

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by **Tsvetanka Georgieva Raycheva, PhD,**

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Regarding the materials provided for the participation in a competition

for the academic position "Professor"

In the Higher Education Area: 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics,

Professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences (Phycology).

In the competition for "Professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 98 of 19.11.2024 and in the inter-website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Botany and Biological Education at the Faculty of Biology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", as a candidate participates **Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Ivanova Teneva-Dzhambazova, PhD** from the Department of Botany and Biological Education, Faculty of Biology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order No. RD 22-439 of 18.02.2025 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 of Professor at PU in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences (Phycology), announced for the needs of the Department of Botany and Biological Education, Faculty of Biology and Science, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

For participation in the announced competition has submitted documents only one candidate: **Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Ivanova Teneva-Dzhambazova, PhD** from the Department of Botany and Biological Education, Faculty of Bio-logy, University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". The paper presented by Ivanka Teneva-Dzhambazova's set of materials on electronic media is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv, and includes the following documents: Application form to the Rector for admission to the competition; Curriculum Vitae in European format; Diploma of Higher Education with Master's Degree; Diploma of Doctor's Degree; Diploma of Associate Professor; List of scientific works; Copy of scientific works (publications); Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements; Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents; Annotations of the materials under Art. 76 of the PRASPU (2 pcs. - in Bulgarian and English); Self-assessment of original scientific contributions (2 pcs. - in Bulgarian and English); List of citations; Certificate of work

experience; Reference to academic work; References to research activities of the candidate (2 pcs. - reference from the NAP and reference from the candidate); other documents and annexes.

2. Brief biographical details of the candidate

Associate Professor Ivanka Teneva-Dzhambazova was born on 21.12.1971. She started her studies at P. She graduated with a Master's degree in Bio-logy and Chemistry with the qualification "Biology teacher and Chemistry teacher". He obtained his PhD degree at P. In 2007 she obtained a PhD in Biology, Botany, immediately after which she spent seven months as a post-doctoral fellow at Lund University (Sweden). In her career development, she successively acquired the positions of Senior Assistant Professor (2010); Associate Professor (since 2013-present) in the same research unit.

He has a range of organizational skills and competences, long teaching experience, active participation in research projects and administrative involvement.

3. General description of the candidate's activities

3.1. Evaluation of the competition materials for compliance with minimum national and additional faculty requirements.

The materials submitted by Teneva-Dzhambazova's materials for participation in the competition for the academic position of Professor include 18 scientific publications with IF or SJR and higher quartiles, 4 textbooks, 4 manuals and 4 teaching aids.

In the attached 'Report on compliance with the minimum national requirements for the academic post of professor', the scientific works are correctly grouped by indicators:

Indicator A1 (minimum 50 points according to national requirements) - performance 50 points

He has obtained a PhD in Botany after defending a dissertation on "Taxonomy, phylogeny and toxic potential of some species of blue-green algae (Cyanoprokaryota)".

In the group of indicators B (minimum 100 points according to national requirements) - 130 points

Indicator B4: 6 scientific publications have been submitted, as the equivalent of a habilitation thesis, which are entirely on the subject of the announced competition - phycology. Of these, 2 publications are in the Q1 category, 4 publications are in the Q2 edition.

In the group of indicators D (minimum 200 points according to the national requirements) - 234 points:

Indicator D7: 12 publications have been submitted (4 of them in Q1, 1 in Q2, 2 in Q3, 2 in Q4, 3 in SJR, no quartile) - 204 points;

Indicator D8: 2 book chapters published - performance 30 points.

On indicator E11, citations (minimum 100 pts. according to national requirements) - performance 398 points.

For indicator group E (minimum 150 points according to national requirements) - performance 380.9 points:

Indicator E13: Supervision of 2 successfully defended PhD students - 50 points;
Indicator E14: Participation in 3 national projects - performance 30 points;
Indicator E15: Participation in 2 international projects - performance 40 points;
Indicator E16: Supervision of 3 national projects - performance 60 points;
Indicator E17: BG team leadership in 1 international project - performance 50 points;
Indicator E18: Project funds leveraged 332 880 BGN. - Implementation 67 points;
Indicator E19: 3 university textbooks co-authored - performance 17.1 points;
Indicator E20: 4 university textbooks co-authored - 26.8 points.

All articles for the competition are in line with the scientific specialty. They are published in refereed and indexed world-known databases of scientific information Web of Science and Scopus. The total impact factor of the articles submitted to the competition is 40.602. The number of citations in Web of Science and Scopus of the articles included in the competition is 96 and the total number of citations (in Web of Science and Scopus) of the applicant's articles is 455.

3.2. Evaluation of scientific and applied activities

The applicant presents a list of scientific and applied contributions oriented in three strategic directions: Contributions to resolve the taxonomic status of controversial species by applying polyphasic taxonomy and developing new taxonomic criteria in critical genera of cyanobacteria, including comparative genomic analysis of 18 strains; Establishing the structure of phytoplankton in aquatic ecosystems, assessing their ecological status and toxic potential of members of Division Cyanobacteria; Biological activity of members of Division Cyanobacteria and allelopathic effects of cyanotoxins on common algae.

The attached results and contributions in the scientific output of the present procedure, demonstrate the competence and experimental experience of the candidate in the field of floristic studies of autotrophs in national lakes and reservoirs and ecological risk assessment of the environment, taxonomy of critical groups of the division Cyanobacteria.

I support the claim of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivanka Teneva-Dzhambazova about originality and authenticity, stated in connection with the conduct of this competition.

4. Critical comments and recommendations

The materials for the competition are clearly arranged and formatted, all references, certificates, scientific publications, works cited, etc. are attached. A clerical error has been made in the summation of the E11 sub-indicators, the citation scores are 398 and not 402 as indicated, but this does not change the fact that the scores for this criterion exceed the required minimum by many times.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Ivanova Teneva-Dzhambazova meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDARB 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 Associate Professor. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Teneva-Dzhambazova are undoubted. The results achieved by the candidate in teaching and scientific research activities significantly exceed the minimum national requirements adopted in connection with the Regulations of the „Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv for the implementation of the Law on Research and Development.

After the complete acquaintance with the teaching and scientific-applied activities of Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Teneva-Dzhambazova and analysing their significance, I confidently give my **positive** assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology for the election of **Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Ivanova Teneva-Dzhambazova, PhD** to the academic position of "**Professor**" at Paisii Hilendarski University in: field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences (Phycology).

9 April 2025.

The Statement of opinion was prepared by:

Assoc. Prof. Tsvetanka Raycheva