

STATEMENT

by Professor Assen Ivanov Assenov from the Department of Landscape Ecology and Environmental Protection at the Faculty of Geology and Geography of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

FOR THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES OF ASSOC. PROF. STOYAN TSVETANOV NEDKOV, PHD

Subject: Competition for the academic position "Professor", in professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences, scientific specialty "Physical Geography, Landscape Science and GIS", announced in SG, issue 21 of 13.03.2020, for the needs of the Department of Geography at NIGGG-BAS and according to order №01-98 / 03.07.2020 of the Director of NIGGG-BAS, and according to Article 59 (4) of the Regulations for application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in NIGGG .

This statement is based on a decision of the Scientific Jury adopted at its meeting of 27 July 2020.

The documentation submitted by the candidate meets the requirements of both the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (as amended on February 25th, 2020), the Regulations for application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff (SG of 19.02.2019), as well as of the Regulations for application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in NIGGG. Technically, the documentation is properly prepared and arranged exactly in accordance with the description in the Application for participation in the competition.

The attached reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and of the additional requirements of NIGGG - BAS for holding the academic position "Professor" by Associate Professor Dr. Stoyan Nedkov fully meets the required number of points, and in some groups exceeds the required number of points (groups C, D, E, F). No data on plagiarism and use of other authors' scientific achievements have been established.

Stoyan Nedkov was born in 1969 in Sofia. He graduated with a master's degree from the Faculty of Geology and Geography at Sofia University “St. Kliment

Ohridski” in 1997. In 2002 he defended his doctoral dissertation at the then Geographical Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He has successively held the following positions: Research Associate at the Institute of Geography - BAS (2003-2009); Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Geography - BAS (2009-2010); Associate Professor at the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography - BAS (2010–2014); Associate Professor at the Faculty of Geology and Geography of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (2014-2015); since 2015 - until now he is an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Additionally, Assoc. Prof. Nedkov held elected positions as Head of the GIS Section at NIGGG-BAS in the period 2010-2014; Head of the Department of Geography at NIGGG-BAS in 2012 and Scientific Secretary of NIGGG-BAS from 2018 until now. He was Chairman of the Board of the Bulgarian Geographical Society in the period 2014 - 2018.

Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Nedkov participates in the current competition with 55 scientific papers of various volumes and nature, correctly reflected in the attached documents. All submitted materials clearly prove that his research activity is in the field of the announced competition. Twenty of the presented publications are referenced and indexed in the world famous databases with scientific information (Web of science and Scopus), 5 publications are referenced and indexed in other databases with scientific information, 30 publications are printed in journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes. The number of cited publications is 19, with the total number of citations amounting to 558, or this corresponds to a total of 2790 points, which is 2670 more than the required 120 points.

In the period 2015-2019, Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Nedkov is the tutor of three doctoral students who successfully defended their dissertations. The candidate has participated in 14 national and international projects (2003-2020), and was the leader of 5 of the projects.

The teaching work of Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Nedkov has a very diverse spatial aspect. In the period 2005/2006 he lectured the module "Implementation of GIS in environmental research" from the course "Introduction of Geoinformatics" in the Department of Geography at the University of Joensuu. In 2006/2007 and 2009/2010 he delivered a Specialized Course "Environmental assessment using GIS based techniques" as part of the module "Selected topics of Geoinformatics" in the Department of Geography at the University of Salzburg.

He has taught the following courses at the BAS Training Center: “Introduction to GIS and work with ArcGIS” (from 2010 to the present); “Spatial analysis and assessment of ecosystem services through the use of GIS-based applications” (from 2018 - till now), as well as “Practical skills for developing a scientific publication” (from 2018 - till now).

In the Faculty of Geology and Geography of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” he has lectured the following master's courses: “Application of GIS in environmental management” (2013-2015), “Geographic Information Systems” (2013-2015) and “GIS in Hydro-Climatic Research” (2013-2015). At the bachelor's degree level he has taught the courses “Introduction to GIS” (2013-2015) and “General Cartography” (2013-2015).

In the University of Veliko Tarnovo “St. St. Cyril and Methodius” at the bachelor's degree level has taught the courses “Landscape Science and Environmental Protection” (2020) and “Landscape Planning” (2020).

Essentially I fully accept the contributions, bearing in mind that there are other possibilities for their structuring and that the three groups of contributions are in fact closely linked to each other. Due to the limited scope of the statement, I will not repeat all the contributions presented, but I would like to emphasize that most of the results obtained are original, complement and enrich existing knowledge, and a very small part are of a confirmatory nature. The candidate's contributions are of theoretical and applied significance.

Of all the presented contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Nedkov, standing out are his achievements in the field of application of the concept of landscape/ecosystem goods and services, with special contribution to the development of the geospatial approach for assessment and mapping of ecosystem services, as well as to the establishment of this scientific field in geographical research in Bulgaria and its integration into the world's leading scientific research. A significant part of the achieved contribution results are due to the participation of the candidate in major international projects.

Of particular value is the theoretical and applied research related to the assessment of the danger and risk of floods in Bulgaria and the application of models for outflow analysis in cases of river floods.

Based on the submitted competition materials and my personal impressions of the candidate, I believe that the research achievements of Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Tsvetanov Nedkov, PhD, combined with his teaching experience, the qualities and

skills he possesses, are sufficient grounds for his election to the academic position “Professor” in the Field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, Professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Physical Geography, Landscape Science and GIS) in the Department of Geography at NIGGG. Therefore, having in mind that all scientometric indicators and submitted documents are in accordance with the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (as amended on February 25th, 2020), the Regulations for application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff (SG of 19.02.2019), as well as of the Regulations for application of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in NIGGG, I give a positive assessment of the submitted materials and recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to support this election.

Sofia
26.09.2020

Professor Assen Ivanov Assenov