

## STANDPOINT

Regarding a Competition for an Academic Position of "Associate Professor" in professional field: **5.5. Transport, shipping and aviation**, discipline: "**Conservation of Biodiversity**" published in the State Gazette no. 65 of 06.08.2021

with an applicant: **Chief Assist. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev**

Member of the Scientific Jury: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miglena Atanasova Drumeva**

### **1. General characteristics of the scientific and applied research activities of the applicant.**

Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev participated in the competition for the employment of AP "Associate Professor" with a defended dissertation thesis and a total of 35 peer-reviewed scientific papers published in journals with scientific content and reports presented at scientific forums, which correspond to the following indicators, according to the minimum requirements of the Regulations for application of the law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria:

- 13 scientific publications are referred to Indicator B.4., which requires habilitation work or scientific publications (not less than 10) in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information;
- 22 scientific publications are referred to Indicator G.8. - publications in non-peer-reviewed journals with a scientific review or in edited collective volumes.

In 18 of the 35 publications of the applicant, he is an independent author; in 12 of the scientific papers he is the first author and in the remaining 5 he is the second and consecutive author.

The scientometric indicators of the presented activities are:

**Group A.** Dissertation thesis for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - **50 points**, with a required minimum of 50 points; **Group B - Indicator 2.4.** - **415.84 points**, with a required minimum of 100 points, formed by 13 scientific publications, in 8 of which the applicant is the self or first author; **Group G - Indicator 4.8.** - **333.99 points**, formed by published articles in unreferred journals with a scientific review or in edited collective volumes (22 issues), with a required minimum total for Group G - 200 points. **Group D - Indicator 5.12.** - **160 points**, formed by 16 citations of the scientific works of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Vergiev in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and **Indicator 5.14.** - **10 points**, formed by 5 citations of the scientific works of the applicant in non-refereed journals with scientific review; **total for Group D - 170 points**, with a required minimum of 50 points. **Group J - Indicator 7.29.** - **305 points**, with a required minimum of 30 points, formed by the number of lectures presented at TU - Varna for the last three years.

There are no signals of legally proven plagiarism in scientific papers.

The documents submitted by the applicant comply with the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquisition the academic position "Associate Professor" at the Technical University - Varna (Pr.№ 32 of 26.04.2021 from the AC of TU - Varna), and fully meet the minimum national requirements for acquisition the academic position "Associate Professor".

### **2. Assessment of the applicant's pedagogical training and activities.**

IIIhe documentation provided by the applicant shows that since the Year 2017 Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev is actively engaged not only in research but also in

educational activities, as he was appointed as Chief Assistant at the Technical University of Varna.

The main teaching activities of the applicant in the Bachelor's degree include development and conducting of laboratory exercises in the disciplines: "Botany - 1st and 2nd part", "Air purification technologies", "Ecology", "Air pollution", "Protected areas and protection of the genetic fund"; "Biotechnologies and biotechnological methods of purification", "Agrometeorology", "Physiology and biochemistry of plants", "Landscape science and landscaping" and "Technologies for restoration of damaged soils".

Lecture courses in the Bachelor's degree have also been developed and conducted by the applicant in the following disciplines: "Conservation of Biodiversity"; "Landscape protection"; Meteorology and Oceanography; "Biotechnologies and biotechnological methods of purification"; "Protected natural areas and protection of the genetic fund"; "Air Pollution"; "Environmental Management"; "Solid waste treatment technologies". The applicant has a lecture course in the discipline "Landscape Conservation of the Black Sea Region" for students at a Master's Degree.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Vergiev also participates in the development of 5 curricula in the disciplines "Conservation of Biodiversity"; "Protected natural areas"; "Preservation of the landscape of the Black Sea region"; "Landscape Protection" and "Biotechnologies and Biotechnological Methods for Purification".

The teaching activity is complemented by the Bachelor thesis supervision of 5 successfully graduates in the Bachelor's degree, as well as by the joint work of the applicant with students in research projects and the introduction of new teaching methods and providing classes in a practical environment outside TU-Varna.

