

OPINION

By Prof. Dr.Sci. Neyko Mateev Neykov, NIMH - Member of the Scientific Jury
in the competition for academic position "Associate Professor"
within the area of 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics,
professional direction 4.4. Geophysical sciences, scientific specialty „Meteorology“

This opinion was prepared on the basis of the Order of the Director General of NIMH № ND-04-32 of 08.10.2021 and the decision of the meeting of the scientific jury of 14.10.2021. It is in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Law in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (RAPRASRB) and the NIMH Regulations on ZRARB.

I. Requirements for the applicant

under Art. 24 (1) and Art. 26 (1), (2) of ZRASRB, art. 53 (1) and Art. 54 (1) of PPZRASRB and Art. 53 (1) and Art. 54 (1) of the NIMH Regulations on ZRARB

Dr. Vasko Nikolaev Galabov graduated in physics in 1997 with a master's degree in "Meteorology" from the Faculty of Physics at Sofia University St. "KI. Ohridski". He started his service at the NIMH-BAS, Pleven branch as a research scientist since 01.09.1999. From March 1, 2002 to the present he has been working in the section "Marine forecasts" at the "Weather forecasts" department, NIMH-BAS. During the period 2014-2017 he was a free doctoral student at NIMH-BAS under supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. Korcheva. He defended his PhD thesis on "Development of a system for forecasting hazardous hydrodynamic phenomena in the Black Sea coastal zone" in 2017 and was awarded by the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". Since 2018 he has been elected as a research assistant and from 01.01.2020 he has been the acting head of the "Marine forecast" section at the "Weather forecasts" department, NIMH.

For this competition, Dr V. Galabov presents the following materials: 1) application for participation in the competition; 2) autobiography; 3) list of publications and copies of their full texts in technical media; 4) reference for contributions on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position under art. 2b, item 2 and item 3 of ZRASRB and under art. 2, item 4 of PPZRASRB of NIMH; 5) reference for the citations and contributions.

In my opinion, there are no procedural violations or non-compliance with some of the formal requirements.

I. Requirements for research and development activities

under Art. 24 (1), items 1, 3, 4 and 5 and Art. 26 (1) of ZRASRB, art. 53 (1), items 1, 3, 4 and 5 and Art. 54 of PPZRASRB, art. 53, items 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of NIMH Regulations on ZRASRB

Only scientific production is submitted for opinion which does not repeat submitted for the PhD degree production.

1. Scientific publications. The list of scientific papers presented by Dr. V. Galabov for this competition comprises 36 titles.

The publications with numbers [2,3,6,8,9,10,11,13,14,15] which belong to indicator B sub-indicator 4 have been published in peer-reviewed journals and in the proceedings of international conferences referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases. These publications form the "habilitation thesis" for participation in this competition. The total number of points on this indicator is 177.

The publications with numbers [5,12] which belong to indicator G sub-indicator 7 have been published in peer-reviewed scientific issues indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases. The total number of points on this indicator is 60.

The publications with numbers [16,17,18,21,22,23,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36] which belong to indicator G sub-indicator 8 have been published in non-referred peer-reviewed journals or edited conference proceedings. The total number of points on this indicator is 152.85.

2. Citations of scientific publications: In this competition Dr. V. Galabov has presented 13 citations of his publications in scientific journals such as Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Continental Shelf Research, Coastal Engineering, Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology, Journal of Operational Oceanography, Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences, Pure and Applied Geophysics, Ocean Engineering and referenced and indexed in world-renowned Scopus and web of Science databases, however, citations number of his publications listed in these databases is more than 50. The total number of points on indicator D sub-indicator 10 is 65.

3. Participation and project management. Dr. V. Galabov has managed 2 projects from the research plan of NIMH with external funding with the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science. He has participated in international projects funded by external sources for Bulgaria under the 6th (UPGRADE-Black Sea Scene, ASCABOS) and 7th (IncREO) FP of the EC. He has implemented several software systems such as: 1) HRM regional atmospheric model; 2) MOTHY for forecasting drift of floating pollutants and floating objects; 3) SWAN for high resolution forecasting of waves in coastal areas. According to this list, it can be seen that Dr. V. Galabov satisfies the requirement of the NIMH Regulations on ZRASRB, Article 53 (1), and item 5.

From the presented information and the number of points on the individual indicators given in the "Summary Table" it can be seen that the candidate Dr. V. Galabov clearly fulfills the minimal national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology.

4. Research and applied activity. The research of Dr. V. Galabov is in the area of numerical modeling and marine forecasts. His research focuses on the climate of waves, storms and storm surges, periods of recurrence of high waves, the potential of wave energy, forecasting drift of floating pollutants such as oil spills and objects, numerical simulations of historical storms and risk analysis of coastal floods, development of long-term climate change scenarios of the waves regime and storm surges forecasts of the Black Sea.

5. Contributions. The contributions are reflecting the main results in findings of the publications of Dr V. Galabov.

III. Opinions, recommendations and notes

I have not found significant inaccuracies and omissions in both the competition documents and the candidate's publications.

Conclusion

The examination of the submitted materials for the competition did not reveal any violations in the procedure. The requirements are met according to Art. 24 (1), items 1, 3, 4, 5, (2) and Art. 26 (1), of ZRASRB, art. 53 (1), items 1, 3, 4, 5 and Art. 54 of PPZRASRB, art. 53, items 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and Art. 54 of the NIMH Regulations on ZRASRB.

The scientific publications of Dr. V. Galabov have been referenced in the world-renowned databases of scientific information Scopus and Web of Science and have received recognition which is referred to positive quotations from foreign authors. The achieved results and his contributions to the development of marine forecasting systems in scientific and operational daily activities give me reason to claim that Dr. V. Galabov is well recognized specialist in the field of marine meteorology. I believe that his scientific and operational activity is highly appreciated and I suggest to the members of the scientific jury Dr. V. Galabov to be awarded the academic title "Associate Professor".

Date: _____

Scientific Jury Member: _____

Prof. Dr.Sci. N. Neykov