

**PROFESSIONAL OPINION**  
**by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Georgiev Penchev,**  
**Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research with Ethnographic Museum -**  
**BAS,**  
**Member of the Scientific Jury in the competition for the academic position**  
**of "Professor" of the Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski in:**  
**2. Humanities (professional field) 2.1. Philology (Slavic Literature)**

Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Petrova Cholakova is the only candidate in the competition announced in the State Gazette, issue. 31 of 12.04. 2019, and on the website of the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the Department of Slavic Studies at the Faculty of Philology.

**1. General information on the applicant**

Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Cholakova participates in the competition for "Professor" of the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv with one monograph and eighteen studies and articles devoted to the researched issues and published both in Bulgaria and abroad (France, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and etc.). She has been previously occupying the academic position of Associated Professor. Her presented cumulative bibliography consists of three books (one is an edition of the Charles University in Prague), two study aid books (one is also printed abroad, in Paris) and dozens of other studies and articles printed in different countries. This bibliography stands out as demonstrative of the wide range of scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Cholakova, as well as numerous in-depth analyses of the specific topics covered in her research. Also impressive is her involvement in a number of research and applied projects (including internationally), which is an additional and significant touch to the applicant's scientific profile, as are also her participation in international editorial boards of periodicals, her membership in scientific and expert committees (including abroad), editorial boards of scientific publications, etc.

Zhorzheta Cholakova's many years of teaching experience, numerous lecture courses, participation as a guest lecturer at a number of renowned European universities, her work as a successful scientific adviser to three PhD students and dozens of graduates, etc. are clear evidence of a successful teaching career. The creative work of the applicant, with significant translations of fiction in different languages, should also not be understated.

**2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities**

I will hereby review the diverse production of Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Cholakova from the standpoint of my professional career as a Slavist and Bohemist. I wholeheartedly consider

her achievements in Czech Literature Studies as deserving of serious academic admirations, both with regards to her analysis of literary processes and phenomena (Baroque, Romanticism, Expressionism, Poetism, Surrealism, etc.) and to her deep investigations on the works of significant Czech authors, too many to enumerate here. I also admire her fruitful and extremely successful efforts for preparing academically many a Slavic student, especially in the field of Literary Studies. Her impressive organizational activities as Department Head, Vice-Dean, Vice-Rector, etc. also deserve special mention. We should also stress on the creation and publication (from 2004 to this day) by Assoc. Prof. Cholakova of the “Slavic Dialogues” Magazine, the only Slavic Literature scientific periodical in the country. Last but not least stand dozens of fiction translations, mostly of Czech authors (especially K.H. Mácha, but also a number of classics such as V. Nezval and J. Seifert, or contemporary authors such as V. Křivánek), but also Serbian and French. All of this clearly indicates that Ms Cholakova is among the most significant contemporary Bulgarian Bohemists and Slavacists.

### **3. Conclusion.**

In my professional opinion, the documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Petrova Cholakova are in full compliance with all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the corresponding Regulations of the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The candidate has submitted a considerable number of scientific papers that have been published after those demonstrated during the procedure for her appointing as an Associate Professor, and those used for her dissertation for the “Doctor of Sciences” academic degree award, both of which have original scientific and applied contributions. The applicant's teaching qualifications and artistic achievements are also more than serious and significant. Therefore, I am fully convinced of my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to select Assoc. Prof. Zhorzheta Petrova Cholakova for the academic position of 'Professor' at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the professional field 2.1. Philology (Slavic literatures).

08/19/2019

This document prepared by:  
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