction for the future development of an already highly successful and internationally recognized academic career.

11. Personal Impressions

My personal impressions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva are of a highly motivated, dedicated, and accomplished scientist who successfully combines outstanding academic achievements with active engagement in scientific communication and public outreach. Throughout her professional career, she has consistently demonstrated a high level of scientific integrity, responsibility, organizational skills, and commitment to excellence. In addition to her research accomplishments, Assoc. Prof. Aneva has shown a strong commitment to promoting science and

increasing public awareness of the role of scientific research in society. A notable example of her diverse professional interests and dedication to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is her involvement in the creation of the docudrama “155 Years of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences: The Living Spirit of the Founders” (2024), in which she participated as producer, screenwriter, director, cinematographer, and editor. The film received broad public recognition through repeated broadcasts on the national television network and was presented internationally at the Ethnografilm Festival in Paris in April 2025. This achievement further illustrates her ability to communicate scientific and cultural values to a wider audience and reflects her commitment to preserving and promoting the intellectual heritage of Bulgarian science.

Overall, my personal impression is that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva is an established researcher of high professional and ethical standards, distinguished by scientific excellence, leadership potential, and a strong sense of responsibility toward the advancement of science and society.

12. Conclusion

Based on the overall assessment of the materials submitted for the competition, I consider that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva fully meets and significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements and the specific criteria of the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for occupying the academic position of “Professor.” Her scientific activity is characterized by high publication output, significant scientific and applied contributions, strong international visibility and citation impact, active participation in and leadership of national and international research projects, as well as established expertise in the fields of ecology, botany, and plant biodiversity conservation.

The submitted scientific works are distinguished by relevance, methodological rigor, and high scientific value, substantially contributing to the development of research in ecology and ecosystem conservation. The achieved results demonstrate the sustained development of the candidate’s academic career and a significant contribution to the advancement of the biological sciences in Bulgaria. The presented scientometric indicators, scientific output, international project activity, and research contributions firmly establish Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ina Aneva as one of the leading Bulgarian researchers in the field of ecology and plant biodiversity conservation.

On the basis of the above, **I give a positive assessment of the candidate** and confidently recommend that the distinguished Scientific Jury propose to the Scientific Council of the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to elect Associate Professor Dr. Ina Yosifova Aneva for the academic position of “Professor” in professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty “Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation.”

Date: June 8, 2026

Reviewer:

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