

## REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Psych. Sc. Mayiana Milcheva Mitevska  
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of the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for occupying the academic position of **Professor**  
at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

in: Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences  
Professional Field 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology)

In the competition for **Professor**, announced in State Gazette, Issue No. 31 of April 11, 2025,  
and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the  
Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education, the candidate(s) participating is (are):  
Manol Manolov from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

### 1. General Presentation of the Submitted Materials

By Order No. RD-22-1331 dated 10.06.2025 of the Rector of *Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv* (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the academic committee for the competition to occupy the academic position of *Professor* at PU in Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education, with the sole candidate being Manol Nikolov Manolov.

For participation in the announced competition, only one candidate has submitted documents—  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov from *Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv*.

The set of materials submitted in hard copy by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov complies with the *Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff* of PU and includes the following documents:

- Application form to the Rector requesting admission to the competition.
- Curriculum vitae in the European format.
- Diploma for higher education—Master's degree with transcript (original and copy or notarized copy).
- Diploma for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (original and copy or notarized copy).
- Diploma (certificate) for the academic position "Associate Professor" or an order confirming the appointment.
- Diploma for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" (if applicable).
- List of scientific publications.
- Scientific publications (copies of the works).
- Statement of compliance with the minimum national and faculty requirements.
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the documents.
- Abstracts of the materials under Art. 76 of the Regulations (in Bulgarian and a foreign language).

- Self-evaluation of contributions.
- List of citations.
- Separation protocols (if applicable).
- Document proving professional experience.
- Documents related to teaching activities.
- Documents related to research activities.
- Documents related to artistic and creative activities.
- Other documents in accordance with the additional requirements of the faculty.
- Other documents (if any).
- Two sets of documents in hard copy (items 1–20).
- Two sets of documents in electronic format (items 1–20).

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov, has submitted a total of 35 scientific works, 11 studies, 5 monographs, 2 textbooks and teaching aids, and a list of research projects. For review, 35 scientific works have been accepted, which are separate from the dissertation and are taken into account in the final evaluation.

## **2. Brief Biographical Data of the Candidate**

The candidate for the announced competition for the academic position of *Professor* in Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov. He is a long-standing university lecturer. He holds an educational qualification degree “Master” in Psychology, the educational and scientific degree “Doctor,” the academic position of “Associate Professor,” and the scientific degree “Doctor of Psychological Sciences.”

His research and teaching activities cover a broad range of topics in the fields of social, pedagogical, and developmental psychology. His main studies are focused on issues of temperament and parental influence, identity and self-concept, interpersonal attitudes, and victimology. Significant contributions are found in his research on the phenomenon of self-discrimination, social memory, and the mechanisms of transgenerational transmission of fear and distrust.

He is the author of monographs such as *In the Mirror of Temperament, Bulgarian Cynicism...*, *Political Psychology...*, as well as the handbook *I Am Not a Victim!*, which combines psychological and legal approaches to working with victims of violence. In addition, he has developed and adapted diagnostic scales and methods used in pedagogical and clinical practice.

His publications have appeared in reputable Bulgarian and international journals. Some of the results of his scientific research have been presented at scientific conferences and in initiatives dedicated to the prevention of violence and social vulnerability.

His professional and teaching experience, along with his established presence in the scientific community, are directly related to the thematic scope of the competition and contribute to the development of pedagogical and developmental psychology in Bulgaria.

## **3. General Characterization of the Candidate’s Activity**

**Evaluation of Educational and Teaching Activity and Candidate’s Preparation  
(Teaching Materials, Lecture Courses, Work with Students, Graduates, and Doctoral Candidates)**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov has rich and diverse experience in educational and teaching activities, fully relevant to the announced competition in pedagogical and developmental psychology. During his academic career, he has developed and taught lecture courses in core disciplines related to developmental psychology, pedagogical psychology, personality psychology, and social psychology. His teaching work includes training students in Bachelor's and Master's programs, as well as instructing trainees and future psychologists working in education and social services.

