

**OPINION**  
**by Prof. Iliya Nikolov Iliev, PhD,**  
**University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”**

**member of the scientific jury, according to the order of the rector of Technical University -  
Varna No. 612/07.10.2021.**  
**regarding the materials submitted for participating in the competition for occupying the  
academic position “Associated Professor” in Technical University of Varna**

in Area of higher education: 5. Technical Sciences,  
Professional Field: 5.5. Transport, shipping and aviation  
"Biodiversity Conservation" for the needs of the  
Department "Ecology and environmental conservation",  
at the Faculty of Shipbuilding of the Technical University – Varna

Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev from Technical University of Varna participates as the only candidate in the “Associated Professor” competition proclaimed both in State Gazette no. 65, dated 06 August 2021 and in the Technical University of Varna website.

**1. General overview of the procedure and the candidate**

The set of materials presented by Senior Assist. Prof. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev (in electronic and paper form ) is in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Development of Academic Staff Regulation in the Technical University of Varna and includes all necessary documents for participating in the competition.

The materials presented for participation in the competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ include 35 scientific publications in referenced scientific journals, which are not included the scientific publications for obtaining the educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’. Senior Assistant Professor Vergiev is a leading author in 32 scientific papers.

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev was born on January 09, 1979. He graduated with honors from the Technical University of Varna, majoring in Ecology and Environmental Protection - Bachelor in 2002. and a master's degree in 2003. In 2014 successfully defended a dissertation on "Paleoecology and geoarchaeology of Upper Pleistocene and Holocene sediments according to data from the deep Black Sea and Lake Varna" and received

ONS "Doctor" in the professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences in the doctoral program Geology of the Oceans and Seas. The work experience of the candidate in the specialty with the doctoral education is 13 years, as 11 of them are as a research associate and chief assistant. From 2017 to the present he is in the Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection at the Faculty of Shipbuilding at the Technical University - Varna.

Presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Vergiev scientific activities fully comply with the minimum national requirements for professional field 5.5. Transport, shipping and aviation, discipline "Biodiversity Conservation".

**For criterion A (min. 50 p.) - 50 points**

He defended his doctoral dissertation in professional field 4.4. "Earth Sciences" in the doctoral program "Geology of the Oceans and Seas" after defending a dissertation on "Paleoecology and geoarchaeology of Upper Pleistocene and Holocene sediments according to data from the deep Black Sea and Lake Varna."

**For criterion B (min. 100 p.) – 415,84 points**

An equivalent number of publications covering the points for habilitation work are presented. They are 13 in number and do not repeat the ones presented for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", and for holding the academic position "Chief Assistant".

**For criterion G (min. 200 p.) – 333,99 points**

They include 22 publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information and non-indexed journals.

**For criterion D (min. 50 p.) – 170 points**

Includes citations in scientific journals, monographs, collective volumes and patents, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus).

**2. General characteristics of the activity of candidate**

Senior Assist. Professor Dr. St. Vergiev has a very active and diverse activity both in scientific research and in the training of students.

### *Scientific and applied activities*

The main scientific interests of the candidate are in the field of study of habitats of plant species along the Bulgarian coast, Northeastern Bulgaria and Stara Planina to establish plant diversity and assess the conservation significance of the territories in which they are distributed. Also with theoretical studies of the evolution of biodiversity on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, neo-endemism and relict endemism, development of landscapes and the impact of anthropogenic factors on them. Ch. Assistant Professor Vergiev also conducts a number of applied studies in the field of ecosystem services and the impact of climate change on vegetation and pollen productivity. All quantitative indicators of the national criteria for holding the academic position of "associate professor" are met.

The candidate formulates his / her scientific contributions in four main research areas:

- study of the modern flora of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, Northeastern Bulgaria and Stara Planina, GIS mapping and models for identification, assessment and prioritization of areas of conservation importance;

- protection of sand habitats, dunes and coastal areas and minimization of the impact of floods and erosions;

- development of flora and fauna, successions and migrations in space and time, evolution of biodiversity along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, neo-endemism and relict endemism;

- the impact of climate change on vegetation and pollen productivity, analysis of the plants-pollen-climate relationship.

I accept the formulated scientific contributions by Dr. Stoyan Vergiev. Dr. Vergiev is in the research team of 8 research projects, two of which he is the leader of, 5 of them are international, one from OP "Human Resources Development" and two from the Fund "Scientific Research" at the Technical University - Varna. Dr. Vergiev successfully cooperates with the business, as evidenced by the two contracts with companies. With his versatile work (reviews of articles, dissertations, participation in international and national scientific forums, presentations at scientific forums, etc.) he actively works to raise the prestige of the Department of "Ecology and Environmental Protection" and the Faculty of Shipbuilding. Technical University Varna. Dr. Vergiev is constantly improving his qualification, as evidenced by the attached documents for successfully completed qualification courses.

### ***Teaching and participation in funded contracts***

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Vergiev has 4 years of experience as a senior assistant at the Faculty of Shipbuilding at the Technical University - Varna. The academic work of the candidate is related to students from the Faculty of Shipbuilding at the Technical University - Varna and includes lecture courses and laboratory exercises (practical exercises) for bachelor's and master's degrees. From a reference on indicator J - Hours of lectures given in the last 3 years, Dr. Vergiev has conducted a total of 305 academic hours for the required 30. He has developed 8 lecture courses for students with a bachelor's degree and one course in the Master's degree. He has participated in the training of three doctoral students and has supervised the research work of 22 students on projects of the Technical University - Varna.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev, meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Specific Additional Requirements of the Technical University - Varna, as publications and research activities exceed the minimum national requirements for the academic position of associate professor “. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition through their publication in journals and scientific journals published by international academic publishers. Undoubtedly, the very active teaching activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Vergiev. Based on all this, I support without hesitation the candidacy of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Technical - Varna in the field of higher education: 5. Technical sciences, professional field 5. 5. Transport, shipping and aviation, discipline "Biodiversity Conservation “.

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Plovdiv

Opinion issued by:

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