

# STATEMENT

by Prof. Asen Kanchev Rahnev, PhD,

on a competition for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor”,  
for the needs of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”  
announced in State Gazette № 98/19.11.2024  
in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences,  
Professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in...  
(Methodology of teaching in informatics and information technologies)

By Order № RD-22-444/18.02.2025 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for a competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** announced in SG № 98/19.11.2024 in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Methodology of teaching in informatics and information technologies).

To participate in the competition, documents have been submitted by only one candidate – **Chief Assistant Professor Elena Hristova Todorova, PhD** from the Department of Computer Technologies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The documents, presented by Chief Assistant Professor Elena Hristova Todorova, PhD on electronic media, is compliant with Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), its Rules of Application (PPZRASRB), and the Rules for Academic Staff Development at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (PRASPU).

## General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Elena Hristova Todorova, PhD completed her higher education at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) of the University of Plovdiv in 2005, acquiring a Bachelor's degree in “Mathematics and Informatics”. In 2008, she also obtained a Master's degree in specialty “Software Technologies”.

In 2014, she earned a PhD in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences; professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching ..., PhD program “Methodology of Teaching Informatics and Information Technologies”.

Since 2005, Elena Todorova has been teaching Informatics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”, holding the positions of part-time Assistant (2005–2012), Assistant Professor (2012–2014), and Chief Assistant Professor (2014–present), with a total professional experience of over 15 years and 7 months.

Between 2006 and 2010, Elena Todorova was engaged in teaching “Informatics” and “Information Technologies” at Secondary School “P. K. Yavorov” in Plovdiv.

For her participation in the academic competition, Chief Assistant Prof. Todorova, PhD submitted 8 textbooks, 9 training manuals, and 28 scientific works, including:

- 1 monograph;
- 1 book based on her PhD thesis;
- 12 journal publications;

- 8 publications in proceedings of international conferences;
- 5 publications in proceedings of national conferences;
- 1 chapter in a collective monograph.

Four of the publications are indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) database, and one in SCOPUS. Two of them have an Impact Factor (IF) in quartile Q4, and one has an SJR index in quartile Q3. Two of the publications are in English, and the rest are in Bulgarian.

Of the submitted 28 scientific works, 17 textbooks and training manuals – none of which have been legally proven to contain plagiarism – Elena Todorova, PhD is the sole author of two, first author of six, second author of ten, and co-author in a third or subsequent position in the remaining publications.

The candidate Elena Todorova, PhD meets the minimum national requirements of the Rules of Application of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (PPSZRAS), as well as the additional criteria of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University. Moreover, she significantly exceeds these requirements. The total number of points indicated in the compliance report with the national minimum requirements is 958.

Chief Assistant Prof. Elena Todorova, PhD has both scientific-applied and practical contributions in: Design and development of didactic materials for training students; Methodological approaches in teaching informatics and IT in schools; Developing reflective skills in students and teachers in IT and informatics; Pedagogical strategies in teaching mathematics, IT, and informatics; Authoring textbooks and training manuals for student education in IT and computer modeling.

Some of the results achieved by Chief Assistant Prof. Todorova, PhD have been used in 7 research projects – 1 international, 1 national, and 5 university projects.

Chief Assistant Prof. Todorova, PhD has presented her scientific findings at 23 international and national conferences and seminars.

Elena Todorova, PhD has submitted a list of 57 known citations of her work, 11 of which are indexed in WoS and/or Scopus. As of the present date, I am aware of more citations of her scholarly work.

Chief Assistant Professor Elena Todorova, PhD is involved in delivering the following academic courses:

- Lectures on: “Using Dynamic Software in Mathematics Education”, “Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Work in Digital Environment”, “Accounting and Accounting Information Systems” and “E-Commerce” (Bachelor’s Degree), as well as “Integration of Activities” and “Application of Modern Information Technologies in Mathematics Education” (Master’s Degree).
- Practical exercises on: “Information Technologies”, “School Course in Informatics”, “Integrated Practicum in Informatics and Information Technologies”, “Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Work in Digital Environment”, “Introduction to IT”, “IT in Mathematics”, “Accounting and Accounting Information Systems”, “E-Commerce” (Bachelor’s Degree) and “School Course in Informatics,” “School Course in IT”, “Integration of Activities”, “Competency-Based Approach and Innovations in Education”, “Application of Modern IT in Mathematics Education” (Master’s Degree).

Elena Todorova, PhD has supervised over 40 successful graduation theses and participates in state examination boards and university admission campaigns at PU. She is a member of: The Faculty Council of FMI (2012–2023), The University Internal Audit Committee (2020–present), The Faculty Quality Committee (2015–present), and 6 international and national programs and projects under the Ministry of Education and Science (MES).

I have known Elena Todorova for over 20 years as an extremely responsible and approachable colleague, educator, and a capable team player.

## CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant Prof. Elena Hristova Todorova, PhD fully meet and significantly exceed all the requirements defined in the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), its Rules of Application (PPZRASRB), the Rules for Academic Staff Development at Plovdiv University (PRASPU), as well as the additional criteria of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Chief Assistant Professor Elena Todorova, PhD, are beyond question.

These facts provide me with sufficient grounds to confidently make **a positive conclusion for election** and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv University for the appointment of Chief Assistant Professor Elena Hristova Todorova, PhD, to the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences; professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in... (Methodology of Teaching Informatics and Information Technologies).

04.04.2025

Plovdiv

Reviewer: .....

/Prof. Asen Rahnev, PhD/