

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ на НАУКИТЕ	
ИНСТИТУТ за ГОРАТА	
Регистрационен индекс, № и дата	
PD-08-043 / 08.06.26	
Срок за изпълнение	

# STATEMENT

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of **"Associate Professor"** in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.5. "Forestry", scientific specialty "Forest Meliorations, Forest Protection and Special Uses in Forests", announced by the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (FRI-BAS) in State Gazette issue 18/17.02.2026.

**Candidate for participation in the competition: Chief Assistant Dr. Todor Nikolov Stoyanov**

**The statement was prepared by:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Hristova Glushkova, Forest Research Institute - BAS, professional field 6.5. "Forestry", scientific specialty "Forest plantations, selection and seed production", designated as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. ПД 15-208 of 15.04.2026 of the Director of FRI-BAS.

## 1. Brief biographical data

Chief Assistant Todor Nikolov Stoyanov, PhD, was born on December 13, 1977 in the town of Sofia. He graduated from higher education and acquired the educational degree "Master" in Ecology and Environmental Protection at MGU "St. Ivan Rilski", Sofia in 2004, as well as a Master's degree in Business Administration at the University of National and World Economy, Sofia in 2010. He began his professional career in 1998, working successively for the Sofia Municipality, the State Fund for Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and Water, etc. He started working at Forest Research Institute - BAS in 2020 as an Assistant in "Forest Ecology" Department, and in 2021 he was elected as Chief Assistant, holding this position until now. In 2020, he acquired the PhD at the University of Forestry in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production (Forestry and Forest Industry)" with PhD thesis on "Study of the Opportunities and Prospects for the Development of Credit Cooperatives in Bulgaria" (Diploma No. LTU-ONS-2020-131/09.09.2020). In the period 2016-2025, Dr. Todor Stoyanov conducted several short-term scientific missions and professional qualifications, including under COST Actions, which I highly appreciate as an important element for the improvement of his professional qualification.

## 2. Compliance of the candidate's submitted documents and materials with the minimum requirements, according to the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Forest Research Institute - BAS

The submitted documents and materials for the competition are in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

(LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation, the Regulations of the BAS on the terms and conditions for the acquisition of a scientific degree and for occupying academic positions at the Forest Research Institute - BAS. The assessments for the relevant groups of indicators in the Self-Assessment Report submitted by the candidate are supported by the necessary evidentiary materials and are stated correctly. According to the reference on the minimum national requirements for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", Dr. Todor Stoyanov fully covers and in some cases exceeds the required points for the five groups of indicators (A, B, G, D and E). The sum of the points is a total of 1290.62, with a required minimum of 500 points. The excess is largest in group D, followed by groups E, B and G. According the additional requirements of FRI-BAS, the candidate has presented information related to review activities.

### **3. General description of the presented materials**

In the summarized list of the candidate's scientific production, a total of 22 scientific papers for participation in the competition are presented, distributed as follows: 10 of the articles are presented as habilitation thesis (category B), 1 publication referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information and 7 articles and reports in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. One published monograph, 2 studies published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes and 1 published chapter of a collective monograph are also presented. Seven of the articles are published in journals with Impact Factor: Forest Policy and Economics; Trees, Forests and People; Scientific data; Economic alternatives; Forestry Ideas and Ecologia Balkanica. The positive citations of the candidate's scientific works in scientific publications are 40, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information. In addition, the candidate has presented information on the leadership of 2 national scientific or educational projects, as well as participation in 5 national and 4 international scientific or educational projects.

### **4. Main directions in the candidate's research work and the most important scientific and scientific-applied contributions**

The main part of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the scientific publications submitted for participation in the competition are related to the acquisition of new and/or enrichment of existing scientific knowledge, summarized in the following areas:

1. Forest fire risk assessment and management;
2. Impact of fires and forestry activities on soils, restoration of forest ecosystems and their sustainability;
3. Economic aspects of forestry – circular economy, European and national forest policy, forestry cooperatives and forest resources.