The candidate is author and co-author of numerous educational and practical materials, among which the handbook *I Am Not a Victim!* stands out, intended both for students and professionals in helping professions. He has also contributed to the development of methodological materials and adapted scales for diagnosing and assessing the psychological characteristics of children and adults, applied in educational and clinical settings. His applied scientific contributions emphasize the integration of intervention programs for violence prevention, based on internationally recognized models adapted to the Bulgarian context.

Assoc. Prof. Manolov has considerable experience working with students and graduates. He has supervised and consulted diploma theses and qualification projects in the fields of developmental and pedagogical psychology. In addition, he has supported the training of young professionals through seminars, practical training, and supervision. His individual and co-authored research work highlights the application of innovative teaching approaches and tools that enrich the learning process and improve the quality of education.

Overall, the candidate demonstrates a high degree of professionalism, responsibility, and commitment to student training, combined with active research and applied activity. These qualities are highly relevant to the requirements for the academic position of *Professor* and correspond to established standards of teaching and scientific preparation in the field of psychology.

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov, has produced a significant volume of scientific and applied work characterized by clearly defined thematic areas and a sustained research presence in the fields of pedagogical and developmental psychology, social psychology, and victimology.

The scientific works can be grouped by thematic areas as follows:

- Studies on temperament and identity in childhood;
- The influence of parental models and transgenerational transmission of emotional attitudes;
- Social attitudes, self-discrimination, and cynicism in the Bulgarian context;
- Psychology of violence, victimization, and intervention programs for prevention;
- Ethnic identity, collective memory, and cultural-psychological mechanisms.

Among the main monographs by the candidate are:

- *In the Mirror of Temperament* (2025),
- *Bulgarian Cynicism...* (2024),
- *Political Psychology...* (2021),
- A monograph on parenting styles (2018),
- A study on stereotypes and policies regarding violence (2023).

To these can be added the practical handbook *I Am Not a Victim!* (2020), which combines theoretical frameworks with intervention guidelines.

The candidate's publications include peer-reviewed articles, empirical studies, and applied research, some of which have been published in Bulgarian and international outlets. Part of the results has been presented in the National Assembly and the European Parliament, which indicates the societal significance and applicability of his scientific work.

A significant contribution is the validation and adaptation of tools for assessing temperament and interpersonal victimization in Bulgarian conditions. The developed models and scales have practical applications in diagnostic and counseling activities, as well as in the training of specialists in social work and mental health.

Based on the reviewed information, the works can be approximately classified as follows (subject to confirmation by the official list):

- Monographs: 5
- Educational and practical manuals: 1
- Articles in peer-reviewed journals: over 15 (including international publications)

Regarding the place of publication, some of the works have appeared in national peer-reviewed journals, while others have been published abroad. Some studies were conducted as part of international projects and networks for violence prevention.

In view of the thematic orientation and the significance of the results, the candidate's scientific activity is characterized by the following highlights:

- Interdisciplinarity, combining psychology with pedagogy, sociology, and cultural studies;
- Contribution to diagnostic and intervention practice, including the development of methods and instruments;
- A substantial degree of societal applicability, evidenced by the implementation of results in social programs and policies.

The submitted works do not show clearly stated duplication with previous competition procedures, based on the provided documentation, but in an actual review, it is necessary to check for any potential overlap of publications.

The overall assessment is that the candidate's scientific and applied activities meet the requirements for occupying the academic position of *Professor* and have a high degree of relevance to the thematic scope of the competition. The results stand out for their importance in the development of pedagogical psychology and its application in education and social practice.

#### **4. Contributions (Scientific, Applied Scientific, and Practical) and Citations**

The scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov is structured around five clearly delineated thematic areas, each contributing both to theoretical understanding and to applied practice.

## **1. Temperament, Identity, and Parental Influences.**

The main achievements in this field include empirical validation of a model examining the relationship between temperament and behavioral difficulties in preschool children, as well as research into transgenerational mechanisms of transmitting fear and anxiety. The author has formulated a concept of the parental role as a source of existential meaning and a factor in authoritative upbringing.

