

## SCIENTIFIC JURY MEMBER'S OPINION

**From: associate professor Manol Nikolov Manolov, Doctor of Sciences**

(academic position in the university or scientific organization, first name, second name, last name – scientific degree)

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

by: field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

professional direction 3.2. "*Psychology*" (*Social Psychology*)

(name of scientific specialty)

In the contest for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 96 of November 17, 2023 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education, as a candidate Assoc. Prof. Yuriy Pavlov Yanakiev, PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

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

The submitted biographical data of the candidate Assoc. prof. Yuriy Yanakiev, PhD outlines the path of intensive academic and professional growth. After completing his master's degree at the University of Pau, Adour region – Bordeaux Academy, France, Assoc. Yanakiev. He obtained his doctorate at the same university in France, where he also defended his dissertation. He began his professional career as a court expert at the Ministry of Justice and a lecturer at the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski", as well as the New Bulgarian University. He has gained considerable experience as a full-time university lecturer since 2009. In 2015 Yanakiev acquired the academic position of "associate professor" in social psychology field.

His interest spans a wide range of areas in psychology, including social, medical, educational, and developmental psychology, which matches and significantly exceeds the expectations of the thematic direction of the competition. Assoc. prof. Yanakiev has demonstrated his skills and knowledge by directing numerous undergraduate and graduate programs and courses, where he has worked on issues related to social psychology, stress, motivation, and behavior, as well as the psychology of optimal experience.

Assoc. prof. Yanakiev is an active member of several national and international organizations and associations, including the American Psychological Association, the Society for Personality and

Social Psychology, which highlights his commitment to professional development and a close relationship with the scientific community and cutting-edge scientific and research work. In addition, as evident from his career development, he has also held important administrative roles, including as Head of Department, Director of the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology and Neuroscience, and Director of the University Volunteer Center.

The biography of Assoc. prof. Yuriy Yanakiev, PhD reveals a worthy creative path, distinguished by constant upgrading, diversification and deepening of professional competencies in the field of psychology.

In the evaluation of the materials presented by Assoc. prof. Yuriy Yanakiev, PhD for the competition for the academic position of "professor" in the field of social psychology, the following key characteristics and achievements are observed:

- Yanakiev has presented a precisely selected and structured set of documents, which includes a complete list of publications, abstracts, documents certifying scientific research achievements, and other relevant materials for the period 2015-2024.
- The submitted materials demonstrate an extremely high level of scientific research and teaching work, while at the same time complying with all formal requirements and criteria for the competition.
- The presented scientific production not only meets, but also exceeds by many times the scientometric requirements for the position of "professor".

The above emphasizes the candidate's serious preparation and commitment to academic standards, personal development, and ambitious development of the fundamental and applied aspects of the discipline of social psychology.

The significant scientific output of Yanakiev is characterized by high quality, originality and contribution to social psychology, as confirmed by numerous citations worldwide and high recognition in specialized publications. This reflects his recognizable presence and influence in scientific circles, as well as his ability to generate meaningful ideas and solutions to contemporary challenges in the field.

The materials that he submitted for Yanakiev's participation in the competition testify to his commitment, professional erudition and active contribution to the scientific discipline and its practical application.

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

It can be seen from the presented documentation related with the competition, as well as from the personal impressions of the reviewer from Assoc. prof. Yuriy Yanakiev, PhD it is safe to say that the candidate is an outstanding figure in the field of social psychology who possesses deep and wide-

ranging knowledge. They are accumulated in the context of highlighted research interests ranging from stress and burnout to psychological resilience and optimal functioning. His academic and professional activity is marked by creativity, rigorous scholarship, and dedication, both in the educational process and in research work.

His teaching activity is the embodiment of psychological and pedagogical mastery, in which precision and professionalism serve as the basis for the training and development of students. Through an innovative approach and the introduction of useful, interactive, and modern learning approaches and materials, Assoc. prof. Yanakiev promotes the quality of the educational process and inspires his students to a deeper understanding and long-term commitment to psychology.

In the field of scientific research, Assoc. prof. Yanakiev has demonstrated significant contributions through his participation in large-scale international, national, and executive-appointed expert committees and projects that address current issues in social psychology and education. His work on the development and implementation of complex methods for the diagnosis, prevention and management of stress and burnout syndrome is particularly important and reflects his ability to offer practical and effective solutions to address these challenges in the professional environment.

The personal contribution of Assoc. prof. Yanakiev involves the development of theoretical frameworks and the conduct of empirical research that contribute to a deeper understanding and interpretation of psychological phenomena. His scientific works and publications, characterized by originality, analytical competency and practical applicability, reflect his ability to integrate theoretical knowledge with real psychological practices.

In conclusion, the general characteristic of the activity of Yanakiev portrays him as a distinguished scientist and educator whose work makes a significant contribution to the scientific community and education in the field of social psychology. His commitment to the development of discipline and the education of the next generations of researchers underlines his importance as a leading figure in academic circles.

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

I would suggest Assoc. dr. The same would contribute positively to the entire academic community. In addition, after obtaining the academic position of "professor" it would be valuable for Yanakiev to give direction to the active inclusion of students in his scientific projects, both at the national and international level. This will not only enrich their education and practical skills, but also enable them to connect with the scientific community early in their academic careers.

Combining these efforts, Yanakiev can not only increase his influence in the field of social psychology, but also contribute to the formation of the next generation of scientists, prepared to face the challenges and use the opportunities of the international scientific arena.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the analysis of the activity and scientific achievements of Assoc. prof. Yuriy Yanakiev, PhD reveals the portrait of an extremely dedicated and talented scientist and researcher in the field of social psychology. His impressive body of scholarly publications, teaching, and mentoring of PhD students and undergraduates underscores his commitment to education and research, as well as his ability to positively influence the academic community and society at large.

Yanakiev as a leader in his field whose work and achievements deserve widespread recognition and support. His efforts in the fields of teaching, research and international cooperation are essential to the development of social psychology and to the formation of future generations of specialists. With certainty and gratitude, I give my positive opinion regarding the occupation of the academic position of "professor" of Assoc. prof. Yuriy Yanakiev, PhD.

13/03/2024

**Prepared the opinion:** ... ..

*(signature)*

Assoc. prof. Manol Manolov, DSc

*(acc. dl., n. Art., first name, last name)*