

Review

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on competition for the fill of academic position „Professor“ in the Faculty of Geology and Exploration of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” in scientific field 4.4. Earth Sciences and scientific specialty „Paleontology and stratigraphy“, with a single applicant Associated-Professor PhD **Boris Vladimirov Valchev**.

The review is elaborated according to the requirements of the Law for Development of the academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulation for application of the LDASRB and the Regulations of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” for occupation of the academic positions (Appendix 1).

The documentation and materials presented by the applicant in the competition correspond to the requirements of the LDASRB, the Regulation for application of the LDASRB and the Regulations of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” for occupation of the academic positions. The documentation mentioned is complete and detailed, in which the publications for the present competition are clearly separated in the general list of publications from those presented for the obtention of the academic position “Associated-Professor”.

Assessment of the fulfilment of the minimal national requirements for the scientific field

Indicator A

Indicator 1: Dissertation for holding educational and scientific degree PhD.

The applicant possesses educational and scientific degree PhD and fulfills this indicator.

Group of indicators B (Б in Bulgarian).

Indicator 4. Habilitation thesis – scientific publications.

The applicant presents 9 scientific publications on this indicator. In six articles the applicant is first author, second author in two articles and in one article third author in the authorship list. Leading participation has the applicant in the authorship list of articles in national journals with low impact factor (< 1 , Comptes Rendus de l'Academie bulgare des Sciences, Review of the Bulgarian Geological Society), as well as in one article with high impact factor (>1 , Geoheritage, IF = 2.24).

The applicant's points for indicator 4 surpass the required minimal number of points.

Group of indicators C (Γ in Bulgarian).

Indicator 7. Scientific publication in issues, which are referred/indexed in world-known data bases of scientific information.

The applicant presents in this indicator 37 scientific publications. In twenty-five of them the applicant is first author, in nine publications is second author, in two publications third author and fourth author in one article. Twenty-one of the publications represent scientific articles in journals with low impact factor/rang (Review of the Bulgarian Geological Society, Annual of the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski", Geologica Balcanica), one scientific article in journal with high impact factor (Geoheritage, IF = 2.24), and fifteen of the publications represent extended abstracts from the annual conference "Geosciences" of the Bulgarian Geological Society.

Overall, in the group of indicators C (indicator 7), the publications of the applicant significantly surpass required minimal number of points for this group of indicators.

Publication activity of the applicant

The applicant Associated-Professor PhD Boris Valchev has presented 46 scientific publications in this competition.

Scientific articles: Twenty-six scientific articles are presented in specialized international scientific journals on Earth Sciences referred and indexed by Scopus/Web of Science with

impact factor, in which in 17 articles the applicant is first author, in 6 articles second author, in 2 articles third author and in one article fourth co-author. Accordingly, the applicant has leading role in scientific articles published in national scientific journals referred and indexed by Scopus/Web of Science with impact factor or impact rang.

Abstracts: In the standard and extended abstracts (15 presented in the competition) of the presentations published in proceeding volumes of national scientific conferences, the applicant has dominant leading role.

Major part of the publications of the applicant falls in the field of the scientific specialty “Paleontology and stratigraphy” on which the competition is advertised, where they are mainly focused on the study of Paleogene foraminifers in lithostratigraphic units from the Northeastern Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia. The paleontologically-stratigraphically scoped publications have contributed to the clarification of the taxonomy of the fossil foraminiferal assemblages and the lithostratigraphy of the Paleogene units in the Moesian Platform and East Balkan Zone.

In the research profile of the applicant is outlined scientific direction by publications, which combine geological modeling and seismic interpretation of borehole data for the aim of lithostratigraphic subdivision of the sedimentary basins. These publications include 3D lithologic and chronostratigraphic models that have a contribution to the enhancement of the knowledge of lithologic-stratigraphic successions in the Dolnokamchia basin on land and offshore Black Sea.

