

STATEMENT

by **Dr. Vasil Georgiev Georgiev - Associate Professor at the Stefan Angelov Institute of Microbiology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**"
of **The University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"**

field of higher education: 5. Technical sciences

professional direction: *5.11. Biotechnology (Environmental and Agrobiotechnologies)*

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the SG, no. 92 from 18.11.2022 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department "Biochemistry and Microbiology", Faculty of Biological, as a candidate **Ch. Assist. Ivan Zlatkov Iliev, PhD** from the same department of University of Plovdiv was applied.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. PD-21-335 dated 15.02.2023 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the PU in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, professional direction 5.11 Biotechnology (Environmental and agrobiotechnologies), announced for the needs of the Department "Biochemistry and Microbiology", Faculty of Biological.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

Ch. Assist. Ivan Zlatkov Iliev, PhD from the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at the Faculty of Biology of PU.

The presented by Dr. Ivan Iliev, a set of paper materials is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU, and includes the following documents:

- Application form to the Rector for admission to participate in the competition;
- CV in European format;
- A copy of a Higher Education diploma with the acquired educational and qualification degree "Master";
- Copy of a diploma for the acquired educational and scientific degree "doctor";
- List of scientific works;
- Copies of scientific works in full text;
- List of open citations in referenced and indexed editions;
- List of open citations in non-refereed publications;
- Certificate of compliance with the minimum National and additional Faculty requirements;
- Annotation of the materials under Art. 65 of the PRASPU in Bulgarian and English;
- Self-assessment of contributions in Bulgarian and English;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- Certificate of work experience;
- Documents for research work;
- Certificate of compliance with the additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology for the development of the Academic Staff;
- Applications, including "Appendix A - scientific works"; "Appendix C - Quotations"; "Appendix C - scientific work"; "Curriculum documents" and "Other documents".

The candidate Dr. Ivan Iliev has submitted a total of 45 scientific works, 1 monograph, 2 textbooks and teaching aids and a list of 2 published technologies with an author's certificate for an approved scientific product for implementation in practice. 32 scientific papers that are not the

dissertation are accepted for review and 2 study aids and participation in 22 scientific research projects are taken into account in the final evaluation. 6 research papers on the dissertation for the ONS "Doctor", 7 research papers on the competition for "principal assistant" are not reviewed. The distribution of scientific works under relevant headings, in international journals, is as follows: 25 publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals in world-renowned databases and 7 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective collections. The candidate also presents 1 peer-reviewed Habilitation Thesis - Monograph on "Technology for ecological assessment and planning of sustainable aquaculture in complex and significant dams", author: Ivan Zlatkov Iliev, PhD, publisher: "Paisiy Hilendarski" University Publishing House, 2023, ISBN 978-619-202-825-1, 178 pages.

The document package is well laid out and very detailed. Only the electronic version of the "Research Projects list" is missing scanned pages, but details of the missing information can be found in the attached additional documents and memos.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Dr. Ivan Iliev, has excellent teaching experience. The candidate is the co-author of one university textbook and one university manual for conducting laboratory classes. He supervised 8 successfully defended diploma students, developed 5 study programs for the Bachelor's degree program (2 in co-authorship) and 2 training programs for the Master's degree program. For the period 2017-2023, there were 190 hours of lectures (30 for the Bachelor's degree and 160 for the Master's degree) and 3532 hours of exercises (3112 for the Bachelor's degree and 420 for the Master's degree).

To participate in the competition, the candidate Dr. Ivan Iliev applied with an original habilitation thesis prepared and reviewed according to all the requirements of the law. The candidate has submitted a total of 32 scientific works, of which 25 scientific publications referenced in Scopus and/or WoS . 6 in non-indexed journals and 1 in peer-reviewed conference proceedings. In 4 of them, Dr. Iliev is the first author. The presented citations are 171 (134 in refereed and 37 in non-refereed editions. In fact, 116 citations are found in Scopus and 92 in WoS. The calculated h-index is 6 according to Scopus and 5 according to WoS. Dr. Ivan Iliev is participated in the implementation of 22 scientific research projects. The presented scientific works can be distributed in accordance with the criteria for the minimum national requirements of the ZRASRB and the Regulations to it as follows: Group of indicators C, indicator 3. Habilitation work - 100 points out of the required 100 points .; Group of indicators D, indicators from 5 to 11. Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in WoS/Scopus outside of the habilitation thesis: 25 issues (233.5 items), and publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective collections: 7 items (37.2 points). The total number of points under this indicator is 270.7 points out of the required 200; Group of indicators D, indicator 11. Citations in scientific publications, monographs, collective volumes and patents, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus): Although the applicant has specified 134 citations, complying with the requirements described in the Regulations for the Application of ŽARASRB, I accept that the number of citations is the one that can actually be reported in the Scopus system - namely 116 (1160 items). I accept the number of presented citations found in non-refereed editions as 37 (74 items). The total number of points for this indicator is 1234 with a required 50 t. Although not required by law, the applicant also provides information for 313.3 t under Indicator Group E, indicators 16 to 28. In my estimation, this asset would should have been reduced by 80 points because I cannot accept the points under indicator 26 "recognized applications for a utility model, patent or author's certificate " because the presented 2 published technologies with an author's certificate for an approved scientific product for implementation in practice cannot are classified as "recognized applications for a utility model, patent or author's certificate" under the Law on Patents and the Registration of Utility Models, as they are not registered and examined according to the relevant legal order and are not present in the Register of the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. In general, the materials presented by the candidate Dr. Ivan Iliev for this competition collect an asset of 1,838 points, which significantly exceeds the required minimum of 400 points according to the ZRASRB

and the Regulations for its application. The analysis of the publications presented by Dr. Ivan Iliev shows that he is a proven expert and recognizable scientist actively working in the field of environmental and agrobiotechnologies, with a marked interest in microbiology, development, monitoring and evaluation, and aquaculture in various water basins.

The candidate's main contributions are related to the application of new and complex approaches to the assessment and ecological condition of surface waters, study, identification and characterization of microbial populations in various water bodies on the territory of the country. Large-scale mycobiome surveys of soils and sediments were conducted and new strains were isolated and their potential for bioremediation investigated. Technologies have been developed and proposed for the effective cultivation of hydrobionts in the water area of various basins.

I am convinced that the contributions presented by the candidate Dr. Ivan Iliev are original and are the product of his high professionalism and undeniable expertise.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assist. Ivan Zlatkov Iliev, PhD **meet all** the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition **has** submitted a **significant** number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD and in the competition for the Chief Assistant. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which has been published in journals and scientific collections issued by international academic publishing houses. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work. Dr. Iliev's scientific and teaching qualifications **are undoubted**.

The results achieved by Dr. Ivan Zlatkov Iliev in his educational and research activities **fully** correspond to, even exceed, the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of the ZRASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a **report-proposal** to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology for the selection of the Ch. Assist. Ivan Zlatkov Iliev, PhD, at the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, professional direction 5.11. Biotechnology (Environmental and Agrobiotechnologies).

05.04. 2023

Prepared the opinion :

(signature)

/Assoc. Prof. Vasil Georgiev, PhD/