I accept the contributions defined by the candidate, emphasizing those that I believe are more relevant to the scientific specialty for which the competition is announced:

- A comprehensive and systematic comparative analysis of Bulgarian and European legislation and policies related to forest fire management has been carried out, identifying structural deficits, contradictions and gaps limiting the effectiveness of the existing regulatory framework.
- The concept of considering forest fires as a systemic socio-ecological risk, determined by the interaction between climatic, ecological and anthropogenic factors, has been substantiated, which requires a transition from reactive to preventive management.
- It has been proven that contemporary trends in Europe are characterized by an increase in the frequency and intensity of forest fires, which requires the integration of fire risk into sectoral policies (forestry, agriculture, regional development, climate adaptation).
- The theoretical framework of the circular bioeconomy has been expanded by including non-timber forest products as an essential element for creating added value and sustainable development of rural areas.
- An original methodology for assessing the risk of forest fires at different territorial levels (protected areas, forestry units, departments and sub-departments) has been developed, based on a system of 29 indicators grouped into five main categories, which increases the accuracy and objectivity of the assessment.
- An innovative risk register of factors for the occurrence of forest fires has been created, ensuring structured collection, processing and exchange of data in the context of inter-institutional cooperation.
- An integrated quantitative index for assessing fire risk has been developed, allowing for standardized classification and comparability of results between different territorial units.
- A methodological approach has been developed for creating forest fire risk maps, applicable in management practice and supporting the decision-making process.
- The practical applicability of the developed methodologies has been proven through their implementation and testing in specific territories – Botevgrad Forestry Enterprise and “Pirin” National Park.
- A significant discrepancy has been identified between the results of the national risk assessment methodology and those used in forest management plans, which proves the need to improve the existing approaches and indicators.
- Practical guidelines have been developed to improve forest fire prevention, including by optimizing monitoring, early warning and fuel mass management.
- Specific legislative and management measures are proposed to increase the effectiveness of the forest fire prevention and control system in Bulgaria.
- A long-term decline in the yield and economic significance of non-timber forest products in Bulgaria has been established, and unused resources and opportunities for their sustainable inclusion in the bioeconomy have been identified.

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

The reference with positive citations of Dr. T. Stoyanov shows that 40 references to publications with his co-authorship in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, have been found. The total number of points of the candidate for category D is 580 and exceeds significantly the required minimum of 100 points for this group of indicators. The indicated citation of the publications confirms the relevance and importance of the scientific research, carried out by the candidate.

## **6. Participation in scientific projects**

In the provided Reference for "Self-assessment for scientific production" (category E), Chief Assistant Dr. T. Stoyanov indicated leadership of 2 national scientific or educational projects (NSF), as well as his participation in 5 nationally funded projects (NSF, OP "Environment") and 4 internationally funded projects. This shows that the candidate has the capacity to elaborate and implement projects and is in demand as an expert for work in national and international scientific teams.

## **7. Educational and teaching activity (supervisor/consultant of doctoral students, training of students, etc.)**

NA

## **8. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution**

The personal contribution of Chief Assitant Todor Stoyanov in the presented scientific production is clearly highlighted in his independent publications (a total of 10) and those of which he is the lead author (a total of 3). I believe that in the remaining joint publications the candidate's contribution is equal and significant, and I accept that the fundamental and scientific-applied achievements are his personal work.

## **9. Critical notes and recommendations**

I have no significant critical comments on the candidate's scientific works presented under this competition. The materials are prepared correctly and are scientifically and technically sound, with the exception of some editorial inaccuracies. I would like to recommend the candidate to focus on independent studies and to publish the achieved results in refereed scientific journals with Impact Factor and SJR Index, which would contribute to wider knowledge and, accordingly, citation of the results of his scientific research.

## **10. Personal impressions**

I have known Dr. T. Stoyanov since he started working at Forest Research Institute - BAS and I have good impressions of his scientific work and his presentations at different scientific forums. I

highly appreciate his professional qualities in fulfilling his commitments, his skills for team and independent work on various scientific and scientific-applied tasks.

## 11. Conclusion

The candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Todor Stoyanov covers the mandatory conditions and scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" at FRI-BAS, which is evident from the submitted documents, accompanying materials and scientometric references. Related to the abovementioned, I propose **Chief Assistant Dr. Todor Nikolov Stoyanov** to be elected as an "Associate Professor" in the professional field 6.5. "Forestry", scientific specialty "Forest Meliorations, Forest Protection and Special Uses in Forests", at Forest Research Institute - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

---

Date: 08/06.2026

Member of the Scientific Jury:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Glushkova/