

05-01-1299/04.10.19

STATEMENT

on the materials, submitted for participation in a competition for occupation of academic position "Associate professor" in scientific field 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, in professional direction 6.5. "Forestry", scientific specialty „Forest management and Dendrometry“, announced by the Forest Research Institute – BAS in State Gazette No. 44/4 June 2019.

Applicant to participate in the competition: The only applicant is chief assistant Angel Atanasov Ferezliev, PhD, from FRI-BAS.

Author of this statement: Prof. Milko Hristov Milev, PhD, University of Forestry, in scientific field 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, in professional direction 6.5. "Forestry", professional direction 6.5. "Forestry", scientific specialty „Forest plantations, breeding and seed production“, appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury with Order No RD 365/15.07.2019 by the Director of FRI-BAS.

1. Short biography of the applicant

Chief assistant dipl. eng. Angel Ferrezliev, PhD, was born in 1969 in the village of Dorkovo, Pazardzhik district. He graduated the Technical School of Forestry in Velingrad (1988) and obtained a professional qualification forest technician. During the period 1990–1995 he studied at the Higher Institute of Forestry and Wood Industries (today University of Forestry) and graduated as an engineer with a master's degree in forestry. He was a PhD student of independent training in the period 2007–2012 at FRI-BAS and defended his PhD thesis in the professional direction 6.5. "Forestry", on the scientific specialty "Forest management and Dendrometry" (Diploma No 000187/12.11.2012 – BAS). He has acquired pedagogical capacity to work as a teacher in secondary vocational schools, having completed a course at the University of Food Technologies in Plovdiv (2003–2004). He speaks Russian and English.

Applicant's professional career has passed in the following places: State Forest Service Velingrad – as co-forester (04.1999–09.1999); Hristo Botev Professional Secondary School of Forestry, Velingrad – as assistant director (02.2005–09.2005) and as a teacher (12.2005–07.2006); nursery for ornamental plants "Bulland Trade" Ltd. near the village of Bratanitsa, Pazardzhik district – as a manager for the production of ornamental plants (09.2005–12.2005). Since July 2006 he has been working as a head of the Experimental Station for Coniferous Forests at FRI-BAS in Velingrad.

Dr. Ferezliev is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and of the Chamber of Independent Evaluators in Bulgaria.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with those required under the Regulations for Development of Academic Staff at FRI-BAS

The submitted documents and materials are in accordance with the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and its Regulations, the Regulations of BAS for terms and conditions for the acquisition of scientific degrees and academic positions (RBASTCASDAP), and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for the acquisition of scientific degrees and academic positions at FRI-BAS (RTCASDAPFRIBAS). A habilitation report, as a stand-alone document with 10 scientific publications, was presented as equivalent to equating to a monograph work (requirement under Note 12 of the Regulations for the implementation of the LDASRB).

In the documents for participation in the competition, Dr. Ferezliev presented a list of 35 published materials. Of them, 6 publications are related to the obtaining of a PhD degree and 29 are object of a review under this competition for the academic position "Associate professor".

The applicant meets the national minimum requirements for academic position "Associate professor" for the professional field 6.5. Forestry. Specific requirements of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at FRI-BAS are also fulfilled.

The sum of the points according to the indicators is generally 971.73, with a minimum of 500 points required. The required minimum points for indicators B, G, D and E are exceeded.

The applicant has submitted copies of the publications listed and the required documents.

Dr. Ferezliev works on a permanent employment contract with FRI-BAS and has over 20 years of experience in the specialty (Certificate No SB-01-847/28.06.2019).

3. General description of the materials presented

In total, the candidate's creative work since the acquisition of the PhD degree includes 29 publications. The general characteristics of the published materials can be seen from the presentation in the list of scientific production on the indicators of groups B (B4) and G (G7, 8 and 11). Dr. Ferezliev has: 5 publications as single author and in 12 he is a leading author (with a requirement of 5); there are 10 publications in journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus (with a requirement of 3 issues), in 7 of them he is a leading author. One publication is a chapter of collective monograph. All submitted articles were published – 19 in Bulgarian language and 10 in English.

