

POSITION

by Prof. Dr. Plamen Iliev Ninov - Member of the Scientific Jury in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"

by professional field 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.4 Earth sciences, scientific specialty Meteorology (Development and adoption of numerical models for prediction of sea waves and storm surges and early warning systems for dangerous marine events)

This position was prepared on the basis of Order of the Director General of NIMH Д ND-04-16 from 08.10.2021 and decision of the meeting of the scientific jury from 14.10.2021. It is in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (PPZRASRB) and the Rules of NIMH under ZRASRB.

I. Requirements to the candidate

According to 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 Regulations of the NIMH under ZRASRB

Head assistant, PhD Vasko Galabov graduated in the Faculty of Physics at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1997 with a master degree in physics and meteorology. He received an educational and scientific degree in 2017 after successfully completing PhD Thesis on "Development of a system for prediction of dangerous hydrodynamic events in the Black Sea coastal area" with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Korcheva. Vasko Galabov started working at NIMH-Pleven branch as a researcher III degree in 1999, where he worked until the beginning of 2002, with a break for military service. In NIMH-Pleven branch the candidate works as a weather forecaster in the Forecasting sector. At the beginning of 2002 he moved to NIMH Sofia, where from 2002 to 2005 he worked mainly on the successful adoption of the regional meteorological model HRM into the operational practice. During this period he made two long business trips to the German Meteorological Service. Since 2006 he has been working in the field of marine forecasts. He holds the position of assistant III degree (assistant since 2011) and since 2018 he has been a Head assistant. After the retirement of the Head of the section of marine forecasts Assoc. Prof. Korcheva, since 2020 he has been the acting Head of the section of marine forecasts. His work in the field of marine forecasts is related to the adoption and maintenance of several operational models - wave models, models for prediction of storm surges at sea level, a model for the spread of floating pollutants. Since 2005 the candidate has made multiple trips for the purpose of joint scientific works and has gained experience in the French meteorological service METEO FRANCE. He conducts investigations in the field of marine meteorology and prepares expertises for government institutions.

There are no established violations of the procedure and the candidate Head Assistant Dr. Vasko Galabov is eligible for the competition.

II. Requirements for research and applied research

The candidate Head Assistant, PhD Vasko Galabov, meets the minimum requirements for an associate professor in the field of 4.4 Earth Sciences, as follows:

- Requirements for group of indicators A - he has the required number of points with PhD Thesis for obtaining the scientific and educational degree of doctor / date of defense - 18.07.2017 /.
- Requirements for group of indicators B – he exceeds the required number of points with a total of 10 scientific publications referenced and indexed in Scopus / Web of Sciences.
- Requirements for group of indicators D – he exceeds the required number of points with a total of 19 publications.
- Requirements for group of indicators E – he exceeds the required number of points with citations in 47 scientific indexed publications (out of a total 71 citations in scientific journals).

The publications submitted for evaluation can be conditionally divided into several groups as follows:

Publications related to the construction and development of system of operational models for the needs of maritime operational predictions (a total of 12 participants in the competition and 9 out of competition submitted for information). However, the candidate points out that his greatest contributions are related to those of his dissertation, and in the 12 publications participating in the competition, the candidate is a co-author with a leading contribution from other authors.

In the publications related to research for long periods of the climate of the waves, storms and storm surges in the Black Sea (8 in total) the candidate Head Assistant Dr. Vasko Galabov claims to be a leading contributor. He is also an independent author of 5 of them. In three publications (11, 12 and 33) it examines the wave climate with long-term studies using information from ERA CLIM and ERA 5, as these are the first studies for the Black Sea using ERA CLIM and ERA 5 and cover significantly more long periods by other authors. Publication 34 is a pioneering work on the study of storm surges in the Black Sea based on long-term numerical simulations.

The next thematic group of publications is related to the modeling of floating pollutants and objects - a total of 8 in number. There is a publication (18) on the adoption of the MOTHY model in international projects involving NIMH, and in these projects the system was used to analyze the threat of the port of Burgas in oil spills. Two of the publications (8, 9) address the issue of modeling in addition to oil the floating objects.

There are also publications (10, 14 and 40) related to numerical reconstructions of historical storms in order to analyze the risk of floods along the coast. These publications are also related to international projects - IncREO and FP7.

The publications presented by the candidate cover the topic of the competition, and in terms of quality and quantity they meet the requirements for the scientific research and scientific-applied activity according to Art. 24 (1), item 1, item 3, item 4, item 5 and Art. 26 (1) of ZRASRB, art. 53 (1), item 1, item 3, item 4, item 5 and Art. 54 of PPZRASRB, art. 53, item 1, item 4, item 5, item 6, item 7 of the Rules of the NIMH under ZRASRB.

The applicant's documents indicate participation in projects and implementations. After consulting with the candidate, it was specified that in order to participate in the

competition and meet the requirements of the NIMH regulations for project management, the candidate has led a project successfully completed under the national program Postdoctoral Students and Young Scientists in 2020 on "Frequency Research and the intensity of the Black Sea storms affecting the Bulgarian coast". The project started with contract CR-04-6 / 28.02.2020. Project management has been declared within the same program in 2021 (contract CR-04-10 / 28.04.2021). Thus, the requirements of the NIMH regulations are met - management of two projects with external funding (funding of the program by the Ministry of Education and Science). Vasko Galabov is also a participant in many projects, including: Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation (IncREO) - funded by the EU's Seventh Framework Program; ASCABOS; UPGRADE- Black Sea Scene; ECOPORT8; TEN Ecoport - also funded by the EU. He is also a participant in the MISBS project - funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. He is also a member of a team that has made a successful project proposal - ILIAD project, which is a part of the European program Horizon 2020 and will begin in 2022.

I give a positive assessment of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the candidate and I consider as high the level of independence of his work. Where there is a co-authorship or leading contribution of another scientist, this is noted correctly, without diminishing the significance of the candidate's achievements as a whole.

II. Opinions, recommendations and notes

I have no notes or recommendations. We have not any joint project or publication works together. My personal impressions, as colleagues, are positive - hard-working and organized young scientist with capacity and opportunities for future development.

Conclusion

The inspection of the submitted materials for the competition did not reveal any violations in the procedure. The requirements of ZRASRB and the regulations for its application are observed, as well as the regulations of NIMH according to ZRASRB. Based on the acquaintance with the documents of the candidate in the competition and the evaluation of his publications, I give a positive assessment of the candidate and recommend to be elected as Associate Professor.

Date: _____

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY: _____