Бургаски държавен университет
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OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. PhD eng. Blagovesta Nikolaeva Midyurova

Department of "Ecology and Environmental Protection", Faculty of Natural Sciences,
Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov."

Reason: Member of the scientific jury for the procedure announced in the Official Gazette, No. 9/31.01.2025, for the position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics, professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences, scientific specialty "Ecology and Environmental Protection" at the Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", according to Order No. RD-78/18.03.2025 by the Rector of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

1. General Description of the Submitted Materials

The documents submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexander Nikolov Dimitrov for the professor competition in professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences, specialty "Ecology and Environmental Protection" meet the requirements of the Higher Education and Science Development Act, its Implementation Rules, and Article 73, Paragraph 2 of the Rules for Obtaining Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

The candidate's scientific output includes 94 publications, 52 of which are indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (Q2–Q4), with 32 being counted for the current competition. Notable among them are publications in Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Q2), Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology (Q3), Oxidation Communications, and others.

He has submitted two monographs (one co-authored), a textbook, a guide, and over 25 course programs, 17 of which are directly related to the competition. Assoc. Prof. Dimitrov has supervised three successfully defended PhD students, 10 master's graduates, and 16 interns.

He is actively involved in research and project activities, leading the Bulgarian team in the AlgaeRevive project under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme and participating in initiatives under Horizon 2020, EEA Grants, and others.

The candidate is also engaged in teaching and organizational activities – guidance, accreditation, laboratories, conferences, as well as serving as a reviewer for international journals and being a member of scientific organizations.

His research covers the following areas: petroleum product ecology, air quality, utilization of waste materials, microplastic pollution, and ecological modeling. The works are accompanied

by clear annotations and contributions, demonstrating a high scientific level, interdisciplinarity, and a focus on practical ecological and engineering solutions.

2. Teaching Activity

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexander Dimitrov has over 23 years of teaching experience at the "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University in Burgas, having held the academic positions of Senior Assistant, Chief Assistant, and Associate Professor. He has taught more than 15 courses in the fields of ecology, petroleum processing, and industrial technologies, including Industrial Ecology, Waste Management, and Petroleum and Gas Technology.

He is the author of a textbook, a co-authored manual, two monographs (one co-authored), and over 25 academic curricula, 17 of which are directly related to the subject of the current competition. These materials contribute to the modernization and enrichment of the educational content.

As a research supervisor, he has guided three PhD students to successful defense, as well as 10 graduate students and 16 interns, playing an active role in nurturing their scientific potential. He initiated the establishment of the Laboratory for Analysis and Modeling of Aquatic Ecosystems, which serves both educational and research purposes.

He also participates in accreditation committees, and in the development of new curricula and academic programs, demonstrating strong commitment to teaching quality and the strategic advancement of higher education.

3. Research Activity and Scientific Contributions

The research work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexander Dimitrov is distinguished by its broad scope, interdisciplinary character, and strong applied relevance. His main areas of investigation include petroleum product ecology, waste management, air quality monitoring, microplastic pollution, waste material utilization, and climate process modeling.

He is the author of 94 scientific publications, 52 of which are indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (Q2–Q4), as well as two monographs (one co-authored), a textbook, a manual, and over 25 academic curricula.

His project activity is particularly notable—he leads the Bulgarian team in the international project AlgaeRevive (Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin 2021–2027) and participates in numerous international and national projects under programs such as Horizon 2020, Interreg IPA, EEA Grants, and the Bulgarian National Science Fund.

4. Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Academic Position of "Professor"

The documentation submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexander Dimitrov is comprehensive and fully complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the internal rules of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University.

The candidate meets and exceeds the criteria in all indicator groups:

Group A: Defended PhD dissertation (50 points);

Group B: Habilitation work – 8 publications (Q3 and Q4) and 1 monograph (205 points);

Group G: 23 indexed publications (including Q2, Q3, Q4), a book, and a chapter in a monograph (361 points);

Group D: 106 citations in scientific publications (212 points);

Group E: Supervision of 3 PhD graduates, participation in 3 international projects, project funding attracted, and published teaching materials (355 points).

Total score: 1183 points, exceeding both the national minimum of 600 and the university's internal requirement of 1000.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitrov demonstrates outstanding research, teaching, and project engagement, with recognized contributions at both national and international levels.

5. Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexander Dimitrov is an established lecturer and researcher with extensive experience and significant contributions to the field of ecology and environmental protection. His scientific work combines theoretical and experimental approaches with a practical focus, covering current topics such as petroleum product ecology, microplastic pollution, air quality, and sustainable waste utilization.

Based on the submitted materials and personal impressions, I give a positive assessment of his professional and scientific path and recommend that Assoc. Prof. Dimitrov be appointed as "Professor" in the field of 4.2 Chemical Sciences, specialty "Ecology and Environmental Protection" at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Burgas University of the State of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

Burgas
19.05.2025

Signature:
/ assoc. prof. ...g. D. Midyurova /