

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ на НАУКИТЕ	
ИНСТИТУТ за ГОРАТА	
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## OPINION

On the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in professional field 6.5. Forestry, scientific speciality Forest reclamation, forest protection and special uses in forests, announced by the Forest Research Institute - BAS in the State Gazette No. 18 of 17.02.2026

**Candidate for participation in the competition:** Senior Asst. Prof. Dr Todor Nikolov Stoyanov  
**Prepared the opinion:** Assoc. Prof. Dr Svetozar Ivanov Madzhov, Member of the scientific jury

### 1. Brief biographical data.

Senior Asst. Prof. Dr Todor Nikolov Stoyanov was born on 13.12.1977 in Sofia. In 2004, he acquired the educational qualification degree "Master of Engineering Geo-Ecologist" in the scientific speciality 'Ecology and Environmental Protection' at the University of Mining and Geology, St. Ivan Rilski, and in 2010, 'Master' in Business Administration at the University of National and World Economy. In 2020, he successfully defended a dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' on the topic 'Study of the Opportunities and Prospects for the Development of Credit Cooperatives in Bulgaria' at the University of Forestry. For the period 2003-2021, Dr Stoyanov held positions as an expert in the Sofia Municipality 'Mladost' district, the Inspectorate at the Sofia Municipality, the State Fund 'Agriculture' and the Ministry of Environment and Water - Directorate 'Cohesion Policy for the Environment', a freelance environmental consultant, etc. He began his scientific career at the Forest Research Institute - BAS in 2020 as an assistant, and from 2021 to the present, he has been a chief assistant in the Forest Ecology section. From 2021 to 2026, he was a part-time lecturer at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

He is a member of the Management Board of COST actions and a participant in specialisations and educational courses. He has conducted short-term scientific missions in the Republic of North Macedonia and the Czech Republic. With his expertise, he participates in the implementation of national and international scientific projects, preparing opinions for ministries, departments, etc., and presenting at national and international scientific forums.

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

In the announced competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education 6. Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.5. For the scientific speciality Forest reclamation, forest protection and special uses in forests, for the needs of the Department 'Forest Ecology' at the Forest Research Institute - BAS, Senior Assistant Professor Dr Todor Stoyanov is the only candidate. The submitted scientific works meet the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of the Forest Research Institute - BAS.

The submitted self-assessment report for compliance with the minimum national requirements under Article. 2b of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Forest Research Institute - BAS and Art. 2a, para. 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of

the Forest Research Institute - BAS indicates a total of **1290.62 points**, accompanied by the relevant evidence, which exceeds 2.5 times the minimum requirements of the Forest Research Institute - BAS of 500 points for this academic position.

In the individual categories, Dr T. Stoyanov presents the following results:

- *Group of indicators A* (dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' - **50 points** (min. 50 points)

- *Group of indicators B* (habilitation work - scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) - **233.74 points** (min. 100 points);

- *Group of indicators G* (scientific publication in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), outside the habilitation thesis) – **206.88 points** (min. 200 points);

- *Group of indicators D* (citations in scientific publications, monographs, collective volumes and patents, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) – **580.00 points** (min. 100 points);

- *Group of indicators E* (leadership and participation in a national and international scientific or educational project, attracted funds, etc.) – **215.00 points** (min. 50 points).

• In addition to the reference on criteria set out in the Regulations for Academic Development of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, **5 points** are indicated, which are related to membership in the Editorial Board of the Bozok Journal of Agriculture and Natural Sciences.

According to the submitted documents and the self-assessment report, Dr T. Stoyanov fully meets the minimum requirements for the quantitative indicators for occupying the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in professional field 6.5. Forestry, a scientific speciality, includes forest reclamation, forest protection, and special uses of forests, as specified in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Forest Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

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

To participate in this competition, the candidate submits a list of 18 published publications, 1 monograph, 2 studies, and 1 chapter of a monograph. 10 publications are listed as habilitation works and are indexed in the world-famous Web of Science and Scopus databases, providing scientific information. Among them are scientific works related to methods for assessing and managing forest fires, assessing the impact of forestry activities on the accumulation of organic carbon and nitrogen in soils, studying aspects of forestry and the circular economy, forest cooperatives, and forest resources, etc.

The journals in which the results are most often published are *Ecologia Balkanica*, *Forestry Ideas*, *Silva Balcanica*, *Trees, Forests and People*, *Scientific Data*, *Forest Policy and Economics*, etc.

