

STATEMENT

by DSc Tzonka Ivanova Godjevargova

professor at the University "prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition to occupy the academic position of "**associate professor**" at **Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv** by: field of higher education 5. Technical sciences professional direction 5.11. Biotechnologies in scientific specialty Environmental and agrobiotechnologies

In the competition for "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 92 of 18.11.2022 and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at the Faculty of Biology, Dr. Ivan Zdravkov Iliev, assistant professor in the same department.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. RD-21-335 dated 15.02.2023 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University (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 Biotechnologies (Ecological and agrobiotechnologies), announced for the needs of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology. For participation in the announced competition, only one candidate, Dr. Ivan Zdravkov Iliev, assistant professor at the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology of the PU. The set of materials presented by him on an electronic medium is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU and includes all the necessary documents. The candidate submitted a total of 33 scientific works for review: 25 articles in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information; 7 articles in refereed and indexed Bulgarian journals and scientific works, one monograph and 2 published technologies, protected by an author's certificate for an established scientific product for implementation in practice. Apart from them, a textbook and a teaching aid are also presented. Also attached are documents (in the form of official notes) for participation in 22 research projects, a list of citations, a report on educational activities.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

From the presented references it can be seen that Dr Ivan Iliev, assistant professor, has extensive experience as a teacher. He has a teaching experience of

16 years and 5 months. Conducts laboratory exercises in 9 different disciplines for students from the Bachelor's and Master's courses. During the period 2017-2023, he gave lectures on the subject "Biotechnologies of renewable energy sources" to undergraduate students from the "Pharmaceutical Biotechnologies" major and on the "Microbial energy sources" discipline to master's students from the "Biotechnological Microbiology" major. He is the co-author of a university textbook "Biotechnological processes and facilities" and a university teaching aid in Microbiology. The average load of hours for the last five years significantly exceeds the established standard for academic employment of 360 hours at PU "P. Hilendarski". The accumulated experience allows him to successfully graduate 8 graduates from the "Bachelor's" and "Master's" universities. Assistant professor Iliev, PhD participated in the preparation of the regulations for the implementation of educational practices and in commissions for the implementation of public procurement for the University. The candidate has a successful scientific research activity.

Three scientific directions are outlined:

1. Assessment of the ecological status of surface waters.
2. Molecular-biological and physiological analyzes of microbiomes in soils and sediments.
3. Development of technologies in the fisheries sector.

Associate Professor Ivan Iliev has a significant number of publications in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 25. This fact, as well as the number of 134 citations in articles published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, show that the developments have very good scientific information, which is very successfully popularized. The monograph with the title "Technology for ecological assessment and planning of sustainable aquaculture in complex and significant dams", 2023, PU, ISBN 978-619-202-825-1, is subject to the first mentioned scientific direction. The candidate has submitted 7 articles and 37 citations in refereed and indexed Bulgarian journals and scientific works. He took part in the development of 22 research projects, most of them with external organizations. No less significant are the two published technologies, protected by an author's certificate for an established scientific product for implementation in practice. These two author's certificates very clearly show the tendency of the candidate to realize his scientific results in practice. The contributions in the scientific publications of assistant professor Ivan Iliev, PhD, are scientific and scientific-applied. They are original, building on existing and leading to the discovery of new scientific knowledge and facts, most

of which have the potential for real application in practice. I believe that they are his personal achievement and reflect the achieved results of his overall scientific and research activity. The significant number of citations show the importance of the research of assistant professor Ivan Iliev for the development of science in the field in which he works. The submitted report on the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements for the procedure for filling the academic position "Associate Professor" shows that the candidate fully meets and even exceeds the minimum national criteria for filling the academic position - 2148 points out of the required 400 points. The significant results achieved in the scientific and teaching activities meet both the requirements of the National Academy of Sciences and the additional requirements of the PU.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

The materials presented at the competition are very well equipped and complete, which is why I have no comments.

CONCLUSION

The achievements of assistant professor Ivan Iliev, PhD, results in the educational and research activities fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Biology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of ZRASRB. The presented scientific works are significant for science and practice. Original contributions of a scientific and scientific-applied nature have been presented, which have received recognition through their publication in our and international scientific publications. Scientific works have resonated in academia through a significant number of citations. Assistant professor PhD Ivan Iliev is a qualified teacher with developed pedagogical skills. After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty council for choosing assistant professor Ivan Zdravkov Iliev, PhD, to the academic position of "**associate professor**" in the Faculty of Biology of the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv by professional direction 5.11. Biotechnologies (Environmental and Agrobiotechnologies).

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Prepared the statement:

/Prof. DSc Tzonka Godjevargova/