

STATEMENT

From Prof. DSc Dilian Georgiev Georgiev, Department of Ecology and Environmental Conservation, Faculty of Biology, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

On the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences (Genetics – General and Evolutionary Genetics), announced in the State Gazette, issue 98 of 19.11.2024, and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," for the needs of the Department of Developmental Biology at the Faculty of Biology, with the candidate being Chief Assistant Dr. Penka Lazarova Vasileva from the Department of Developmental Biology, Faculty of Biology.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order No. RD-22-442 of 18.02.2025, issued by the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences (Genetics – General and Evolutionary Genetics).

One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Chief Assistant Dr. Penka Lazarova Vasileva from the Department of Developmental Biology, Faculty of Biology.

The materials submitted by the candidate include the following documents:

- Application form addressed to the Rector for admission to the competition;
- Curriculum Vitae in European format;
- Diploma of higher education with the acquired educational qualification degree "Master" with annex (original and copy) or notarized copy;
- Diploma of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (original and copy) or notarized copy;
- List of scientific papers;
- Scientific papers (copies of publications);
- List of citations;
- Report on compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements (if applicable);
- Annotations of the materials according to Article 65 of the PHRPU (in Bulgarian and foreign languages) with an extended habilitation report if no monograph is submitted;
- Self-assessment of contributions;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents;
- Certificate of work experience;
- Documents related to teaching activities;
- Documents related to research activities;

- Documents according to the additional requirements of the respective faculty;
- Other documents.

The documents submitted by Chief Assistant Dr. Penka Lazarova Vasileva comply with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at PU and the Higher Education and Science Act of the Republic of Bulgaria.

2. General characterization of the candidate's activities

The candidate is a long-time lecturer and researcher at the Department of Developmental Biology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," with previous experience at the Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture. She holds a doctoral degree, a Master's degree in Biology with a specialization in Genetics and Microbiology, and secondary education in Economics. She is fluent in English and Russian, and has extensive experience in teaching students, conducting research, and project work. She is distinguished by strong organizational and communication skills, as well as proficiency in working with laboratory and microscopy equipment.

The documentation provided to me complies with the minimum national requirements, as well as the specific ones of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the academic position of "Associate Professor." The required number of points has been accumulated, with some indicators even exceeding the threshold. The following have been presented: a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (50 points), a habilitation work – a monograph (100 points), scientific publications in journals refereed and indexed in globally recognized databases (235 points), citations in scientific publications (134 points). In this way, the minimum national requirements are met. Regarding the additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," the following have been presented: two teaching aids in the relevant field and specialty of the announced competition co-authored, 9 graduates who have defended their theses (with a required minimum of 5), a document certifying 5 years of teaching experience, participation in 10 scientific research projects (with a required minimum of 2), and administrative experience over the past five years.

The candidate possesses significant administrative experience related to academic management and ensuring the quality of education. He is a member of the Accreditation Commission and the Quality Commission of the Faculty of Biology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski." He has actively participated in student recruitment campaigns, as well as in organizing and conducting the student competition "Journey in Biology." Additionally, he serves as the coordinator for the Bachelor's program in "Biology," is a member of the Technical Committee of the Journal of BioScience and Biotechnology, and is part of the organizing committee for the BalkanBio 2025

conference. Furthermore, he holds material responsibility for the Department of Developmental Biology.

The candidate meets all the minimum national requirements and the additional criteria of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the academic position of "Associate Professor." He has presented the required scientific and teaching works, with some indicators even exceeding the required number of points. Included are a dissertation, a habilitation work (monograph), a significant number of scientific publications, and citations. Additionally, two teaching aids, successfully supervised graduates, proven teaching experience, participation in research projects, and administrative experience over the last five years have been provided.

3. Critical comments and recommendations

I have no critical comments regarding the candidate. I wish her much professional success!

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, I firmly vote **"FOR"** Chief Assistant Dr. Penka Lazarova Vasileva to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences (Genetics – General and Evolutionary Genetics) at the Department of Developmental Biology, Faculty of Biology, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski."

20.03.2025 г.

Prepared by the opinion:

Prof. DSc Dilian Georgiev