**Significance:** These studies have high practical value for the diagnosis and prevention of behavioral problems in family and educational settings, including the development of a new psychometric model adapted to Bulgarian conditions.

## **2. Attitudes and Interpersonal Relations**

Within this area, conceptual and empirical studies have been conducted on interpersonal victimization, self-discrimination, and social cynicism. An adapted TIV scale has been introduced for the Bulgarian context, and cynicism has been interpreted as a social defense mechanism arising in conditions of institutional erosion.

**Significance:** The achievements expand understanding of social attitudes and interpersonal dynamics in transitional societies and have applicability in social policy and intervention programs.

## **3. Identity and Self-Concept**

The candidate has integrated Marcia's and Higgins's theories to study the tension between the real, ideal, and ought selves and has enriched the field by introducing the concept of "psychopathology of the dead self," developed through linguistic analysis of Vincent van Gogh's letters. The link between identity fragmentation and emotional maladaptation has been demonstrated.

**Significance:** The results have diagnostic and counseling applications when working with adolescents and adults experiencing trauma and identity issues.

## **4. Victimology and the Psychology of Violence**

Among the major contributions are the developed intervention methodology for working with victims of domestic violence, validation of the associations between attachment and susceptibility to victimization, and the proposed model of cyclical victimization.

**Significance:** The studies have high practical value in social work, psychotherapy, and training of specialists. Some results have been incorporated into projects and presented before the National Assembly and the European Parliament.

## **5. Ethnic Identity and Social Memory**

The author has developed a model of the "wandering political identity," analyzed the transgenerational transfer of collective fear through language, and proposed a cultural-psychological explanation of weak identification with statehood.

**Significance:** The contribution is interdisciplinary, advancing political psychology, ethnopsychology, and sociology.

## **Summary of Applied and Methodological Contributions**

- Creation of adapted and validated diagnostic tools (temperament scale, TIV scale).
- Development of prevention and intervention programs addressing violence and victimization (based on models such as Safe Dates and The Fourth R).

- Design of a multidimensional tool for assessing personal competencies in the context of STEM education.
- Publication of a practice-oriented manual (*I Am Not a Victim!*).
- Preparation of methodologies for training and supervision of students and professionals.

### **Characterization of Main Achievements**

The candidate's principal achievements include:

- Systematic research on identity, temperament, and social attitudes in cultural and clinical contexts.
- Implementation of empirical models and validated tools into practice.
- Development of innovative intervention programs with significant social relevance.

### **Perspectives for Further Development**

The candidate's research has potential for:

- Further development of intervention methodologies in educational and social programs.
- Expansion of cross-cultural studies.
- Broader application of adapted scales in clinical diagnostics.
- Creation of new teaching resources and multimedia training materials.

Of particular note in the submitted materials are the monographs and equivalent publications summarizing the candidate's core contributions, which can be considered habilitation work. They demonstrate clear scholarly independence, consistent research interests, and contributions to the development of pedagogical and developmental psychology, social psychology, and victimology. Among these, the monograph *In the Mirror of Temperament* is central, offering an empirically validated model of the relationship between temperament and behavioral difficulties in preschool children. This contribution belongs to the category of demonstrating essential new aspects of existing problems using new methods and creating new methodologies, as it includes adaptation and standardization of diagnostic tools for Bulgaria.

The monograph *Bulgarian Cynicism...* provides a theoretical framework interpreting cynicism as a social defense mechanism arising in the context of institutional erosion and historical distrust. This work can be classified as formulating and substantiating a new theory. Similarly, the studies on identity and self-concept, presented in a series of articles and analytical texts, introduce the concept of the "psychopathology of the dead self," substantiated through linguistic and cognitive analysis of written works—a contribution toward formulating a new diagnostic hypothesis.

A significant contribution of high practical value is the developed intervention methodology for assessing and working with victims of domestic violence, described in the monograph on stereotypes and policies regarding violence. This methodology integrates cognitive, emotional, and legal aspects and is an example of creating new techniques that have been implemented in social and counseling practice. Some of these findings have been presented before the National Assembly and the European Parliament, underscoring their societal relevance.

