

STATEMENT

by Prof. Asen Kanchev Rahnev, PhD,

University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", Plovdiv

on a competition for the occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor",

announced in State Gazette No. 98/19.11.2024

in field of higher education: 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics,

Professional field: 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science

(Informatics - Databases)

for the needs of the University of Plovdiv „Paisii Hilendarski”,

Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI)

By Order № RD-22-77 of 17.01.2025 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition to fill the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University of Plovdiv (PU) in field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics, professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science (Informatics - Databases).

One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition – Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov from the Department of Computer Systems at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski."

The set of materials submitted on electronic media by Chief Assistant Professor 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 of Plovdiv University.

General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov graduated from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in 1999 with a degree in Mathematics, obtaining the professional qualification of Mathematician and Computer Scientist. In 2013, he defended his Doctoral degree at the same university. Since 2005, he has been a lecturer in Informatics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," where he has successively held the positions of Assistant Professor, Senior Assistant Professor, and Chief Assistant Professor, accumulating a total of 19 years and 7 months of professional experience. Alongside his academic career, from the time of his graduation until now, he has worked as a

leading developer and team leader in several software companies. His primary professional focus is the development of software applications.

For participation in the competition, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Cholakov has submitted one teaching textbook and 14 scientific works, including:

- Publications in journals – 5 papers;
- Publications in proceedings of international conferences – 6 papers;
- Monograph – 1 volume;
- Book based on the dissertation – 1 volume.

Ten of the publications are indexed in the WoS and/or SCOPUS databases, with four of them having an Impact Factor (IF) – three ranked in quartile Q4 and one in quartile Q3. Two of the publications, the teaching textbook, and the monograph are in Bulgarian, while the rest are in English. Among the thirteen scientific works and one teaching textbook submitted, with no proven plagiarism according to legal regulations, Georgi Cholakov is the sole author of four of them, the first co-author in six, the second co-author in one, and the third or later co-author in two. The candidate meets the minimum national requirements set by the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, with 591 points in the national minimum requirements report. Additionally, he meets the faculty-specific requirements of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov has made scientific and applied contributions in the fields of databases, intelligent software agents, and e-learning. He develops and optimizes databases, including relational databases, document-oriented databases, and ontologies. He has participated in the development of a system for web crawling and metadata extraction. His research includes analyzing student difficulties in the "Databases" course, leading to improvements in teaching materials. He integrates large language models into the software agents Evaluator and FraudDetector, enhancing their precision. Additionally, he expands the DeLC architecture by incorporating intelligent agents to support learning and has developed a personal software assistant for tracking student progress. His work significantly improves the automation and efficiency of educational and assessment processes.

Some of the results achieved by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Cholakov have been utilized in two international projects: "Software Engineering: Computer Science Education and Research Cooperation", which was carried out under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and "AID 2030 – Artificial Intelligence Data Kit 2030 - European Language Equality 2 (ELE2)" at the

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) (as referenced in the research activity report). Dr. Cholakov has presented the results of his research at five international conferences.

The teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Cholakov is focused on delivering the mandatory course "Databases" in the Department of Computer Systems. Annually, this course includes 180 hours of lectures and over 500 hours of practical exercises. The course is taught in the following undergraduate programs - "Software Engineering" (2nd year, full-time and part-time), "Software Technologies and Design" (2nd year, full-time and part-time), "Informatics" (2nd year, full-time and part-time), "Business Information Technologies" (2nd year, full-time and part-time). Additionally, Dr. Cholakov teaches courses in Master's programs, including "Programming for Oracle with PL/SQL" and "Java Practicum". Dr. Cholakov has supervised more than 30 successfully defended diploma theses, participates in state examinations and the university admission campaign, and is a member of the Faculty Accreditation Committee.

I have known Georgi Cholakov for 20 years through our work at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, and my impression of him is that he is an extremely responsible colleague and lecturer. I highly value his scientific expertise and practical professionalism.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov fully comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation, and the corresponding Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate has provided a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used for obtaining the Doctoral degree and the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor. His research includes original scientific and applied contributions, which have gained international recognition, as a representative part of them has been published in journals and scientific proceedings by international academic publishers.

The scientific and teaching qualifications of Dr. Cholakov are unquestionable. His achievements in teaching and research meet both the minimum national requirements set by the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria and the additional faculty-specific requirements established in accordance with the regulations of Plovdiv University.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific-applied contributions, I find it justified to give my positive evaluation and recommend that the Scientific Jury prepares a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the appointment of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolov Cholakov to 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).

16.02.2025

Prepared by:

Plovdiv

Prof. Asen Rahnev, PhD