

## REVIEW

by **Prof. Mayiana Milcheva Mitevska, D.Sc**

**Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"**

of the materials submitted to the competition

for the academic position of **Professor**

**at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"**

by: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences  
professional field 3.2. Psychology (Social Psychology)

In the competition for "professor" announced in the State Gazette, no. 96/17.11.2023 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy, as the only candidate(s) participated Assoc. Prof. Yuri Pavlov Yanakiev, PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

### **1. General presentation of the materials received**

The following are enclosed for competition review:

- 31 scientific works of which: 1 monograph,
- 1 published book on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor";
- 2 studios,
- 22 articles,
- 2 university textbooks and
- 3 teaching aids.

The distribution of scientific papers in the country and abroad is as follows: 27 in the country and 4 abroad.

A list of 36 scientific papers for the academic position of Associate Professor is attached.

### **Subject:**

By Order No. PD21-72 of 16.01.2024 of the Rector of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski University (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position "Professor" at PU in the field of higher education field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences professional field 3.2. Psychology (Social Psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The only candidate(s) who have submitted documents for participation in the announced competition are: Assoc. Prof. Yuri Pavlov Yanakiev, PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

The set of paper materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Yuri Pavlov Yanakiev, PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" **is in accordance with** the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes the **following documents**:

1. Application form to the Rector for admission to the competition
2. CV in European format
3. Diploma of higher education with Master's degree with an attachment (original and copy)
4. Diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
5. Certificate for the academic position "Associate Professor"
6. List of scientific works
7. Scientific papers (copies of publications)

8. Reference to compliance with minimum national and additional faculty requirements
9. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents
10. Annotations of the materials under Article 76 of the PRASPU (in Bulgarian and foreign languages)
11. Self-assessment of contributions
12. List of citations
13. Document (certificate) of work experience
14. Documents for academic work
15. Research documents
16. Documents according to the additional requirements of the respective faculty
17. Other documents
18. Set of paper documents from item 1 to item 17 - 2 pieces
19. Set of documents from item 1 to item 17 - on electronic media - 2 pieces

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Yuri Pavlov Yanakiev , PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" has enclosed a total of 31 scientific works of which: 1 monograph, 1 published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; 2 studies, 22 articles, 2 university textbooks and 3 textbooks (*Annex 6.1*). *The* distribution of scientific works in the country and abroad is as follows: 27 in the country and 4 abroad.

Attached is a list of 36 scientific papers for the academic position of Associate Professor.

No documents (in the form of memos) have been provided for participation and for implemented developments, both for their usefulness and data on the economic impact obtained.

I have no notes or comments on the documents (if necessary - reduction of relevant issues in case of overlap in content; absence of document(s) certifying publication; absence of full-text content, etc.).

#### **Brief biographical details (of the applicant(s))**

Assoc. Prof. Yuri Pavlov Yanakiev, PhD is a lecturer at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" .

Associate Professor of Social Psychology (since 2015); Senior Lecturer (2009-2014) and Assistant Professor (2009) in the Department of Psychology. Doctorate (PhD) defended at the University of Pau and the region of Adur - Bordeaux Academy, France, 1999-2000. Research Master (Master of Advanced Studies/DEA), University of Pau and the region of Adur - Bordeaux Academy, France, 1993-1998. Master - Bulgarian and French (with teaching license), Master - School Psychology, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

She speaks French at C2 level and English and Russian at C1 level.

Head of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology at SCPPS (from 2021).

Director of the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology and Neuroscience (from 2022).

Director of the University Volunteer Centre (since 2011)

She is the head of the Master's programmes "Psychology of Management" and "School Psychology" (since 2019).

Deputy Dean (2015-2019), Scientific Secretary (2012-2015) and Faculty

Erasmus+ Programme Coordinator (2011-2019) of the Faculty of Education

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Developmental Psychology

Assoc. Prof. Yuri Pavlov Yanakiev, PhD has been an Erasmus+ Guest Lecturer from 2016 to present at National Distance Education University, dept. of Psychology, Madrid, Spain (2019; 2017), Universidad de Almeria, dept. of Psychology, Almeria, Spain (2018), University of Kielce, Poland, dept. of Psychology (2016).

Since 2006 he has been a lecturer/expert at New Bulgarian University, Sofia. (2008-2009), Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Plovdiv, Bulgaria. (2008-2009), Acadomia, Pau, France (2006-2008), Prometrix Ltd, Bulgaria; Hestia Ltd, Bulgaria (2019-2022), Department for Qualification of Pedagogical Specialists at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Plovdiv,

Bulgaria. ПЛОВДИВ (2012-2022г.), Regional Preschool Education Committee, Plovdiv (2011-2015), Euroclass Consult Ltd. Plovdiv (2015-2020).

