

REVIEW STATEMENT

by Prof. Zapryan Angelov Kozludzhov, PhD -

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Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

regarding the materials submitted for the competition for

the academic position of *Professor*

at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv

in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional area 2.1. Philology

(Bulgarian Literature – Revival Literature)

In the competition for *Professor*, announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of 11.04.2025 and on the website of the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory, Assoc. Prof. Elena Slavova Getova, PhD who works at *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv is participating as an applicant.

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SUBMITTED MATERIALS

Following Order № ПД–22–1339 from 10.06.2025 of the Rector of the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position of *Professor* at PU in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature – Revival Literature), announced for the needs of the Department of Bulgarian Literature and Literary Theory at the Faculty of Philology.

For participation in the announced competition Assoc. Prof. Elena Slavova Getova, PhD who works at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv has submitted documents as the only applicant.

The documents submitted by the applicant for the competition are precisely and strictly prepared in compliance with the legal norms and the complementary specific requirements of the Faculty of Philology at PU. They allow the development of a complete and comprehensive understanding of the qualities of Assoc. Prof. Getova and her scientific work and to make an evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff (LDAS). Her overall scientific production includes: three

monographs /the third one is the present habilitation thesis/ and 36 articles and studies. For participation in this competition Assoc. Prof. Getova has submitted a habilitation thesis of 310 pages and has selected 20 articles and studies published after the previous habilitation. The content of all materials submitted for review fully complies with the announced competitive scientific specialty. I emphasize that I have not noticed any plagiarism or incorrect citation. The works are directly related to the specific teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Getova.

2. ACADEMIC STATUS, TEACHING AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The chronological analysis of the publications with regard to their content indicates a persistent and steady development of the applicant in scientific and teaching terms. The attached autobiography shows the main stages of this development. The applicant has a Master's degree in Bulgarian Philology with a second major in French, obtained at the *St. Kliment Ohridski* University of Sofia in 1995. In 2005 she defended the degree *Doctor of Philosophy*.

Between 1999 and 2008 she held successively three assistant degrees, and in February 2008 she was habilitated and up until now she is an associate professor of Revival literature at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv. For more than 20 years she has been delivering the main lecture course on Revival literature in all philological specialties at PU, as well as at the PU affiliate branch in the town of Smolyan. Throughout her almost quarter-century teaching experience, she has shown a great talent for communicating with students and motivating them.

3. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS, SCIENTIFIC RESULTS AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Based on my review of the materials, I can state that all the specific procedural requirements of the Faculty of Philology at PU and the Law for the Development of Academic Staff for the academic position of *Professor* are met.

The character and value of the submitted publications sufficiently justify entering the competition. The submitted materials eloquently demonstrate and prove an ascending professional development.

The habilitation thesis of Assoc. Prof. Getova *Petko Slaveykov's Journalistic 19th Century* focuses on the historical processes developing in the 19th century in the area of

society, science, culture and politics, which to a large extent define the essence of Bulgarian Revival journalism. This essence is very noticeably formed by the specific presence of one of its most prominent representatives from this period - Petko Slaveykov. The research is centered around the question: How did Slaveykov realize, understand and interpret his own belonging to the complex and ambiguous 19th century and how did this awareness manifest itself in his own journalistic and creative activity?

The study articulates and defends its own views on the role and activities of Slaveykov in composing Revival periodicals. It is notable for the demonstrated ability to “interpret specific research understandings and their applicability to the practice of Bulgarian Revival periodicals” throughout the analysis of the term “century” which is related to the complex existential category of time.

The analysis does not omit the different views on the term “century” and its practical applicability, for example, in the positions of Slaveykov and Marko Balabanov. The study is very well organized and structured in terms of its logical and compositional coherence. Of high value to me is the section dedicated to the *Shutosh* newspaper, which to some extent /although often mentioned/ is marginalized in terms of a serious research interest, which however the author purposefully manifests and demonstrates, emphasizing the high functional potential of the newspaper.

Overall, the study succeeds in providing and defending its own answer to the question: Why did Petko Slaveykov's journalism inaugurate a new era in the composing of Revival periodicals?

Apart from the qualitative and for me definitely contributory habilitation thesis Assoc. Prof. Getova has presented 20 studies and articles published after the procedure for the scientific position *Associate Professor*. All of them deserve high evaluation, which is implicitly confirmed by the journals where they have been published and by their citations /attached in the scientific metric report/, which prove that they have come into scientific use. The ideas in many of them have been mentioned or briefly highlighted in various research papers of the applicant. In the submitted materials they are detailly developed and analytically supported. Many of them exceed the length of 20 pages and fit into the normative standard of a “study”. The studies thematizing the images and markers of time in Revival poetic texts are valuable, fundamental and they provoke research and scientific interest. But I would specially highlight the comparative analysis of Elin Pelin's *Under the Monastery Vine* and Anatole France 's *The Well of Saint Clare*. It outlines Elin Pelin's specific narrative strategies and decisions that reframe and transform Anatole France's

narrative model. I do not want to omit the article *Under the Monastery Vine in French: Historical Contexts and Cultural Transfers*. Not only it has cultural and scholarly value, but it also suggests the confidence of a Francophone who demonstrates and proves that her second university major in French is no coincidence. These studies, as well as the research dedicated to Orhan Pamuk, show the broad literary and research insight of Assoc. Prof. Getova.

In the reference form regarding the fulfilment of the minimal national scientific metric requirements, attached by the applicant, are listed 24 citations of her research papers (published in the period after obtaining the academic position *Associate Professor*) in serious scientific works, which is another implicit positive assessment of their scientific value.

My opinion of the self-assessment attached by Assoc. Prof. Getova for the scientific contributions of her publications is positive because it is adequate to the achieved results.

CONCLUSION

All of the above gives me the confidence to state that all conditions and requirements detailed in the regulatory documents are met and on the basis of that the only applicant for the competition, Assoc. Prof. Elena Slavova Getova, PhD can hold the position of *Professor*.

As I give a fully positive assessment of the applicant, I confidently recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology at the *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Elena Slavova Getova, PhD for the academic position of *Professor* in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Literature – Revival Literature).

30.06.2025

Reviewer:

Plovdiv

/Prof. Zapryan Kozludzhov, PhD/