

REVIEW

by

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Department of Polymer Engineering, University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy,
Member of the Academic Jury set to render a decision on the competition for filling the
academic position of an Associate Professor in the region of higher education 4. Natural
Sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.2. Sciences for the Earth,
scientific specialty "Technology for utilization and treating of the wastes (utilization and
treating of the wastes from biodiesel production)"

This report is prepared in response to order N РД-64/04.03.2020 issued by the
Rector of the "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" University, following the decision made by the first
meeting of the Academic jury that was held on 06.03.2020.

The report is in compliance with Development of Academic Staff in the
Republic of Bulgaria Law, the Rules for the Application of the Development of Academic
Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Law and with the Rules accepted at the "Prof. Dr. Assen
Zlatarov" University for occupation the academic position of associate professor.

On the announced in D.V. No.1 / 03/01/2020 Competition for occupation of
the academic position "Associate Professor" for the needs of the "Ecology and
Environmental Protection" Department at the Natural Sciences Faculty there was only one
candidate- Assistant Prof. Dr. Nikola Stoyanov Todorov.

The report consists of three chapters and a conclusion.

1. Assessment of the scientific and research activities of the candidate

The scientific and research activities of Assist. Prof. Todorov may be presented as follows:

- Group of indicators C / Indicator 3 /- Monograph "Utilization of glycerol phase obtained
from the production of rapeseed biodiesel", issued in 2020 by Libra Scorp.

-Group of indicators D:

/Indicator 7/ - three scientific publications in editions referenced in the world-famous Scopus
and Web of Science databases: two of them are Bulgarian, with quartiles Q2 and Q4, and the
third is English with Quartile Q2.

/ Indicator 8 / -23 publications in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review, 5 of which
are abroad /two independent and three in co-authorship / and 18 are in Bulgarian journals /2

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independent and 16 in co-authorship /. There is some discrepancy in the number of non-refereed publications in the presented list (there are 23) and the declaration of the number of points / there is 24 /. In two of the three publications in refereed journals, Assoc. Todorov is the first author, as well as in 14 of the 23 publications printed in non-refereed editions (about 61%). In other publications, he is most often the third author, with two in more back position. The candidate submitted a list of 14 reported results in scientific forums exclusively in Bulgaria, of which only two were not printed in full text. All other reports were later printed as publications in various editions, which the applicant had given in good faith.

The relevance of the topics of Assoc. Dr. Todorov is beyond doubt, especially that part of it related to the utilization of waste products in the production of biodiesel, as well as in some other industries, e.g. production of unsaturated polyesters.

Concerning the citations /group of indicators E/, although formally speaking I acknowledge all 38 citations in fact I would like to comment on them as follows:

- citations in scientific publications referenced in world-famous databases and citations in monographs - a total of 10 and with 44 points in the total number of points in this group of indicators / 100 points / are absolutely indisputable and only by foreign authors, some of whom / eg. S. Thomas / are globally recognized.
- citations in non-refereed editions /28 in total with 56 points in the total contribution of this group of indicators, only by Bulgarian authors / do not satisfy me, although I have no reason not to acknowledge them, since they are neither "explicit" nor "hidden" citations. Either way, citations from co-authors in other publications /Cherkesova / or from one and the same authors or colleagues / Zhelezarov, Mollova, Todorova / in large numbers do not make a good impression. There is something else to be desired by the candidate in this direction.

For the assets in the group of indicators E /indicators 15-16 / the applicant presented a list of seven participations in internal university scientific projects / in 5 as a member of the team and in 2 as a leader /. He is also involved in two national and one international project, two of which are educational and one is scientific.

2. Assessment of the teaching and learning activities of the candidate

With regard to Indicator 20, the applicant has one school appliance /although it is also referred to as a monograph, it exactly corresponds to a school appliance by its content and way of writing / and one textbook.

In terms of teaching activities, the applicant has participated in the development of seven curricula in three specialties /"Ecology and environmental protection", "Ecology and environmental management", "Chemistry of cosmetic and surfactants" /. The programs show knowledge of the matter in the field. During the last 3 years Assist.Prof. Todorov had teaching activities / lectures and / or exercises / in 5 disciplines. That is why I regard his activity in this regard as active.

The analysis of the report on the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" of Assist. Prof. N. Todorov shows that by point asset / 692.9 points / it exceeds the established scientometric criteria both in the state / 400 points/ and in the university /650 points / requirements.

3. Opinions, recommendations and critical comments

My most serious recommendation to Assist.Prof. Dr. Nikola Todorov is related to the further enhancement of the quality of his research and related publications. This is a prerequisite for him to be able to publish primarily and especially in world-renowned journals with a higher impact factor or impact rank. This will definitely increase the visibility of his publications, respectively the number of citations by foreign authors will increase. I would also recommend more active participation in scientific forums abroad. And last but not least - activation of his participation in scientific projects with national or international scope.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of my acquaintance with the documents of the applicant for the competition and the opinion based on it, on the submitted by him publications, citations, participation in scientific forums and scientific projects, his educational activity, as well as on the basis of the reference for the implementation of the minimum state and university requirements for the different groups of indicators and, in general, the fulfillment of the conditions and procedure for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor", described in the Rules of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" Burgas, I give a positive assessment of the overall activity of Assist. Prof. Dr. Nikola Stoyanov Todorov.

In this regard, I propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences to elect him to fill the academic position of Assistant Professor in the professional field 4.4. Earth sciences, scientific specialty "Technology for utilization and treatment of waste" (utilization and treatment of waste from the production of biodiesel).

The review was prepared by
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Member of the Academic Jury

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