



STATEMENT

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the occupation of an academic position '**Associate Professor**', in the field of higher education 6. Agrarian sciences and veterinary medicine, professional direction 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty 'Silviculture incl. Dendrology', announced by Forest Research Institute - BAS, published in State Gazette №29/31.03.2023.

Candidate for the competition: Dr. Mira Lyubcheva Georgieva, Chief Assistant Professor
Author of the opinion: Professor Dr. Margarita Ilieva Georgieva in a professional direction 6.5. 'Forestry' at Forest Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

1. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Dr. Mira Lyubcheva Georgieva was born in the city of Sofia on 18.07.1978. She obtained her Master's degree in Ecology, Environmental Protection and Restoration at the University of Forestry in Sofia in 2001. In 2017, she successfully defended her thesis for the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' on the topic 'Study of the genetic diversity of the eastern plane tree (*Platanus orientalis* L.) in Bulgaria' at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

Dr. Mira Georgieva began her scientific career at the Forest Research Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (FRI-BAS) in 2017 as an ecologist, and from 2018 until now she is a Chief assistant in the scientific specialty 'Forest plantations, selection and seed production' at the Scientific structural unit (SSU) 'Forest genetics, physiology and plantations'. Since 2017, Dr. Georgieva has managed and participated in the implementation of projects under BAS programs, bilateral academic cooperation between Bulgaria and Romania, youth projects at the National Scientific Fund (Ministry of Education and Science), Trans bordering project Interreg Bulgaria - Serbia, etc. She successfully uses English in his work. Dr. Georgieva has participated in national and international scientific forums, where she presented results of studies in the field of biological, ecological and genetic features of autochthonous and invasive plant species.

2. Correspondence of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant in accordance with the Rules the Development of the Academic Staff at the Forest Research Institute - BAS.

In the announced competition for the occupation of the academic position 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional direction 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty Silviculture (incl. Dendrology) for the needs of the SSU 'Forest genetics, physiology and plantations' at the Forest Research Institute - BAS, Dr. Mira Georgieva is the only candidate. The presented scientific works are in the field of the scientific specialty Silviculture incl. Dendrology and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of FRI-BAS. In the presented reference-self-assessment for compliance of the scientific production with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of LDASRB and Art. 2a, paragraph 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of FRI-BAS, a total of 658.4 points are specified, accompanied by the relevant evidentiary material, under the minimum requirements of the Forest Research Institute of 500 points.

By individual categories, Dr. M. Georgieva presents the following results: in group of indicators A - 50 points (min. 50 points), B - 187.6 points (min. 100 points), D - 210.8 points. (min. 200 items), D - 110 (min. 100 items), and E - 50 (min. 50 items). In addition to the reference,

participations in 30 national and international scientific forums are indicated, where she presented alone or in co-authorship presentations or posters, from which she received 50 points.

According to the submitted documents and a self-assessment report for the fulfilment of the quantitative indicators for occupying the academic position 'Associate Professor', Dr. Mira Georgieva fully meets and exceeds the minimum national requirements for scientific activity for the field of higher education 6. Agrarian sciences and veterinary medicine, professional direction 6.5. Forestry, and those specified in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of FRI-BAS.

3. Common description of submitted materials.

To participate in the current competition, the candidate Dr. Mira Georgieva has indicated a list of 48 published materials, including scientific articles with the SJR Index, refereed publications and reports in collections. As a habilitation thesis, 10 scientific publications are presented, which are referenced and indexed in the world scientometric databases Web of Science and Scopus with scientific information. Among them are scientific works in the journals *Botanikai Közlemények* and *Ecologia Balkanica*, positioned in the Q3 and Q4 quartiles of the SCImago Journal & Country Rank, respectively.

In total, the scientific production presented in this competition includes:

- *scientific articles in journals with SJR Index - 5 items;*
- *scientific articles published in peer-reviewed peer-reviewed journals - 13 articles;*
- *scientific articles published in non-refereed journals and reports published in edited collective volumes in Bulgaria and abroad - 30 items;*

In the presented scientific production for participation in the competition for the academic position 'Associate professor', Dr. Mira Georgieva is: first or sole author in 14 publications; second author - in 16 publications; third and subsequent author – in 18 scientific papers. The candidate's cooperation with other specialists from the country has enabled a complex clarification of the problems related to the study of biological diversity and ecological features of forest and invasive species, their genetic resources, etc.

4. Main directions in the applicant research and the most important scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

Main directions of the applicant research work is aimed at studying the biological diversity of forest tree species, researching the genetic resources of valuable and invasive plant species; dendrofloristic, morphological, ecological-biological studies of plant species occupying characteristic habitats, as well as development of methodological approaches for conducting monitoring of different types of ecosystems and individual plant species.

5. Reflection of candidate's scientific activity in literature.

The scientific contributions and achievements of Dr. M. Georgieva have been cited by foreign and Bulgarian scientists. Found 11 citations of 7 publications in journals. Two of the citations were found in journals indexed with Impact Factor (*Biologia Futura*, *Pakistan Journal of Botany*, etc.), and the rest - in refereed and non-refereed international and Bulgarian journals.

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

In the current competition Dr. Mira Georgieva presents a report on 4 scientific projects financed by the National Scientific Fund at the MES, bilateral cooperation of the BAS and the Romanian Academy of Sciences, etc., of which she is the head of 2 funded by the BAS Budget Subsidy. The candidate's

participation in these projects contributes to the development of her expertise and reveals her potential for the implementation of scientific and scientific-applied projects in the field of protection of the biological diversity of forest tree species and their genetic resources, etc.

7. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

The personal participation of the candidate in the development of the presented materials is clearly expressed – Dr. M. Georgieva is the lead or second author in nearly 2/3 (30 publications) of the presented scientific production, and in the rest of the works her research role undoubtedly stands out, which is testimony to her personal contribution to the results obtained and presented contributions.

8. Critical notes and recommendations

The scientific papers presented in the current competition have both scientific and technical qualities. I recommend the candidate to continue publishing the achieved results in refereed journals with Impact Factor and SJR Index. In the presented publications with the SJR Index, it is correct to present the data as of 2022, not as of 2019.

All the materials for participation in the competition are prepared precisely, but the report on the contributions is presented too extensively on 14 pages, including to a large extent an analysis of the obtained results. The reference could be presented more tightly, indicating only the achieved scientific and scientific-applied contributions, systematized by main scientific directions and significance.

9. Personal impressions

My personal impressions of Dr. Mira Georgieva are related to our joint scientific cooperation at the Forest Research Institute. In her scientific career, Dr. M. Georgieva distinguished herself as an expert with scientific interests in the study of genetic diversity and conservation of genetic resources of valuable plant species, floristic and dendrological research, search for new approaches and methodical solutions in developing scientific and applied research.

10. CONCLUSION

The candidate for the academic position 'Associate professor' **Chief Assistant Professor Mira Lyubcheva Georgieva, PhD**, entered the competition with a quality scientific production that exceeds the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application and the accepted criteria in the Regulations of the Forest Research Institute - BAS. From the submitted materials for participation in the competition, it is clear that Dr. Mira Georgieva is a goal-oriented scientist with a clearly defined profile of research work, which is the basis of the obtained results. In connection with the above, I propose **Chief Assistant Professor Mira Lyubcheva Georgieva, PhD** to be elected as an **Associate professor** in professional direction 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty Silviculture incl. Dendrology.

17.08.2023

Signature:

Professor ~~Mat~~garita Georgieva