

## OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Ludmil Martinov Malev - professor in the PBF of VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"

for the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
to occupy the academic position of " **associate professor** "  
**of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"**

by: field of higher education Humanities

professional direction 2.4 Religion and theology (Moral theology, religion and moral education)

In the competition for " associate professor " , announced in the State Gazette, no. 39 from 02.05. 20 23 and on the website of Plovdiv University " Paisiy Hilendarski " for the needs of the Department of Theology at the Faculty of Philosophy , as the only candidate participating is Ivelina Nikolova Ivanova, PhD, from the same department of the mentioned faculty and university

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate**

By order No. PD-21-1419 dated 30.06.2023 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for occupying the academic position of '**associate professor**' in the **PU** of field of higher education Humanities, professional direction 2.4 Religion and theology (Moral theology - religion and moral education , **announced for the needs of the Department of Theology to the Faculty of Philosophy.**

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition: Dr. Ivelina Nikolova Ivanova. Currently, she is a teacher in the department that announced the competition.

The set of paper materials presented by the candidate is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU, and includes the full set of documents.

The candidate has submitted a total of 15 scientific papers: 1 monograph (Nikolova, Ivelina. MANY VARIETIES OF CHRISTIAN HOPE. UI "Paisiy Hilendarski", Plovdiv, 2015, ISBN: 978-954-423-819-3 (486 pages) , 9 study aids and methodical guides on Religion and 5 articles.

Ivelina Ivanova, PhD, is a full-time lecturer in the Department of Theology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the "Paisii Hilendarski" Polytechnic. Her main qualification was acquired at the Faculty of Theology of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" - 2004 г. Bachelor of Divinity; 2005 г. Master of Divinity; 2007 г. MA in Medieval Philosophy and Culture (FF); in the period 2006- 2009 г; is a doctoral student at BF and in 2010 г. defends his doctoral dissertation and acquires the educational and scientific degree Doctor of Theology.

## **2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity**

It is clear from the attached educational certificate that Dr. Ivanova has the necessary hours to occupy the academic position of "associate professor". He teaches Moral Theology, Christian Apologetics, Religion and Moral Education, Interactive Methods in Religious Education and Applied Ethics. He is the author of the lecture courses and the materials for the seminar classes, which are of good quality, accessibility and applicability.

Her scientific work, apart from being embedded in the teaching process, has been popularized in scientific circles, as well as among a wider audience interested in and practically engaged in this area of theological knowledge and experience. Actively participates in national and international conferences. Published in authoritative specialized publications.

The scientific work of the Assistant Professor Ivelina Nikolova has a marked contribution character. In the report on the contributions, she has pointed out in detail

what they consist of. Reading the texts, I take her self-assessment of the contributions as real. I would confidently state that to a large extent they are related to innovation in practical work, the fruit of many years of activity. Her developments would be a valuable aid in the work on the religious and moral education of adolescents.

Evidence that the scientific and practical activity of the candidate is known, evaluated and applicable is also contained in the list of noticed citations.

As a summary: Dr. Ivelina Ivanova, using authoritative foreign theoretical and practical achievements, has also added her own contribution, which, from the competition materials, is evident to be substantial.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

As a recommendation, I would urge her to further expand her scientific and professional contacts and to actively participate in the contacts and forums organized with the participation of colleagues from the professional direction from the other theological schools in the country.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Ivelina Nikolova Ivanova, PhD, meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "Doctor" and for 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 by authoritative publishing houses. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work. Dr. Ivelina Ivanova's scientific and teaching qualifications are unquestionable.

The results achieved by her in the educational and scientific research activities fully correspond to the minimum national requirements, according to the ZRASRB and the Regulations of the PU.

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 Philosophy for the election of Dr. Ivelina Nikolova Ivanova to the academic position of "associate professor" at PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" in: field of higher education Humanities professional direction 2.4 Religion and theology (Moral theology - religion and moral education.

21.08.2023

Prepared the opinion: .....

Prof. Dr. Ludmil Malev