

SCIENTIFIC JURY MEMBER'S OPINION

by **Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova, PhD**

associate professor at “Paisii Hilendarski”, University of Plovdiv

for the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of
“professor” at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.2.

Psychology (Educational and developmental psychology)

In the competition for “professor”, announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of April 11, 2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy, assoc. prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov, DSc from "Paisii Hilendarski", University of Plovdiv participated as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

By Order No. ПД-22-1131 / 10.06.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski University (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of Professor at PU in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Educational and developmental Psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education.

For participation in the announced competition has submitted documents **Assoc. Prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov, DSc** - the only candidate in the competition.

The set of materials submitted by Manol Manolov is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU.

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Manol Nikolov Manolov, has attached 29 scientific papers, 9 monographs, 19 articles and 1 textbook. 20 scientific works, which are outside the dissertations for obtaining the scientific degrees "Doctor" and "Doctor of Sciences" and the procedure for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", have been submitted for review: 5 monographs, 14 articles, 1 textbook, classified:

By type: monograph - 5; articles published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information - 2; articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes - 12; university textbook - 1.

By the language in which they were written: in Bulgarian - 10; in English - 10.

By the number of co-authors: independent - 10; with one co-author - 6; with two co-authors - 4 For all co-authorships, separation protocols have been submitted.

Since 2007 till now assoc. prof. Manolov completed his full cycle of education and academic growth in the field of psychology. He completed his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Psychology at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". He obtained his doctoral degree and the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the professional field of Psychology at the University of Veliko Tarnovo. He holds a PhD in Psychology from the University of Veliko Tarnovo. The candidate's scientific and professional work have a wide spectrum in the field of psychology.

Assoc. prof. Manol Manolov has submitted reference and supporting material to meet the minimum national requirements and additional faculty requirements. The actual number of points of the candidate in the competition is 1124,1 points - with minimum requirements for 660 points (550 according Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and additional 110 points according to the requirements of the Pedagogical Faculty of Paisii Hilendarski University.

2. General description of the candidate's activity.

Assoc. prof. Manolov has completed 16 academic courses at the Bachelor's degree level and 18 academic courses at the Master's degree level related to the thematic area of the competition. He supervised 6 PhD students, two of whom successfully defended their PhDs.

In the monograph "In the mirror of temperament. Development and Challenges in Early Childhood", the candidate posits the importance of child temperament for early development as viewed through the biopsychosocial construct. The author highlights the need for its relevance to adaptation, emotional regulation and behaviour at the age studied. Also of relevance is the model presented for interventions based on temperament characteristics aimed at parents, teachers, and children.

Self-assessment of the candidate's scientific contributions is highlighted in five areas: Temperament, Identity and Parental Influences, Attitudes and Relationships; Identity and Self-Concept; Disrupted Self and Self-Evaluation with the introduction of a new concept of "psychopathology of the dead self"; Victimology and Psychology of Violence - Attachment, Prevention and Interventions; Ethnic Identity and Social Memory. The research contributions of the overall scientific production are related to the introduction of new concepts, validation of measurement instruments, analysis of cross-cultural dependencies, and formulation of models with applicable value in counseling, educational and social practice.

The importance of the contributions is reflected in the number of citations of the presented publications: 25. 6 of them are in refereed and indexed in world-known databases. Assoc. Manolov demonstrated his expertise in several areas: developmental psychology, social psychology, educational psychology, counseling psychology, psychodiagnostics and psychological measurement. His activity is related to participation in research and projects of social relevance. He has presented papers in 18 scientific forums: 7 of them in international forums and 11 in national forums. He is a reviewer of project proposals and reports, and chairman of a working group at the Ministry of Education. He participates in editorial boards of 5 scientific journals, 3 of which are foreign. He has participated in 4 scientific research projects, he is the head of a national scientific research project for young scientists and postdoctoral fellows.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations -

After reading the materials presented by the candidate, I believe that he has the necessary qualities to continue researching in the chosen scientific field. Associate Professor Manolov also possesses excellent skills to organize his creativity in academic and research activity.

Conclusion

The documents and materials submitted by Manol Nikolov Manolov meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defence of the PhD, the acquisition of the academic position of Associate Professor and the defence of the PhD. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which has been published in journals and scientific collections published by international academic publishers. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to teaching work. Manol Nikolov Manolov's scientific and teaching qualifications are unquestionable.

The results achieved by Manol Nikolov Manolov in lectures and scientific research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Paisii Hilendarski University, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University for the application of the Law on Pedagogical Faculty.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it fully justified to give my confident positive assessment and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Pedagogical Faculty for the election of Manol Nikolov Manolov to the academic position of "Professor" at the Pedagogical Faculty of the Pedagogical University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Educational and developmental Psychology).

10/07/2025

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(signature)

Assoc. prof. Zlatomira Kostova, PhD