In the period 2004 - 2008 he held the position of Judicial Expert at the Ministry of Justice at the District Court of Appeal in Sofia. She was a member of the Court of Appeals of Poë, France, where she participated in forensic examinations.

The public engagement of Assoc. Prof. Yuri Yanakiev, PhD is expressed in his **membership** in Bulgarian and foreign organizations:

American Psychological Association: Division 8: Society for Personality and Social Psychology /

American Psychological Association: Division 8: Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Society of Psychologists in Bulgaria (SIC: BG RP 100957) Secretary of the Section "Social, Political and Ethno-psychology" at the Society of Psychologists in Bulgaria

Union of Scientists in Bulgaria

Member of the Board of the Public Council for Culture and Cultural Heritage

Member of the Scientific Committee of the University Presses Rhin et Danube (Presses universitaires Rhin et Danube) - <https://www.purhindanube.eu/accueil/presentation>.

**The project activity** is impressive and consists of leadership and participation in 19 national and international projects for the period 2009-2022 in broadly topical areas such as the STOP COVID-19 STRESS (2021-2022) Study and Evaluation of Stress-Induced Conditions of Prediabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Psychological Distress in Undergraduates in an Ongoing Pandemic Situation (COVID-19) and Risk Prevention through the Creation of a Web-Based Platform <https://stopcovidstress.mu-plovdiv.bg/>, NEST - Novice Educator Support and Training (2021-2022) - №626151-EPP-1-2020-2-BGEPPKA3-PI-POLICY 'Erasmus+' - Key scientific expert <https://projectnest.eu/>, Teacher Resilience (2021-2022) - №2020-1-BG-KA226-SCH-094958, 'Erasmus+' - Key scientific expert <https://www.teacherresilience.eu/>, etc.

**Evaluation of the candidate(s)' teaching and pedagogical activities and preparation (teaching materials, lecture courses, work with undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates)**

From the teaching workload reports it is evident that Assoc. Prof. Yuri Yanakiev, PhD has the required annual workload, formed by lectures, seminars, extra-curricular activities, provided with the corresponding author's manuals and textbooks.

She teaches undergraduate courses in Social Psychology Parts I and II; Psycholinguistics; Stress and Coping Strategies, and graduate courses in Social Knowledge and Behavior; Stress and Mental Health; Motivation and Behavior; Psychology of Optimal Experience; and Resilience.

In addition, he has been involved in the training of Erasmus students, graduates and one PhD student.

**The scientific and applied activity of the candidate** is expressed in numerous publications, articles and studies in refereed and indexed journals, textbooks and teaching aids, monographs, participation in scientific forums.

**Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements**

With regard to the minimum points required for the groups of indicators for the position of "professor" Assoc. Prof. Yuri Yanakiev, PhD shows in his reports that he has the required number of points for each of the indicators.

Monographs, articles, testimonies classified by subject matter do not overlap with contributions to other proceedings. Publications and results achieved in research and projects can be used in scientific and social practice. **Publications for peer review may be classified:**

By type: monograph - 1 issue; published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 1 issue; articles published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases with scientific information - 4 issues;

articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 18 issues; studies, published in refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 1 issue; studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 1 issue; university textbooks - 2 and university textbooks - 3 issues.

According to the language in which they are written: in Bulgarian - 25 pieces; in English - 5 pieces and in French - 1 piece.

Depending on the number of co-authors: independent - 13; with one co-author - 11; with two co-authors - 7.

***Contributions (scientific, applied, applied) and citations***

Assoc. Prof. PhD Yuri Yanakiev presents habilitation thesis **Yanakiev, Y. (2023) *Diagnosis of Burnout Syndrome in Educational Specialists. Strategies for coping with chronic stress in the workplace. (Second expanded and revised edition). Plovdiv: Paisii Hilendarski University Press, 193 p. ISBN 978-619-202-836-7***

This monograph brings together the results of two large-scale studies conducted over the past five years that offer the first-ever integrated and systematic approach to the diagnosis, prevention, and management of the psychosocial risks of burnout syndrome for the development of psychological resilience in educational professionals. The main contribution arising from the analysis of the contemporary roles of the family and the school in the continuous increase of information flows and the influence of mass media on the socialization process of adolescents and adolescents is highlighted, deriving and applying algorithms for dealing with chronic stress in risk groups and in a pandemic situation. The results of the study and the thesis analysis reach to the construction of a model oriented to the reduction of psychosocial risks and stress in the workplace and the construction of psychological resilience in pedagogical specialists. The dialogue with the reader is guided skillfully through the prism of a thorough scientific explanation of the social processes studied.

