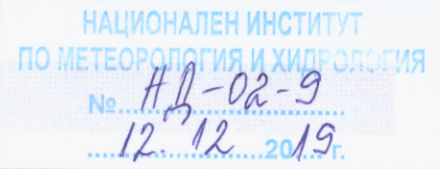


OPINION



By Corresponding Member Kostadin Ganchev Ganev - Member of Scientific Jury in
Competition for Occupation of Academic Position "Professor"

in professional field 4.1. Physical Sciences, Meteorology (Stochastic Modeling in
Meteorology and Hydrology)

This opinion was prepared on the basis of the Order of the Director General of NIMH № ND-04-18 of 02.10.2019 and the decision of the meeting of the scientific jury of 18.10.2019. It is in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Law in the Republic of Bulgaria (ЗРАСРБ), the Regulations for its implementation (ППЗРАСРБ) and the NIMH Regulations on ЗРАСРБ.

I. Requirements for the applicant

under Art. 29 (1) and Art. 29b of ЗРАСРБ, Art. 60 of ППЗРАСРБ and Art. 56 (1), (2) and Art. 57 (1) of the the NIMH Regulations on ЗРАСРБ.

Assoc. Prof. Neiko Neikov received his Master's Degree in Mathematics, specializing in Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics, in 1976 at the Faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics of Sofia University. "St. Cl. Ohridski ". In 1988 he became a Research Fellow at the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH). In 2007 he became Assistant Professor, Head of the Forecasting Models and Systems Section, Weather Forecast Department at NIMH. Conducts research in the field of stochastic modeling and forecasting methods in meteorology, hydrology and the environment. Creates and develops statistical data analysis software. He manages research and operational projects.

In 1996 he received his Doctorate degree (Candidate of Mathematical Sciences) and in 2016 the Doctorate of Science in Mathematics.

For this competition, Associate Professor Neykov presents the following materials: Application for participation in the competition; Autobiography; List of publications and copies in technical media; Reference for contributions and citations; Information on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the additional NIMH requirements under the ЗРАСРБ of 05.11.2018; Distribution protocol proving N. Neikov's equal contribution to the attached monography.

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

II. Requirements for research and applied activities

Art. 29 (1), item 1, item 3, item 4, item 5, item 6, (2) and (3), Art. 29b (1) of ЗРАСРБ, Art. 60 (1), item 3, item 4, item 5, (2) and (4) of ППЗРАСРБ, Art. 56 (1), item 1, item 4, item 5, item 6, item 7, (2), (3) of NIMH Regulations on ЗРАСРБ

Only scientific production is submitted for review, which does not repeat those submitted for the degree of doctor or doctor of science and for the acquisition of an academic position of associate professor. From the presented information it is evident that Assoc. Prof. Neiko Neykov clearly fulfils the minimal requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor" at the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology.

In the attached Annotation Assoc. Prof. Neiko Neikov describes in detail and correctly his research and applied activity, which is based on probabilistic statistical methods for data modeling and analysis. The Candidate groups his scientific and applied contributions as follows:

- • Creation and development of stochastic models of daily rainfall in Bulgaria
- • Analysis of data in the field of hydrogeology
- • Development of methodology for analysis of extreme values
- • Stochastic modeling of NO₂ hourly concentrations
- • Analysis of data from behavioral and biochemical experiments
- • Robust statistics

I accept both the applicant's classification of contributions and the claims made by him for each of the categories.

One monograph and 24 articles, one each in Q1, Q2 and Q3 category editions were presented for review. The quotations reported by the candidate are 56. I find that Dr. Neykov's publication activity is satisfactory and the response to his works in the specialized literature is significant.

Assoc. Prof. Neykov is an active participant in numerous national and international projects - participant in 4 projects of the NIMH plan of 3 of which is a leader; manager of 2 international projects from the EBP scheme; participant in 1 NSF project; participant in 18 international projects. He is also a participant in 9 projects with funding from state and / or municipal authorities or business organizations, all with a clear applied focus and of indisputable benefit to the community.

In general, the scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Neiko Neikov is distinguished by high professionalism. It is important to note that much of his work is directly applicable. Many of

his achievements have been implemented or have potential for application in the operational and expert activities of NIMH.

II. Opinions, recommendations and notes

I do not think that there are any worth to be mentioned mistakes, inaccuracies and omissions in both the competition documents and the candidate's papers. My personal impressions of the candidate are rather scarce.

Conclusion

The examination of the submitted materials for the competition did not reveal any violations in the procedure. The requirements of Art. 29 (1), (2), (3), Art. 29b (2), (3) of ZRARB, Art. 60 (1) (2) and (4) and Art. 61 (1), (3) of the ППЗРАСРБ, Art. 56 (1), item 1, item 4, item 5, item 6, item 7, (2), (3) of the NIMH Regulations ARE FULFILED.

The acquaintance with the documents of the candidate for the competition and the evaluation of the publications submitted by him convincingly form the opinion that Assoc. Prof. Neiko Neikov is a prominent specialist in the field of stochastic methods for modeling and forecasting in meteorology, hydrology and environment. Considering the creativity, experience, international recognition and practical activity of Assoc. Prof. Neiko Neykov, I am firmly convinced that he is an undisputed candidate for the academic position of "Professor" at NIMH in the professional field 4.1. Physical Sciences, Meteorology (Stochastic Modeling in Meteorology and Hydrology). With this, I suggest without any reservation, to the scientific jury to recommend to the Scientific Council of the NIMH to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sci Neiko Neikov the academic position of "Professor".

Date: 11.12.2019

JURY MEMBER:



**Corresponding Member Kostadin
Ganey**