

OPINION

by **Dr. Doncho Stoyanov Donev** – Associate Professor at Burgas Free University

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position of **“Professor”**
at **Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

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

In the competition for the position of “Professor,” announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of 11.04.2025, 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 is Assoc. Prof. Dr. of Psychological Sciences Manol Nikolov Manolov from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

1. General Overview of the Procedure and the Candidate

1.1. Presentation of the Procedure

By Order No. RD-22-1331 dated 10 June 2025 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (PU), I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position of ‘Professor’ at PU, in the area of higher education 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.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Assoc. Prof. Dr. of Psychological Sciences Manol Nikolov Manolov from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

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

- Application form addressed to the Rector for admission to the competition;
- Curriculum vitae in European format;
- Diploma for higher education with the qualification degree “Master” and its supplement;
- Diploma for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”;
- Certificate for the academic position “Associate Professor”;
- Diploma for the scientific degree “Doctor of Sciences”;
- List of scientific publications;
- Scientific publications (copies of the publications);
- Statement of compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents;
- Abstracts of the materials under Article 76 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU;
- Self-assessment of contributions;
- List of citations;

- Authorship separation protocols;
- Document certifying work experience;
- Documents for teaching activities;
- Documents for research activities;
- Other documents.

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Manolov, has submitted a total of 20 scientific works, 5 monographs, 1 textbook, and 14 research articles. All 20 scientific works, which are not part of the dissertation, are accepted for review.

1.2. Candidate Presentation

Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov, PhD in Psychology, completed both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Psychology at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. He successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in Social Psychology at the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo. In 2017, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Veliko Tarnovo University, and two years later, he won a competitive selection for the academic position of Associate Professor at the same institution. In 2023, he successfully obtained the scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences in Psychology. Since 2020, he has served as a part-time lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. Over the past year, he has held the academic position of Associate Professor under a full-time employment contract at the same university.

Associate Professor Manolov impressively combines a distinguished academic career with active practical work as a psychologist, demonstrating a highly positive professional profile.

2. General Overview of the Candidate's Activities

The candidate's broad range of competencies is impressive, as evidenced by the large number and diversity of lecture courses developed and taught at the two universities where he has worked. Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov, PhD in Psychology, has developed and delivered 16 lecture courses in undergraduate programs and an additional 18 courses in master's programs. He has supervised 19 successfully graduated students at the Bachelor's and Master's levels. Furthermore, he has served as the scientific advisor for two successfully defended doctoral candidates and is currently supervising the doctoral preparation of four others.

The candidate possesses the necessary project management experience, gained as the principal investigator of a national scientific research project, as well as participation in one international project, another national project, and a university-level project. He is a member of five editorial boards of scientific journals in the field of psychology, three of which are international and two Bulgarian.

The scientific output submitted by the candidate for this competition is remarkable:

- Habilitation thesis: 1;
- Monographs not submitted as the primary habilitation thesis: 4 (one co-authored and three single-authored);
- Articles and papers published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases: 2;
- Articles and papers published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes: 12 (four co-authored and eight single-authored).

The candidate's original scientific contributions to the field of psychology are indisputable and can be summarized in three broad areas:

- Personality Dispositions and Development
- A validated model explaining the relationship between temperament and behavioral difficulties in childhood;
- Demonstrated positive correlation between a disintegrated Self and emotional maladjustment;
- Developed a theoretical model explaining the tension between the real, ideal, and ought selves.

- Parenting and Parental Styles
- Created an original theoretical model linking existential meaning in parents with parental styles;
- Described a model for the transmission of fear and anxiety from parents to children through compensatory parental styles;
- Developed a scale for assessing victimization.

- Ethno-Cultural Repositions
- Introduced and substantiated the concept of “autodiscrimination”;
- Created a descriptive model of cynicism as a social defense mechanism;
- Constructed a model describing “wandering political identity,” associated with social apathy and lack of trust in institutions in Bulgaria;
- Described the transgenerational transmission of collective fear through linguistic constructs.

These contributions demonstrate the candidate’s significant impact on psychological theory and practice, reflecting both depth and innovation across multiple domains.

Based on the aforementioned scientific contributions, practical and applied significance can also be identified. Among these are developed programs for the prevention of domestic violence among students, a methodology created for counseling victims of domestic violence, and the adaptation of a scale for measuring temperament in childhood.

The importance of Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov’s research work is evidenced by the citations of his studies:

- Citations or reviews in peer-reviewed journals indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases, as well as in monographs and edited volumes – 6;
- Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and edited volumes – 13;
- Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review – 6.

The presented objective facts testify to the high significance and authenticity of the scientific output and academic-teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov, PhD. They provide grounds to conclude that the candidate is a scholar, researcher, and educator with exceptional experience and original contributions to the development of both academic and applied psychology.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov, PhD in Psychology, fully comply with all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for the Implementation of the LDASRB, and the corresponding Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

The candidate has presented a sufficient number of scientific works published after those used for the defense of his PhD degree, Doctor of Sciences degree, and the competition for the academic position

of Associate Professor. His works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, with a representative portion published in journals and scientific collections issued by international academic publishers. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, some of which are directly oriented towards teaching activities.

The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov fully meet the requirements and profile of the current competition.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov in teaching and research activities fully correspond to the minimum national standards and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Education, adopted in accordance with the Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University for the implementation of the LDASRB.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions contained therein, I find it justified to give my positive evaluation and recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education for the election of Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov to the academic position of Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Educational and Developmental Psychology).

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Prepared by:
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