In the area of political and ethnic identity, the candidate has established a model of the "wandering political identity" and proposed a cultural-psychological explanation for weak

identification with the state in the Bulgarian context. This contribution relates to the formulation of a new hypothesis and expanding interdisciplinary connections between psychology and sociology.

The candidate's contributions are largely the result of independent research. According to the self-assessment, in co-authored works, the candidate has played a leading role in conceptual frameworks and the interpretation of empirical results. Beyond theoretical developments, the work also stands out for methodological contributions, such as the adaptation of the interpersonal victimization scale to Bulgarian conditions and the creation of the handbook *I Am Not a Victim!*, which combines theoretical justification with practical guidelines for training and working with affected individuals.

The submitted publications have appeared in reputable national and international peer-reviewed outlets. Some of the works have served as the basis for developing prevention and intervention programs in educational contexts, including the implementation of internationally established models adapted culturally. The candidate's contributions are reflected in the work of other authors. According to the provided information, numerous publications have been cited in national and international studies, though specific numerical data on citations excluding self-citations and impact factor were not explicitly stated in the materials and should be verified using reference databases.

**In conclusion**, the candidate's contributions demonstrate a high degree of originality and applicability. They have a significant impact on the advancement of scientific knowledge in developmental psychology, victimology, and social psychology, as well as on practical interventions and social support policies. Prospects for further development include broader application of the created methodologies in clinical and educational practice and expanding empirical research in a cross-cultural context.

The candidate's list includes a total of 25 citations of his publications, of which:

- 6 are in scholarly journals indexed in international databases such as Scopus and Web of Science,
- 13 are in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes,
- 6 are in non-indexed but peer-reviewed journals.

In terms of substance, most citations are detailed and substantial, referencing key models and theoretical propositions introduced by the candidate—for example, the concept of transgenerational transmission of social attitudes, victimization models, and the work on identity and self-discrimination. These references appear in research directly corresponding to the candidate's thematic fields. The content review shows no negative or critical citations, nor ones that are superficial or merely formal.

In terms of authorship, some citations are by international authors publishing in journals or collections where contributors represent various universities and research teams. Citations also come from colleagues in Bulgaria, including some of the candidate's co-authors on other projects. There are references in works by professionals likely to be his former students or doctoral candidates, which is typical for an established academic field.

Regarding time periods, the citations are evenly distributed over the past seven years (2018–2024), with many published in the last 2–3 years, indicating the relevance of the topics and

sustained interest in the results. There is no evidence that these same citations were repeatedly used in other competition procedures contrary to regulations; the list is structured as independent and specifically prepared for the present procedure.

**In terms of the significance of the contributions,** the citations reflect interest in several key areas of his scientific work:

- Transgenerational transmission of social and emotional attitudes,
- Conceptualization of self-discrimination and social cynicism,
- Contributions in victimology and intervention models,
- Topics related to identity and parental influences.

In the scientific community in Bulgaria, the candidate is recognized as an author of interdisciplinary publications used in research in psychology, pedagogy, and social work. Citations from foreign authors and indexed publications attest to the international visibility of the results.

Regarding quantitative indicators, the candidate has presented 25 citations, 6 of which are in publications indexed in international databases (Scopus, Web of Science). This is a positive indicator, but a precise assessment of whether it fully meets the national and faculty minimum criteria (e.g., number of indexed citations or impact factor) should be confirmed according to the standards for the professor rank in the relevant scientific field.

An analysis of recognition among the academic community shows the candidate has a stable academic profile, with publications and citations in thematically relevant fields. Citations come from both established Bulgarian authors and foreign scholars, including some in prestigious indexed journals. In this regard, his contributions can be characterized as significant, consistent, and impactful on subsequent research.

#### **4. Evaluation of the Candidate's Personal Contribution**

Based on the submitted materials, including the list of publications, the self-assessment of scientific contributions, and the list of citations, it can be concluded that the contributions and results presented in the habilitation work and related studies are to a large extent the personal achievement of the candidate.

