

## EXAMINER'S ASSESSMENT

by **Prof. Velka Alexandrova Popova, PhD**  
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regarding the selection procedure for the academic position of **professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv** in the field of higher education **2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology**, academic speciality **Bulgarian language (Contemporary Bulgarian language, Lexicology)**

The candidate in the selection procedure for a professor's position is Associate Professor Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, Dr Habil. from the Department of Bulgarian Language at the Faculty of Philology. The position was announced in the State Gazette, **issue 57 of 26.06.2020**, and in the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the *Department of Bulgarian Language* at the Faculty of Philology.

### **1. THE SELECTION PROCEDURE AND THE CANDIDATE**

I was appointed a member of the scientific jury in the selection procedure for the academic position of 'professor' at the University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, specialty Bulgarian language, Contemporary Bulgarian language (Lexicology) for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian language at the Faculty of Philology of Plovdiv University by order № 33-4140 / 25.08.2020 of the Rector of Plovdiv University.

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, Dr. Habil. from Plovdiv University is the only candidate in who applied for the announced position. The documents and materials submitted by her under the procedure are in full compliance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff at the University of Plovdiv.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Habil. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, has submitted a total of 63 research papers, 57 articles, 2 monographs, 4 textbooks and teaching materials, of which 54 scientific papers are accepted for assessment under the current procedure, as they are dedicated to issues outside the topic of her habilitation dissertation. Eleven of the articles submitted for review are published in reputable editions abroad (Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Germany, Turkey). The

presented scholarly production is in full compliance with the requirements for the academic position of professor.

The involvement of the candidate in research and teaching are evident in her participation in projects, and in the preparation of eight lecture courses for students of Bachelor's and Master's programmes, and in the development of five new curricula. The teaching experience of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova includes participation in international exchange under the CEEPUS and ERASMUS programs, realized through 10 mobilities in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Poland, France, and Italy. In addition, Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova has been invited as a guest lecturer at various foreign universities (e.g. in Czech Republic and Hungary).

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova presents her research at reputable international forums both in Bulgaria and abroad, which marks her active presence in the dynamic process of exchange of ideas among scholars.

## **2. BRIEF BIODATA OF THE CANDIDATE**

Vanya Zidarova has 37 years of experience at the University of Plovdiv, where she first worked as a part-time assistant. In 1986 he defended her doctoral dissertation, in 2000 she became an associate professor. In 2018 she defended her habilitation thesis to become a Doctor Habil. Dr Zidarova has given lectures in Modern Bulgarian Language, Phonetics of Modern Bulgarian Language, Lexicology of Modern Bulgarian Language, Specifics of Public Communication and Media Language, Bulgarian Lexicography - History, Theory, Practice, and Theories of Speech Parts - classification approaches, to students of bachelor's programmes, as well as Semiotics and Linguistics, and Contemporary Word-Formation Processes to MA students. Apart from teaching at the University of Plovdiv, Assoc. Prof. Zidarova has been a guest lecturer in Bulgarian universities, and a number of European universities under Erasmus and CEEPUS programs.

## **3. EVALUATION OF THE CANDIDATE'S MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH**

In terms of her work as an educator, it should be mentioned that the candidate has taught a number of academic courses and prepared teaching curricula for new courses. In this regard, Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova is very consistent in providing the teaching process with instructional materials. She is the author of four textbooks for the lecture courses developed and taught by her. This definitely confirms that she is as a respon-

sible and dedicated professional. The excellent qualities of her textbooks are the prerequisite for their wide application in other Bulgarian universities.

The scholarly contributions of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova to the research in the area are indisputable. She is clearly recognizable in contemporary Bulgarian linguistics with her solid academic output, which significantly exceeds the minimum requirements of ZRAS for holding the position of "professor". In the works submitted for the current procedure, the candidate again remains true to her uncompromising professionalism and her research precision and depth, which characterizes her professional work in general.

The author's contributions, which are subject to evaluation under the procedure, are definitely significant in terms of their content. The candidate's interests include debatable issues related to exploring different levels of the language, but her contributions in the field of lexicology of the modern Bulgarian language stand out with the greatest representation. They account for a number of talks given at prestigious academic forums and are presented in one monograph and in numerous publications (12% of these publications are in refereed and indexed journals in world-famous databases).

The focal point of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova's research are issues related to studying the modern Bulgarian lexicon. Her research is conducted competently in the context of the latest achievements in the area of modern humanities. These research papers are characterized by substantial diversity and depth, which creates an adequate and complete picture of the Bulgarian lexical system. These features are most clearly observed in her monograph "Dynamics and innovations in the lexical system of the Bulgarian language" (2019).

The monograph "Dynamics and Innovations in the Lexical System of the Bulgarian Language" is an original study of the processes and trends which take place in the Bulgarian lexical system, focusing on the relevant processes of the first three decades of the democratic transformation of Bulgarian society (1990-2019). The study provides a comprehensive summary of the lexical system and the innovations characteristic of the most recent period of the development of the Bulgarian language. The author does not limit herself to presenting the facts testifying to a quantitative and qualitative change in the lexicon after 1989, but also makes an in-depth analysis of the reasons for the dynamics of speech, as well as the main developmental processes and trends. The main topics in the study are: structure and system of lexis, quantitative and qualitative dynamics of lexical composition, archaization and reviving of lexemes, changes in lexical semantics and polysemy, neologization, semantic and lexical derivation, internationalization, intellectualization, borrowing foreign lexical items. In connection with the discussion of these topics, some important changes in modern

lexical practice related to media speech and computer-mediated communication have been identified.

#### **4. EVALUATION OF THE CANDIDATE'S PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION**

The author's contributions of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Zidarova can be defined as significant both for the theory and for the teaching practice. They are the result of many years of the candidate's own original research, and are based on her erudition and excellent knowledge of the linguistic tradition.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, Dr Habil, meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for implementation of ZRASRB and the respective Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

As a result of reviewing the materials and publications, presented under the current selection procedure, and analysing their significance and contributions to academic research, I give my positive assessment to the candidate. I would like to add that Assoc. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova, with her dedication to academic research, is a worthy candidate for the academic position of professor.

I propose to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty of Philology Council for the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Ivanova Zidarova to the academic position of professor at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University in professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian language - Contemporary Bulgarian language, Lexicology).

1.11 2020

Reviewer: Prof. Velka Popova, PhD