

STATEMENT

by **Vladimir Sulov, PhD, professor at the University of Economics – Varna**

on the materials for a competition for the academic position of "**Professor**"

at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,
professional field 3.8. Economics (Economics and Management – Information Systems and
Technologies)

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 40 of 14.05.2021 and on the website of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods in Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, as a candidate participates Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Mircheva Ilieva from the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order № P33-3126 of 12.07.2021 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I was appointed a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position "professor" in the PU in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8. Economics (Economics and Management – Information Systems and Technologies), announced for the needs of the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods in Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

The only candidate for participation in the announced competition is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Mircheva Ilieva from the Plovdiv University.

The presented materials are in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the PU.

The candidate has a total of 24 scientific publications, incl. a monograph, 22 other scientific publications and 1 textbook, which are accepted for review.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ilieva is an established professionalist, lecturer and scientist who has been working at the Plovdiv University since 1991, first as an assistant professor, then as a senior assistant professor, chief assistant professor and currently as an associate professor since 2011.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

As already noted, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ilieva is an established lecturer with 30 years of experience in this field. She delivers a number of lecture courses, incl. in English and some exercises, and she has lectured at other universities, incl. abroad. She works actively with students, supervises students' theses, participates in the project "Student Internships" as an academic mentor and others. She is the scientific supervisor of one successfully defended doctoral student. She has published textbooks and teaching materials.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ilieva has a variety of other related activities – administrative, as a participant in projects, reviewer of papers and projects, member of a number of program and organizational committees, incl. of international events, etc.

Regarding her scientific activity, as it was also noted, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ilieva participates in the competition for "professor" with a total of 24 scientific publications, incl. a monograph – the main habilitation work, 22 other scientific publications and 1 textbook. Of the 22 scientific publications, 16 are in journals, 6 are in proceedings of international conferences, 9 are indexed in Web of Science and / or Scopus. Of all 24 publications, 9 are independent and 15 are co-authored; 7 – in Bulgarian and 17 – in English. Concerning volume and structure, I find these publications appropriate.

In terms of content, the publications contain a number of contributions that the candidate has indicated:

- development of intelligent methods for management decisions making – in publications 1, 2, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23;
- development of models for digitalization of the economy and management – in publications 8, 12, 13, 22;
- proposals regarding the application of geographic information systems for management automation – in publications 4, 6, 16;
- new ideas and concepts for improving the education – in publications 3, 5, 7, 11.

The main habilitation work (the monograph under #1 in the list) is entitled "Cloud technologies: multi-criteria choice", is reviewed by two habilitated persons and is published in a specialized scientific publishing house. The monograph is dedicated to the application of cloud technologies for business digitalization. The main scientific contribution is the proposed and tested methodology for choosing a cloud service, based on multicriteria methods for decision making.

I believe that the publications and contributions are the personal work of the candidate, no plagiarism is detected.

In general, the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ilieva have been cited hundreds of times, and only those in the competition for "professor" have 22 citations in Scopus and / or Web of Science, which I should point out as an excellent achievement of the candidate. Many of the citations are from independent publications of the author, and are also in representative editions, which allows me to conclude that the ideas in the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ilieva are useful and support the work of other scientists for the development of theory and practice.

As far as I understand looking at the submitted documents, the candidate actually has more publications after the first habilitation than declared for this procedure, but some of them are used to meet the minimum requirements for registration with NACID of this first habilitation and therefore are not listed as participating in the competition for the second habilitation. I express a personal opinion that these publications should be considered for the current competition and for me the candidate has an even more convincing scientific production.

3. Critical remarks and recommendation

Only some small and insignificant remarks and recommendations can be addressed to the candidate and the materials:

1. There is a certain structural imbalance of the main monographic work (where out of a total of 4 chapters the last one occupies 60% of the volume of the main text).
2. Perhaps the candidate should be more active in publishing textbooks, and in this regard I am not sure why, for example, publication #60 of the full list is not included in this section of the competition.

CONCLUSION

The achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Ilieva, reflected in the submitted documents and materials, meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for implementation of said law, incl. the so-called "Minimum national requirements", the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", as well as the additional requirements of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of the PU for the academic position of "professor".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific publications after the previous procedures. They contain original scientific and practical contributions, have been published in representative publications and have a significant number of citations. The teaching and other activities of the candidate are at a high level.

After reviewing with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, and after analysis of their significance and scientific and applied contributions, I give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of "Paisii Hilendarski" University to elect to the academic position "professor" in the professional field 3.8. Economics (Economics and Management – Information Systems and Technologies) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galina Mircheva Ilieva.

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Statement author:

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