In the submitted scientific production for participation in the competition for occupying the academic position of 'Associate Professor', T. Stoyanov is: sole author of 10 publications (45% of all submitted materials), first author of 3 publications (14%), second author and subsequent author in the remaining 9 publications. Over 80% of the publications are in English.

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

From the submitted references for scientific, applied science and methodological contributions, it is clear that part of the scientific research work of Dr. Todor Stoyanov is aimed at managing and assessing the risk of forest fires, the impact of fires and silvicultural activities on soils, the restoration of forest ecosystems and their sustainability, economic aspects of forestry - circular economy, European and national forest policy, forest cooperatives and forest resources, etc.

For the first time, a comprehensive and systematic comparative analysis of Bulgarian and European legislation related to forest fire management has been conducted; a methodology for assessing forest fire risk has been enhanced (B.4.1., B.4.6., G.5.1., G.10.1., G.10.2.). An innovative risk register of factors contributing to forest fires has been developed; an integrated quantitative index for assessing fire risk ( $R_0$ ) has been created, enabling standardised classification and comparison of results across different territorial units; a methodological approach for producing forest fire risk maps has been devised, applicable in management practice and supporting decision-making; practical guidelines for improving forest fire prevention have been established; and specific legislative and management measures have been proposed to enhance the effectiveness of Bulgaria's forest fire prevention and control system (G.5.1., G.10.1, G.10.2., G.11.1., G.10.2.).

The amount of accumulated organic carbon in the soil after silvicultural activities has been studied (B.4.2, B.4.4).

The concept of social enterprises in the forestry sector has been further developed, and their role in integrating economic, social, and environmental goals within a circular economy has been evaluated; the theoretical framework of the circular bioeconomy has been examined, including non-timber forest products as a key element for adding value and promoting sustainable development in rural areas (B.4.3., G.8.3., G.8.5.); the role of cooperative structures as a mechanism for the sustainable management of private forests and for the socio-economic development of rural regions has been confirmed (G.8.2., G.8.7.).

The profitability of introducing the FSC certificate in forest structures has been assessed (B.4.10).

#### **6. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (citability).**

Foreign scientists have cited the scientific contributions and achievements of T. Stoyanov. 40 citations (580.00 points) for 6 publications in refereed, world-renowned, indexed databases, including AI, Trees, Forests and People, Land, Geosystems and Geoenvironment, Ecological Informatics, etc., have been found.

#### **7. Participation in scientific and applied projects.**

In this competition, the candidate presents a reference for the management of two scientific projects funded by the Scientific Research Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science, and participation in four projects under the European Program for Cooperation in the Field of Scientific Research and Technology COST; HEI EIT Climate-KIC funds two projects; EACEA funds one; one funded by LTER. Participant in national scientific or educational projects - four, funded by the Scientific Research Fund, funded by the Operational Programme 'Environment', and one, co-financed by the EU through the ERDF and from the national budget of the Republic of Bulgaria.

**8. Teaching and learning activities (supervisor/consultant of doctoral students, student training, etc.)**

No data on the supervision of graduates are presented. In the period 2021-2026, he is a part-time lecturer at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

**9. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution.**

The candidate's personal involvement in developing the materials submitted for the competition is clearly outlined. Dr Todor Stoyanov is the sole or lead author in nearly 60% of all submitted scientific materials for participation in the competition, which is indisputable evidence of the personal contribution to the results obtained and to the scientific, applied science and methodological contributions presented.

**10. Critical remarks and recommendations.**

I have no critical remarks towards the candidate.

**11. Personal impressions.**

My personal impressions of Dr Todor Stoyanov are related to the Forest Research Institute – BAS, where the candidate emerges as a dedicated and purposeful researcher with interests in forest fires, forest policy, circular bioeconomy, etc.

**12. Conclusion.**

Having familiarized myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, and based on the analysis of their significance, and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained therein, I confirm that the scientific achievements meet the requirements of the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant Regulations of the Forest Research Institute – BAS to occupy the academic position of 'Associate professor' in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition. In connection with the above, I propose that **Senior Asst. Prof. Dr Todor Nikolov Stoyanov** was elected as 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education 6: Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.5. Forestry, a scientific speciality, includes forest reclamation, forest protection and special uses in forests.

Date 1.6.2026

Prepared by:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetozar Madzhov/