An additional scientific direction is also outlined by publications dealing with distinct geological phenomena, geo-conservation problems and popularization activities in GIS environment of fossil sites in the Western Stara Planina and Sredna Gora mountains, which have contributed for the clarification of the possibility for development of the geoparks.

The scientific publications of the applicant presented in this competition **fully correspond to and even surpass the minimal national requirements** according to LDASRB (group of indicators B, indicator 4; group of indicators C, indicator 7) and the requirements according to the Regulations of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” for occupation of the academic positions.

Group of indicators D (Д in Bulgarian).

Indicator 11. Citations or reviews in scientific issues referred and indexed in world-known data bases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes. (Scopus и/или WoS)

Twelve of the applicants' publications are cited in referred and indexed issues, of which 1 publication has received 12 citations, 2 publications received each of them 5 citations, 2 publications received each of them 3 citations, and 4 publications have received only a single citation. Overall, 38 citations.

Indicator 12. Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific reviewing.

Two of the applicant's publications have single citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific reviewing. Overall, 2 citations.

Indicator 13. Citations or reviews in non-referred journals with scientific reviewing.

One of the publications of the applicant has received 8 citations in non-referred journals with scientific reviewing, and six others have received each of them only a single citation. Overall, 14 citations.

Overall, on the group of indicators D (indicators 11, 12 and 13) the citations of the applicant surpass the required minimal number of points for this group of indicators.

Citations of the applicant publications presented on the competition

Overall, fifty-four citations of 21 publications are presented by the applicant on this competition, which are published in the period of years from 2003 to 2025. The low h-index = 4 of the applicant in Web of Science (27 publications, 32 citations) demonstrates a relatively weak recognition by the international and national scientific community of the scientific results contained in these publications and their impact on these communities.

The points counting on the citations of the scientific publications of the applicant presented on the competition **surpass the minimal national requirements** according to LDASRB (group of indicators D, indicators 11, 12 and 13) and the requirements according to the Regulations of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” for occupation of the academic positions.

Group of indicators E (E in Bulgarian).

Indicator 15. Supervision of successful PhD student

The applicant has acted as a director of the thesis of a single successful PhD student in 2025, which determines 50 points in this indicator.

Indicator 16. Participation in national scientific or educational project

The applicant presents participation in sixteen national scientific projects. Nine of them are according to the Article № 9 of the Ministry of Education and Science i.e. internal for the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, which projects must be removed from the list because they are not connected to national competitive basis. This determines 70 points in this indicator.

Indicator 17. Participation in international scientific or educational project

The applicant has participated in a single international scientific project.

Indicator 18. Leading of national scientific or educational project

The applicant presents leadership in seven national scientific projects. Three of them are according to the Article № 9 of the Ministry of Education and Science i.e. internal for the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, which projects must be removed from the list because they are not connected to national competitive basis. This determines 80 points in this indicator.

Overall, in the group of indicators E (indicators 15, 16, 17 and 18) the 200 points for PhD student supervision and project activity obtained by the applicant surpass the required minimal number of points for this group of indicators.

Conclusion

The applicant in this competition fully corresponds to the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” for occupation of the academic position “Professor” relative to previous academic position, earned scientific degree, scientific publication presented, contributions, citations, professional activity etc. The points obtained in distinct indicators **surpass the minimal national requirements** according to LDASRB and the requirements according to the Regulations of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” for occupation of the academic positions.

According to the positive evaluation of the applicant on the competition for fill of the academic position “**Professor**” in scientific field 4.4. Earth Sciences and scientific specialty „Paleontology and stratigraphy“, I recommend to the members of the scientific jury to motivate a proposition to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Geology and Exploration in the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” “**yes**” for the election of the Associated-Professor PhD **Boris Vladimirov Valchev** in this academic position.

Sofia, 03/26/2026

Reviewer:

/Corr. Memb. Prof. DSc Nikolay Bonev/