In the monograph **Yanakiev, J. (2020) *A Semiotic Journey to Umberto Eco's The Island of the Day Before. Plovdiv: Paisii Hilendarski University Press, 252p. (in French with English summary) ISBN 978-619-202-601-1.*** The author contextualizes the dialectical confrontation between semiotic theory and the fictional worlds of Umberto Eco's work. The reader is taken on a journey into a new dimension, different from previous studies, extending into the fictional states in the form of macropropositions, which allows for a consistent observation of the relationships between the structures of the fable and the plot, as well as a comparative analysis between the fictional possible worlds of the characters and the perceiver, seen as psychic and even mystical experiences in search of their own identity. This occurs after a detailed examination of the paratextual elements of a work and a detailed analysis of the schematic model evoked by Umberto Eco.

**Contributions are the personal work of the candidate.**

They are presented in the scientific papers on the procedure, including a monograph, full-text publications and participation in scientific forums and can be grouped into the following four thematic areas:

- o psychosocial dimensions of stress and burnout syndrome
- o aggression, stereotyping and discrimination in the school environment
- o interpersonal relations
- o creativity and social identity

**Contributions in the thematic area of psychosocial dimensions of stress and burnout syndrome are found in** empirical work that includes educational professionals (publication B1), doctors (publications D3; D4; D6; D17), social workers (publications D16), Cancer patients (publication D12; D24) and COVID-19 patients (publication D6).

Applied contributions in this area are related to the creation of:

- o Diagnostic manual and application of techniques, exercises,

trainings and strategies to increase psychological resilience in teachers (publication B1; E20:10). The manual has been translated into English, Italian, Greek and German.

o A university textbook that provides access to validated in practice methods and means of coping with psychosocial distress in everyday life of modern people (publication E20:9).

o A university textbook aligned with the content of the Stress and Mental Health (publication E20:13).

o Instruments have been developed and validated to investigate levels of burnout and self-assessment of teachers' resilience (publications B1; E20:10)

*Contributions in the thematic area of **Aggression, stereotypes and discrimination in the school environment are expressed in the*** empirical work (publications D18; D5) and the study of the attitudes of school management in Bulgaria towards creating a safe and positive school environment (publication D19) and are expressed in the application of a scale for measuring pedagogical multicultural awareness and attitudes towards ethnically diverse children in education (publication D5).

*Contributions in the **Interpersonal Relationships** thematic area* include research on the impact of gender stereotypes on leadership styles in the contemporary Bulgarian family (publication D9); the impact of hope on couple relationship satisfaction (publication D7); and building quality relationships and attachment (publications D13; D14).

*Contributions to the thematic area* The main applications of bio- and neurofeedback methods and non-invasive brain stimulation methods to unleash the potential of neurotechnologies as tools for personal development and creativity stimulation in people with disabilities are reviewed (publications D25; D21). social conflicts and old age (publications D15; D22) and could be applied through the activities of the Neurofeedback Laboratory.

*The citations noted are extensive in content, by foreign authors; outside the team in which the candidate participates; by the candidate's students and other publications in recent years.*

*The quantitative indicators of the criteria for holding the academic position "Professor" are met.*

#### **4. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the applicant(s)**

The personal contribution of the candidate is highlighted in the relevant publications, and to a high degree the formulated contributions and obtained results are his personal merit.

#### **5. Critical comments and recommendations**

I have no significant comments on the candidate's scientific and publication activity, as well as on the stated contributions.

#### **6. Personal impressions**

The overall acquaintance with the teaching and scientifically applied activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yuri Yanakiev gives grounds to draw the following conclusions about his qualities, namely:

- Organizes and effectively carries out its assigned teaching and project activities.
- Successfully implemented scientific and applied research in the social sciences.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In the presented scientific works sufficient scientific and applied contributions are found.

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Yuri Yanakiev, PhD **meet all the** requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDA and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University.

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 the academic position of Associate Professor. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have

received international recognition, a representative part of which have been published in journals and scientific collections published by international academic publishers. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to teaching work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Yuri Yanakiev **are unquestionable**.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Yuri Yanakiev, PhD in the teaching and research activities **fully** comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Education in relation to the Regulations of the PU for the implementation of the Law on Education.

After reading the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific, scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it justified to give my **positive** assessment and **to** recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education for the election of Assoc. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences professional field 3.2. Psychology (Social Psychology).

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Reviewer: .....

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