

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ на НАУКИТЕ
ИНСТИТУТ за ГОРАТА
РЕГИСТРАЦИОНЕН № ИЛИ № ДАТУМ
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СРОК за изпълнение

OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Professional Field 6.5 Forestry, scientific specialty “Forest Melioration, Forest Protection and Special Uses in Forests”, announced by the Forest Research Institute – BAS in State Gazette, issue 18 of 17.02.2026, for the needs of the Forest Ecology Section. The Scientific Jury was appointed by Order No. RD 15-28/15.04.2026 of the Director of the Forest Research Institute – BAS.

Candidate: Chief Assistant Professor Todor Nikolov Stoyanov, PhD, Eng.

Opinion prepared by: Prof. Dr. Viktor Petrov Savov, Professor in Professional Field 6.5 Forestry, University of Forestry

1. Brief biographical data.

Chief Assistant Professor Todor Nikolov Stoyanov, PhD, Eng., is the candidate in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 6.5 Forestry, scientific specialty “Forest Melioration, Forest Protection and Special Uses in Forests”, for the needs of the Forest Ecology Section at the Forest Research Institute – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 2020, he acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” at the University of Forestry with a dissertation entitled “Study of the Opportunities and Prospects for the Development of Credit Cooperatives in Bulgaria”. The candidate holds Master’s degrees in Business Administration and in Ecology and Environmental Protection. Since 03.02.2020 he has worked at the Forest Research Institute – BAS, initially as Assistant Professor and, since 01.06.2021, as Chief Assistant Professor. His research profile is focused on wildfires, ecological risks and degradation processes in forests, economic assessments, ecosystem services, and the preparation and management of scientific projects.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials with the minimum requirements under the Rules for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Forest Research Institute - BAS.

The submitted competition materials are structured in accordance with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Rules for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Forest Research Institute – BAS. The file contains a curriculum vitae, a self-assessment report on scientometric indicators, a detailed scientometric report, a list of scientific publications, a list of citations, statements of scientific and applied contributions, an extended habilitation report, and a list of participation in research projects. According to the submitted report, the candidate meets and exceeds the minimum requirements in the applicable groups of indicators: Group A – 50.00 points; Group C – 233.74 points; Group D – 206.88 points; Group E – 580.00 points; Group F – 215.00 points; additional indicators of FRI-BAS – 5.00 points. The total number of points is 1290.62. This gives me grounds to accept that the formal requirements for participation in the competition are fulfilled.

3. General description of the submitted materials.

A total of 22 scientific works are submitted for the competition, of which 3 are in Bulgarian and 19 in English. They include 11 publications in journals indexed in international databases, 1 monograph, 7 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 2 studies, and 1 chapter in a collective monograph. The habilitation work is formed by 10 scientific publications in editions indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases. The submitted output is thematically related to the announced competition and demonstrates good publication activity combined with a clear

practical orientation.

4. Main directions of the candidate's research work and most important scientific and applied contributions.

The main direction of the candidate's research work is wildfire risk assessment and management. In this field, he has developed and tested approaches for fire-risk assessment, including a system of indicators, a risk register, a quantitative index, and methodological solutions for risk mapping and visualisation. A second important direction covers the impact of fires, silvicultural measures, and anthropogenic factors on soil characteristics, carbon and nitrogen stocks, and the restoration of forest ecosystems. A significant part of the works also addresses forest policy, the legislative framework, institutional coordination, the circular bioeconomy, non-wood forest products, and cooperative structures. I accept the candidate's contributions as real, logically substantiated, and relevant to the topic of the competition. They have theoretical, methodological, and applied value and can be used both in scientific research and in forest-management practice.

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

The submitted citation report shows that the candidate's scientific works have received attention in the specialised literature. The report includes 37 citations or reviews in scientific publications indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases or in monographs and collective volumes, 2 citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes, and 1 citation or review in a non-indexed peer-reviewed journal. The total number of points under the citation-related group is 580.00, which is a convincing indicator of the visibility and usability of the candidate's results.

6. Participation in scientific projects.

The candidate's project activity is very good. The submitted materials indicate participation in 5 national scientific or educational projects, 4 international scientific or educational projects, and leadership of 2 national scientific or educational projects. The topics of the projects are directly related to the candidate's scientific profile and include forest ecosystem sustainability, ecological risks, soil indicators, circular economy in the forestry sector, climate action, international training, and resilience in European forestry. I particularly appreciate his leadership of the projects "Integrated Decision Support System for Assessment and Management of Ecological Risks – EcoRiskGuard" and "Consequences and Damages from Wildfires".

7. Teaching activity (supervision/consulting of PhD students, training of students, etc.).

The candidate is employed by the Forest Research Institute – BAS, which is a research organisation; therefore, a compulsory teaching workload typical of a higher education institution is not applicable to his position. His curriculum vitae indicates engagements as a part-time lecturer at the University of Forestry during the academic years 2021/2022–2025/2026, but the competition file does not contain a separate quantitative report on classroom and extracurricular teaching workload. For this reason, I do not provide a quantitative assessment of this activity and consider it a complementary positive element of the candidate's scientific profile.

8. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution.

The candidate's personal contribution is clearly visible from the single-author monograph, individual publications, leading participation in part of the works, and his active role in scientific and project activities. In publications with large international teams, the contribution is part of joint interdisciplinary research, but the thematic link with the candidate's scientific profile is evident. Overall, I accept that the submitted scientific output reflects his personal contribution in a

real and convincing manner.

9. Critical remarks and recommendations.

I have no substantial critical remarks that would call into question the candidate's qualities or his compliance with the requirements of the competition. As a technical recommendation, the spelling of the candidate's name in the different publications and reports should be unified when finalising the materials, and the discrepancy in the points reported under the project-related group in separate parts of the documentation should be checked. As a scientific recommendation, I consider that the candidate should continue to strengthen his publication presence in higher-quartile journals and further develop the applied results towards practical decision-support tools.

10. Personal impressions.

My personal impressions within the present opinion are based mainly on the submitted competition materials and on the candidate's professional visibility. They outline a researcher with an active scientific profile, good project engagement, and a clearly focused research agenda directed towards current and socially important problems in forestry and the conservation of forest ecosystems.

11. Conclusion.

Based on the assessment carried out, I consider that Chief Assistant Professor Todor Nikolov Stoyanov, PhD, Eng., meets and exceeds the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor. The submitted scientific output is thematically relevant, contains clearly expressed scientific and applied contributions, and the citations and project activity demonstrate good visibility and applicability of the results.

In view of the above, I propose that Chief Assistant Professor Todor Nikolov Stoyanov, PhD, Eng., be elected Associate Professor in Professional Field 6.5 Forestry, scientific specialty "Forest Melioration, Forest Protection and Special Uses in Forests".

Date: 02.06.2026

Member of the Scientific Jury:
/Prof. Dr. Viktor P. Savov/