The applicant has a significant personal contribution to the modernization of the material and technical base of the University through his direct participation in research projects, ensuring the purchase of modern equipment.

For the period 2010 - 2017 Year, the applicant has realized three international mobilities for training.

The summarized teaching and pedagogical activity of the applicant illustrate the complex and wide-ranging commitment of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Vergiev in the educational process.

### **3 Main scientific and applied contributions.**

The research and scientific-applied contributions from the presented scientific papers refer to four main directions:

- Study of the modern flora and vegetation of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, Northeastern Bulgaria and Stara Planina.
- Protection of sand habitats, dunes and coastal areas.
- Development of flora and fauna, successions and migrations in space and time.
- Climate change and its impact on vegetation and pollen productivity.

In all four main areas, the basic *methodological contributions* concern the preparation of GIS-based models for the assessment of various parameters according to the objectives of the research.

*Some of the main scientific and applied contributions include:*

The obtained original scientific data on the plant diversity and its current conservation status on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, as well as on the changes in the territorial distribution of the vegetation as a result of the anthropogenic impact.

The established capacity of psammophytic plant species sand leymus (*Leymus racemosus* subsp. *Sabulosus*), sandpiper (*Ammophila arenaria*), Colchicus (*Carex colchica*), *Thinopyrum ponticum* and *Galilea mucronata*, as stable.

The genus *Protanancus* has been reported for the first time from Europe, suggesting its presence in China and tracing the genus' migration routes.

Data on key parameters required for quantitative reconstructions of paleovegetation in GIS environment were obtained.

The conservation of significant areas has been identified and prioritized, according to the prepared generalized Regional Weight Scheme for assessment and classification of natural areas,

in 5th grade, and a color presentation has been made.

It has been established that the sand leymus has the greatest stabilizing capacity.

Modern calibration sets containing pollen and climate data from 759 modern surface samples for the period 2009 - 2020 have been prepared.

The applicant's contributions correspond to the requirements for acquisition the academic position "Associate Professor" and are his merit. Proof of this is the fact that in about 86% of the publications the applicant is the first author.

The citation rate of the applicant's scientific papers is also high - 16 citations are given in the world databases (D.12) and 5 citations in unreferred journals with scientific review (D.14).

#### **4. Significance of the contributions to science and practice.**

The significance of the contributions to science can be judged by the number of publications in the SCOPUS and Web of Science databases and by the number of citations of scientific papers. The applicant participates in the current procedure with 13 publications in world databases.

The citation rate of the applicant's works is very good.

The citation rate of the applicant's works is very good, which is proof for his recognition among the scientific circles in Bulgaria and abroad. Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Vergiev has indicated a list of citations, which according to the national scientometric indicators constitute 170 points, with a minimum requirement of 50.

The significance of the contributions to the practice can be indirectly judged by the candidate's participation in research projects. For the period 2009-2021 Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Vergiev has participated in 9 scientific and educational projects and in two contractual topics of TU-Varna with business.

The quantitative indicators of the criteria for acquisition the academic position are met.

#### **5. Critical notes and recommendations.**

I have no critical remarks on the scientific works of the applicant. I recommend to Dr. Vergiev to continue to publish in valuable scientific journals with impact factor and in indexed databases of scientific literature (SCOPUS, WoS), and to expand the scope of its international contacts in the professional field.

### **CONCLUSION**

The submitted scientific production and the applicant's documents are in accordance with the ZRASRB and the Rules for its application in the part for AP "Associate Professor". The applicant's contributions are sufficient for the AP "Associate Professor" and are his own work. Proof is the fact that in the most of all publications the candidate is the first author. On the basis of my acquaintance with the submitted scientific papers, the applied scientific and implementation contributions and the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, I find it justified to propose **Chief Assist. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor"** in Professional field 5.5. Transport, shipping and aviation, discipline: "Conservation of Biodiversity", at the dept. Ecology and Environmental Protection, Faculty of Shipbuilding, TU-Varna.

Заличена информация  
по Регламент (ЕС)  
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04.11.2021  
TU - Varna

**Member of the Scientific Jury:**  
/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miglena Atanasova Drumeva/