

STATEMENT



The competition for “Professor” in the scientific specialty: “Ecology and ecosystems conservation”, announced in the State newspaper № 62 of 21.07.2013 with candidate **Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ivanov Shilev**

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Valcheva

Department of Agroecology and Environmental Protection, Agricultural University – Plovdiv

Field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics

Code of professional field 4.4. Earth sciences

Scientific area Ecology and ecosystems conservation

appointed a member of the Scientific Jury by order № 16-898/25.09.2023 by the Rector of the Agricultural University.

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ivanov Shilev, was born on 06.12.1973. He graduated from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, specialty "Plant Protection" in 1996. He defended his dissertation in the Kingdom of Spain in 2003. He has conducted numerous specializations in Bulgaria, Spain, and the Czech Republic. Since 2010, he has held the position Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Protection", Agricultural University - Plovdiv. Member of the Board of the Center for Scientific Research, Technology, Transfer and Protection of Intellectual Property at AU-Plovdiv, from 02.2020 until now. Member of the Temporary Scientific Expert Commission at the National Institute of Scientific Research for 4.4 Earth Sciences - 2021 and 2023. He holds the following public positions: Director of the "Ecology and Waste Management" Directorate, Municipality of Plovdiv, from 03.2012 to 12.2014; Director of "Regional Environment and Water Inspection", Plovdiv, 12.2014-02.2020; Member of Parliament in the 47th and 48th National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Associate Professor Shilev's main teaching and scientific activity is related to heavy metal pollution, phytoremediation, utilization of sewage sludge, waste management and composting.

2. General description of scientific production.

In the competition for “Professor” Assoc. Prof. Stefan Shilev participated with a total output of 26 scientific papers, grouped as follows:

- ❖ Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty – 26 pieces, of them:
 - Publications with impact factor – 12 copies;
 - Publications in peer – reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 8 issues;
 - Publications in conference proceedings - 5 pieces;
 - Published chapter of a collective monograph - 1 issue.

The personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Shilev in these 26 works is illustrated by the fact that 4 are independent, in 10 it is first, in 3 – it is second, and in the remaining 9 it is the third and next author.

❖ Textbooks – 0.

❖ Study guides – 1.

For the preparation of the statement, 26 scientific publications and work are analyzed, 1 study guides and 1 published chapter of a collective monograph.

3. Teaching activities.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Shilev is a longtime lecturer at the Microbiology and Environmental Biotechnology Department to the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. Since 1998 he has been giving lectures and exercises in the disciplines: "Microbiology", "Ecology of Microorganisms", "Waste Management", "Utilization of agricultural waste", "Solid Waste Processing Technologies".

He has been giving lectures and exercises in the Master's courses "Ecology of settlement systems" and "Bioeconomy". There are educational programs developed in English for student mobility under the Erasmus+ program.

Study employment of the candidate.

The teaching experience of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Shilev amounts to 25 years. The hours of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Shilev for the period 2018 – 2023 amount to 2707,3 hours.

Associate Professor Stefan Shilev has two successfully defended PhD students, one PhD student dismissed with the right to defend and one PhD student currently studying.

The teaching activity is complemented by the management 12 successfully defended graduates in the Bachelor degree and 4 in the Master degree.

Published study materials:

Sapundjieva, Kr., St. Shilev, Jr. Naydenov, J. Kartalska. 2010. Manual of Microbiology. Academic Publisher, Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

4. Research.

The scientific fields of publication are related to:

- the technology of composting agricultural and food waste;

- heavy metal pollution and phytoremediation;
- the treatment of sludge by composting followed by vermicomposting;
- biowaste management;
- the utilization of sludge from wastewater treatment.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

The list of citations of Associate Professor Stefan Shilev numbers over 147 citations of his scientific publications.

Participation in scientific projects.

Associate Professor Stefan Shilev participates in 10 national scientific or educational projects, as well as in 6 international scientific or educational projects.

5. Comments and recommendations.

I have no critical comments to work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Shilev.

I recommend him to continue to work purposefully in the future.

6. CONCLUSION:

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical scientific and scientific – applied activities, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr Stefan Shilev meets the requirements of the Act on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University regarding its implementation and I therefore confidently give it a **POSITIVE** assessment.

I venture to suggest to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Ivanov Shilev** as “**Professor**” in the scientific specialty “Ecology and ecosystems conservation”.

Date: 08/11/2023

Plovdiv City, Bulgaria

Author of the statement:

Assoc. prof. Dr. Ekaterina Valcheva