The applicant participates in the competition by submitting a habilitation report, as required by note 12 of the annex to the Regulations for implementation of LDASRB. In this case, 10 scientific publications (No. B4.1. to B4.10 from the list) were selected as equivalent for equating to monographic work. The focus of attention in 7 of the articles (B 4.1-2, B 4.5-7, B 4.9-10) is on the structure and peculiarities of the growth of tree stands by the basic taxation indicators, as well as biometric parameters of tree crowns, as including regularities between them are also affected. The group of articles also includes wood biomass (B 4.3. with review character), carbon accumulation and soil properties after afforestation (B 4.4.) and a coppice with standards (B 4.8.), which are thematically peripheral than the relative to the general context of the report. This thematic heterogeneity has made it difficult for the applicant to formulate a common and more homogeneous topic of report, and now it bears the mark of mechanical coupling. The candidate is leading author of 7 of these 10 articles and half of them are in English.

4. Applicant's main areas of research and the most important scientific and applied contributions

The contributions to the applicant's scientific publications are generalized in 2 directions: 1) the peculiarities of the construction, growth, increment, structure and productivity of artificial and natural, coniferous and deciduous dendrocoenoses; 2) on tree resources and optimizing forest management. I acknowledge the scientific, methodological and applied contributions presented by the candidate.

An important positive aspect of Dr. Ferezliev's scientific work is the desire and ability to draw useful conclusions and recommendations from the theoretical results for practice.

5. Reflection of the applicant's scientific publications in the literature (citations)

The list of positive cited references includes a total of 21 pcs. Of these, 10 are in international and foreign editions (at request for 5 pcs.). Of these, 10 in scientific journals with impact factor and 3 in scientific journals with SJR. 18 of the candidate's articles were cited, which is 62 % of production and this is an indicator of its high value. Citations in foreign language editions prevail, 11 articles are in English and 10 pcs. – in Bulgarian. This characteristic shows sufficient visibility of Dr. Ferezliev's scientific work among specialists both in Bulgaria and well-known abroad.

6. Participation in scientific projects

Dr. Ferezliev has led 5 scientific projects (at least one is required) and has participated in 6 (at least 2 are required). Of the projects 10 are scientifically related to the theme of the competition and 1 is educationally related to sustainable forest development.

7. Teaching activities (PhD student leader/consultant, student training, etc.)

Dr. Ferezliev has teaching experience in conducting courses in special subjects (erosion control, forestry, forestry taxation with forest management, mechanization of forestry, forest construction, and pedology), including practical training of students from Professional Secondary School "Hristo Botev" in Velingrad. He is a scientific consultant to one full-time PhD student (at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research at BAS since 2016) and to one graduate student to obtain a Master's degree.

8. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

I think that the research and publication activities, as well as the formulation of conclusions, recommendations and contributions, are largely personal and with the significant involvement of Dr. Ferezliev. The personal contribution of the applicant is also conditioned by his mission as a researcher and head of the Experimental Station for Coniferous Forests at FRI-BAS in Velingrad.

9. Critical notes and recommendations

There are some technical imperfections in the design of the presented materials, which are negligible in character.

The main weakness of the presented materials is the formulation of the habilitation report. It was further prepared at my own insistence.

Apart from the point 3 of the Statement, the lack of time may not have allowed the material to be further considered and substantiated, so as to appear to be in full accordance with the intended nature of the habilitation report. This weakness also arises from a certain imperfection of the BAS and FRI Regulations, which do not specify the requirements of note 12 of the annex to the Regulations for the implementation of LDASRB. On the other hand, the included 3 articles with peripheral topics complement the image of the candidate as a more complex specialist, which should be a habilitated person.

10. Personal impressions

I have no significant personal impressions of the applicant, but from colleagues who know him I have heard only positive opinions about his professional appearances. My few contacts with my colleague Angel Ferezliev show that he is ethical in his relations; he has a very good and terminologically precise statement, which is an indication of maturity as a specialist in his field.

I would also like to point out that Dr. Ferezliev has participated in 20 national and 13 international scientific forums. He has presented 5 posters and 27 reports. He has made 5 reviews of scientific articles for editorials for scientific journals, 4 of which are for publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases (Web of Science and Scopus). These facts show that the applicant fits into our and the international scientific community of specialists in the field of dendrometry and forest management.

In relation to the public role of a specialist, the 10 most popular publications of the applicant should be noted.

Conclusion

In view of the above, I give a positive assessment of the applicant's scientific creativity and activity and will propose chief assistant dipl. eng. Angel Atanasov Ferezliev to be elected "Assistant professor" in the professional direction 6.5. "Forestry", scientific specialty „Forest management and Dendrometry“.

Member of the Scientific Jury:

/Prof. Milko Milev, PhD/

Statement delivered on: October 4, 2019.