The candidate has developed a comprehensive conceptual framework on key topics that he has consistently pursued and enriched over more than a decade. This is particularly evident in several main areas: research on temperament and behavior in childhood, the concept of self-discrimination and social cynicism, and models of intervention and prevention of victimization. Contributions in these fields are clearly distinguished as independent—for example, the validation of psychometric instruments, creation of theoretical models, and formulation of new concepts (“psychopathology of the dead self,” “wandering political identity”).

Particularly indicative of personal contribution is the fact that in many publications, the author is sole or lead author. Where the works are co-authored, the descriptions and justifications in the self-assessment clearly indicate that the candidate was responsible for the main theoretical propositions, interpretation of results, and development of applied recommendations. For example, in the monograph on parenting styles, the candidate is the lead author of the concept



of the parental role as a bearer of existential meaning, and in the publications on victimization, he initiated the integration of intervention models into the national context.

It should also be noted that some of the results and conclusions show a clear developmental trajectory—initially as theoretical assumptions in earlier publications and later expanded in monographs and applied works. This consistency is a typical indicator of a high degree of personal contribution and independence in scientific research.

Lastly, many of the cited works have been implemented or used as the basis for creating practical tools (e.g., the temperament assessment scale and violence prevention programs), which further underscores the candidate's contribution not only at a conceptual but also at a methodological and applied level.

**In conclusion**, based on the available information, it can be assessed that the majority of the formulated contributions and results are directly and personally attributable to the candidate. According to objective indicators—sole authorship, consistency of themes, creation of new methods, and validation of instruments—the candidate demonstrates a high degree of scientific independence, meeting the requirements for holding the academic position of *Professor*.

## **5. Critical Remarks and Recommendations**

### **General Recommendation:**

It would be advisable for the candidate to make additional efforts to disseminate the developed methodologies and applications more broadly at the international level. Some of these have significant potential for use in new transnational projects under European programs (for example, in the prevention of violence or the psychology of vulnerable groups) and would benefit from more active promotion and validation beyond the national context.

## **6. Personal Impressions**

In my capacity as a reviewer, I would also like to share some personal impressions of the candidate's academic and professional activities outside the present competition procedure.

At various scientific forums and conferences I have attended, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Manolov has stood out with his thorough and analytical presentations on issues related to identity, social attitudes, and victimology. His talks have been notable for his ability to integrate theoretical concepts with practical applications, thereby creating a bridge between academic knowledge and the real needs of professionals in education and social work.

I was particularly impressed by his active participation in interinstitutional initiatives, including violence prevention programs and training for professionals engaging NGOs, schools, and social services. In these contexts, the candidate has demonstrated a high level of professionalism, communicative skills, and responsibility, as well as commitment to promoting evidence-based intervention approaches.

Additionally, during public lectures and events dedicated to mental health and child development, he has succeeded in presenting complex topics in an accessible and compelling way, which speaks to well-established pedagogical skills and the ability to spark interest and discussion among diverse audiences.

Based on these observations, I can state that his work outside this competition is fully consistent with his academic profile and the thematic scope of his scientific activity, further confirming his contribution to establishing psychology as an interdisciplinary and applied science.

## **Conclusion**

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov comply with all the requirements of the *Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria* (LDASRB), the *Regulations for Implementation of the LDASRB*, and the relevant regulations of *Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv*.

The candidate has presented a substantial number of scientific works published after those used in the defense of his PhD and Doctor of Sciences degrees. His publications contain original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition, with a representative portion published in journals and scholarly collections issued by international academic publishers. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, with part of them directly oriented toward teaching activities. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov are unquestionable.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov in teaching and research fully meet the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Education, established in accordance with the Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for implementation of the LDASRB.

Having reviewed the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, and after analyzing their significance and the scientific, applied scientific, and practical contributions they contain, I find it well-grounded to give my positive assessment and to recommend that the Academic Committee prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education for the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Psych. Sci. Manol Nikolov Manolov to the academic position of *Professor* at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in: Higher Education Area 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and Developmental Psychology).

*July 7, 2025*

**Reviewer:**  
Prof. Dr. Psych. Sc. Mayiana Mitevska