OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Todorka Atanasova Glushkova

Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics

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: 4.6. "Informatics and Computer Science" (Informatics – Databases)

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor," 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 Computer Systems at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, the applicant is Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov from the Department of Computer Systems, FMI, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski."

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

Pursuant to Article 30, Paragraph 3 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and by order of the Rector No. RD-22-77 dated 17.01.2025, in connection with the competition announced in State Gazette, issue 98/19.11.2024, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for 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 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science (Informatics – Databases), within the Department of Computer Systems at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. The sole candidate in the competition is Assist. Prof. Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov.

The set of materials submitted by Assist. Prof. Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov complies with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" and includes the following documents::

1. Application form addressed to the Rector for admission to the competition.
2. Curriculum Vitae in European format.
3. Diploma for higher education with a master's degree and its supplement.
4. Diploma for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor."
5. List of scientific publications.

6. Scientific publications (copies of the papers) and a list of citations.
7. Report on compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements.
8. Summaries of the materials under Article 65 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Plovdiv University (in Bulgarian and a foreign language), with an extended habilitation report if a monograph is not presented.
9. Self-assessment of contributions.
10. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents.
11. Certificate of work experience.
12. Documents related to teaching activities.
13. Documents related to research activities.
14. Two sets of hard copy documents (items 1–13).
15. Two sets of electronic copies of the documents.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov completed his higher education at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in 1999, earning a master's degree in Mathematics with a professional qualification as a mathematician and informatician. In 2013, he obtained the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" from the same university. Since 2005, Dr. Cholakov has been a lecturer in Informatics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," holding positions as an Assistant and later as a Chief Assistant Professor.

From the completion of his higher education to the present, he has also worked as a lead developer and team leader in several software companies, where he has been involved in the development of software applications.

I know Georgi Cholakov as an outstanding specialist in the fields of Informatics and modeling, as well as an excellent educator.

2. General Characteristics of the Candidate's Activity

The total volume of the candidate's scientific work includes **28 publications**. According to the submitted summaries of scientific publications, **11 scientific articles**, **1 textbook, 1 monograph, and 1 book** based on the dissertation work have been presented for participation in the competition. The candidate has published 5 articles in journals and presented 6 papers at scientific conferences.

Dr. Cholakov has also submitted one teaching aid, "Database Study Guide", the monograph "Enhanced Intelligence through Software Agents and Artificial Intelligence in a Distributed E-Learning Center (DeLC)", and the book "Hybrid Architecture for Building a Distributed E-Learning Center (DeLC)".

The scientific publications presented for the competition fall into several thematic areas: databases and ontologies, agent-oriented architectures, and e-learning. I accept the contributions formulated in the candidate's research activity report. In addition to the developed models and

algorithms, the candidate has also created appropriate software tools and prototypes, which further enrich the conducted research and allow for their application and dissemination within the scientific community, among doctoral students and students.

The obtained results have both scientific and applied significance, contributing to the enrichment of an existing scientific field with new knowledge.

The textbook *Database Study Guide* was developed for the training of students in the *Software Technologies and Design* program at the Faculty and is successfully applied in the education of both bachelor's and master's students at the university.

A list of 11 citations of Georgi Nikolov Cholakov's works in Scopus and/or Web of Science (WoS) has been provided. According to the submitted reports on meeting the minimum requirements of the LDASRB and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov fulfills the criteria under indicators A, B, G, D, and E for the professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science.

I accept the candidate's Declaration stating that there is no proven plagiarism in the scientific works submitted for this competition.

3. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no critical remarks. However, I recommend that the candidate continue his scientific work in these relevant research areas and publish his findings in independent articles and conference papers.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Georgi Nikolov Cholakov meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, and the corresponding Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The candidate has presented a sufficient number of scientific works, published after the materials used in the defense of his doctoral degree and his position as a Chief Assistant Professor.

The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition, with representative parts of these works published in journals and scientific proceedings issued by international academic publishers. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, with some directly related to teaching activities. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assist. Prof. Dr. Georgi Cholakov are indisputable. The

results achieved in his teaching and research activities meet both the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, as set out in the Regulations of Plovdiv University for the implementation of the LDASRB.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, applied, and practical contributions contained in them, I find it well-founded to give my **positive assessment** and recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the selection of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 4. *Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics*, professional field 4.6. *Informatics and Computer Science* (Informatics – Databases).

03.02. 2025 г.   Prepared the opinion: ....

Prof. Dr. Todorka Glushkova