

OPINION

by Assoc. prof. Adriana Hhristoslavova Lyubenova PhD,

The “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Philosophy and History, Department
of Theology

On the materials submitted concerning the competition

for the Academic Position of “**Associate Professor**” at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

On: field of higher education **2. Humanities Professional field 2.4. Religion and Theology**

Scientific specialization: Moral Theology – Religion and Moral Education

In the competition for the position of “Associate Professor”, as announced in the State Gazette, issue 39 of 02.05.2023, and on the website of the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” for the Department of “Theology” within the Faculty of Philosophy and History, Assoc. Dr. Ivelina Nikolova is participating as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. RD - 21 - 1419/30.06.2023 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the The Paisii Hilendarski university of Plovdiv - higher education area: 2. Humanities, professional field 2.4. Religion and Theology, announced for the needs of the Department of Theology at the Faculty of Philosophy and History. The only candidate who submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is Assistant Professor Ivelina Nikolova PhD from the Faculty of Philosophy and History, department of Theology. The set of documents presented by the candidate is complete and in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Plovdiv University. The set of materials includes: sample application, curriculum vitae, copy of diplomas, list of scientific works and

citations, references, annotation of materials, self-assessment of contributions, declaration of originality, certificate of work experience, scientometric data.

The candidate participated with a total of 15 scientific works, of which 1 monograph, 5 articles, 9 textbooks.

Ivelina Nikolova was born on 02/03/1979. She received her secondary education at School "Filip Kutev", Kotel. She completed her bachelor's degree at the Faculty of Theology of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and two master's degrees - one in theology in the same faculty in 2004-2005, and the second in Medieval philosophy and culture in the Faculty of Philosophy of the SU. Ivelina Nikolova was a full-time doctoral student at the Theological Faculty of the SU in the period 2006 - 2009. In 2010, she obtained a doctoral degree based on a defended dissertation on the topic "The Kingdom of God: Evangelical Ideal and Spiritual-Moral Realization". In the period 2009-2010, he was a librarian and a part-time assistant in Christian apologetics at the Faculty of Theology at SU. Since 2012, he has been an assistant in Systematic Theology, and from 2013 to the present, he is head. Associate Professor of Moral Theology at the Department of Theology of the FIF at the "Paisii Hilendarski" PU.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Academic activity: Ivelina Nikolova PhD holds a number of disciplines - Moral Theology, Christian Apologetics, Religion and Moral Education, Interactive Methods in Religious Education and Applied Ethics. as well as a teacher of a number of specialized courses. Actively participates in scientific committees, accreditation procedures, preparation and updating of study plans and many others.

Scientific activity: The scientific production of ch. Assistant Professor Ivelina Nikolova has a marked contribution character. The monograph submitted for habilitation "Many Faces of Christian Hope", UI "Paisii Hilendarski", Plovdiv, 2015 (486 pages) shows a thorough research in a wide range, which reveals the topicality of the topic. The study consists of two main parts. The first part (pp. 30 – 236) presents the main historical path of formation of the philosophical and theological guidelines on the issue of hope, and the second part (pp. 237 – 471) is mainly devoted to the biblical view of Christian hope . Dr. I. Nikolova's monograph "Many Faces of Christian

Hope" is a carefully planned, well thought out and systematically executed scientific work that deserves admiration and high evaluation. Getting acquainted with the texts, I accept her self-assessment of the contributions as real, which are a real fruit of her long-term activity. Her developments are innovative and 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 in the attached documentation, which are correctly reflected - five numbers. They are all thorough and to the point. **The personal contribution of candidate Dr. Ivelina Nikolova in the scientific field is indisputable, categorical and established.**

Conclusion

Ivelina Nikolova PhD is extremely active in the educational and administrative activities of the Department of Theology with participation in state exams, accreditations, curriculum development, etc. This activity is inherent to all teachers and consumes a large part of their time and effort, and despite the heavy workload, the data presented by it on scientific and teaching activity exceeds the minimum national requirements for appearing in the competition for an associate professor (695 points in total).

The documents and materials presented by Assist. Prof. Ivelina Nikolova PhD meets all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski. The candidate in the competition has submitted the required number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "doctor". Her theoretical developments have, in addition to the scientific contribution, practical applicability, and a large part of them are directly oriented and applicable to the educational activity. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assistant Professor Ivelina Nikolova PhD is unquestionable. The achievements of assistant professor, Ivelina Nikolova PhD, results in the educational and research activities fully correspond to the minimum national requirements, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the Plovdiv University for the application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

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 confidently recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to The faculty council of the Faculty of Philosophy and History for the election of the head. Assistant Professor Ivelina Nikolova PhD in the academic position of "associate professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.4 Religion and theology (Moral theology - religion and moral education).

08.09.2023

Plovdiv

The opinion was written by:

(Assoc. prof. Adriana Lubenova PhD)