

# STANDPOINT

**by Prof. Todorka Zhivkova Terzieva, PhD**  
**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”

under Higher Education Area: **1. Pedagogical Sciences,**  
Professional Field: **1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching ...**  
**(Methodology of Teaching Informatics and Information technology)**

In the competition for “Associate Professor”, announced in the State Gazette, issue 98 of 19.11.2024 and on the web site of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of the Department of Computer Technology at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, as the only candidate participated Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Hristova Todorova, PhD from Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

## **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate**

With order № PD-22-444 of 18.02.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at PU in the Higher Education Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in ... (Methodology of Teaching Informatics and Information technology), announced for the needs of the Department of Computer Technology of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI).

Under the announced procedure, I have received a complete set of materials on electronic media and I found that they are precisely formatted and they are in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of PU.

Elena Todorova acquired her secondary education in 2001 at „Hristo Prodanov” Secondary School, Karlovo with a specialty – Manager with average and European qualification, profile „Management”. In the period 2001-2005 she studied at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the University of Plovdiv and acquired a Bachelor's degree, professional qualification – Teacher of Mathematics, Informatics and Information Technologies. In 2008 she obtained a Master's degree in the FMI of PU, specialty „Software Technologies”.

In the period from 2006 to 2010 she was a teacher at the „P. K. Yavorov” Secondary School, Plovdiv and conducts training in informatics and information technology. In the period from 2005 – 2012 she worked as a part-time Assistant at the FMI, from 2012 to 2014 she has been an Assistant

Professor at the Department of Computer Technologies of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. In 2014, she received an educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Methodology of Teaching in Informatics and Information Technologies and the same year she acquired the academic position of „Chef Assistant Professor” at the FMI of the PU.

## **2. Summary characteristic of candidate’s activities**

### *Assessment of the candidate’s pedagogical and educational activity*

Elena Todorova has considerable experience as a lecturer at university and as a teacher, she has participated in 7 research projects at the Scientific Research Institute of PU, national programs and international projects. She takes part in 5 organizing committees of scientific conferences, with special attention to her participation in 30 committees for organizing and conducting student Olympiads and competitions. Dr. Todorova has been a member of the National Commission for organizing and conducting the National Autumn Tournament in Information Technology and the National Olympiad in Information Technology from 2015 to the present. She is a member of the University Internal Audit Committee (2020-present), the Faculty Quality Committee (2015-present), and the Faculty Council of FMI (2012-2023).

Since 2014, Elena Todorova is a Chef Assistant Professor at the FMI of PU and she participates in the preparation and conduct of lectures and exercises on the academic disciplines: Information Technology (IT), Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Work in Digital Environment, School Course in Informatics, School Course in Information Technology, Integrated Practicum in Informatics and Information Technology, Integration of Activities, Information Technology in Mathematics, Accounting and Accounting Information Systems, Elective Courses, Electronic Commerce for Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree, etc.

Ch. Asst. Prof. Elena Todorova has presented 23 papers at national and international scientific conferences, 37 scientific publications, more than 70 well-known citations, co-authored 11 textbooks and 17 training manuals on information technology for students (including electronic), author and co-author of 2 monographs and 1 book. She has been a scientific supervisor of 42 graduates who have successfully defended their graduation theses.

### *Assessment of the candidate’s scientific- research activity*

The candidate has submitted a total of 45 scientific works for participation in the competition, including 26 scientific publications, 1 monograph and 1 book, 8 textbooks and nine 9 training manuals. Of the submitted scientific publications 11 are in journals, 8 are in proceedings of international conferences, 2 are in English, 5 articles are indexed in Web of Science, 1 is published abroad. The works submitted for the competition were not submitted for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree „Doctor” and for the academic position „Ch. Assistant Professor”.

The main scientific interests of Ch. Asst. Prof. Todorova are in the field of methodology of informatics and information technology education for Bulgarian school students and the

development of methodological tools to support the work of teachers in these disciplines. A significant part of the scientific and applied contributions in the scientific works submitted by the candidate relate to:

- Design and development of didactic materials for training students;
- Formation of reflective skills in the training of information technologies and informatics at school;
- Formation of reflective skills in the training of teachers of informatics and information technologies;
- Methodological approaches in teaching informatics and information technologies at school;
- Pedagogical strategies in teaching mathematics, IT and informatics;
- Textbooks for training students in IT.

With scientific and applied contribution is the presented monograph, which contains some methodological approaches for forming reflective skills among students learning to become teachers in Informatics and Information Technologies. The developed sample problems follow the steps of the adapted model ALACT for the formation of reflective skills.

The candidate has submitted a reference for 57 citations, 11 of which are in refereed and indexed publications, 23 in monographs and collective volumes, and 23 in non-refereed publications.

The achievements of Ch. Asst. Prof. Elena Todorova results in teaching and research activities fully satisfy the minimum national requirements for the academic position „Associate Professor” in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in ... and meet the requirements of the Law for Development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. The candidate significantly exceeds the required minimum of 400 points, with a total of 958 points.

There is no plagiarism proven in the scientific works submitted for this competition.

I have no critical comments, but I would recommend the candidate to publish research in refereed journals abroad.

I have known Elena Todorova for more than 20 years as a young and promising university teacher, responsible and reliable colleague and specialist with lasting interest in the methodology of teaching informatics and IT in schools.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assistant Prof. Elena Todorova, PhD comply with all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on its Implementation, and the relevant Regulations of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received national recognition, a significant part of them have been published in journals and scientific collections published by national academic publishers. The scientific and teaching qualification of Dr. Elena Todorova is unquestionable.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonably convinced to give my **positive conclusion** for the selection and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics for the selection of the Ch. Assist. Prof. Elena Hristova Todorova, PhD for the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” at University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” in the higher education area *1. Pedagogical Sciences*, professional field *1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in ... (Methodology of Teaching Informatics and Information technology)*.

02.04.2025  
Plovdiv

Reviewer: .....  
Prof. Todorka Terzieva, PhD