

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Youri Ianakiev, University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"
on the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position of "professor"
at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"
in the 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 11.04.2025
and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department
of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. RD-22-1131 of 10.06.2025 of the Rector of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a 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", announced for the needs of the Department of "Psychology" at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ps.Sc. Manol Nikolov Manolov from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The set of materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU. The candidate has submitted 20 scientific papers for review, which are outside the dissertations for the acquisition of the scientific degrees "PhD" and "doctor of sciences" and the procedure for occupying the academic position "associate professor".

Assoc. Prof. Manolov was born in 1986 in the city of Plovdiv. He graduated from a bachelor's and master's program in psychology. He defended his doctoral degree at the University of Technology "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in 2018. He specialized in "Evolutionary and cross-cultural psychology and psychiatry" at the Medical University in Plovdiv. In 2023, he acquired the scientific degree "doctor of sciences" in the professional field "Psychology" at the University of Technology "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". The candidate's professional experience demonstrates a consistent interest in the field of psychology, which is in constant development dynamics.

Assoc. Prof. Manol Manolov has submitted a reference and supporting evidence to cover the minimum national requirements and additional faculty requirements. With a minimum required score of 660 points (550 according to the Law on Higher Education and Vocational Training and the Regulations for its implementation) and an additional 110 points according to the requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the "Paisiy Hilendarski" University, the candidate in the competition posted 1124.1 points.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

Assoc. Prof. Manolov leads 16 academic courses in the Bachelor's and 18 academic courses in the Master's degree programs. He has signed the authorship of two textbooks dedicated to the prevention of violence. He is the supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students.

The presented monographic work "In the Mirror of Temperament. Development and Challenges in Early Childhood" occupies a central place in his scientific interests. The self-assessment of scientific contributions is divided into the following areas:

- o Temperament, Identity and Parental Influences
- o Attitudes and Relationships
- o Identity and Self-Concept
- o Victimology and Psychology of Violence
- o Ethnic Identity and Social Memory

Assoc. Prof. Manolov demonstrates abilities to expand and upgrade the boundaries of specialized knowledge, on which the thematic direction of the competition has been announced. He is a recognizable expert in several areas, psychology, developmental, pedagogical psychology, counseling psychology, psychodiagnostics and psychological measurements. He has provided 25 citations to the presented publications, 6 of which are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases. He is a member of a number of expert committees, participates in prestigious research, works as a reviewer of project proposals and reports, in working groups, is the chairman of a working group at the Ministry of Education and Science. He has solid organizational and administrative experience and expertise. From 2018 to the present, he has participated in the editorial boards of 5 scientific journals: two national and 3 foreign. Over the past 5 years, Assoc. Prof. Manolov has participated in 4 research projects. He leads a national research project for young scientists and postdoctoral students, as well as a project funded by the EEC.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the presented materials. I believe that Assoc. prof. Manolov possesses both professional and personal qualities to deepen and develop research in the field of psychological knowledge and practice. Both the scientific production and the organizational and administrative skills, the proven teaching and academic activity, distinguish Assoc. prof. Manolov as completely suitable for holding the position of "professor".

Conclusion

The documents and materials presented by Manol Nikolov Manolov meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the law and the relevant Regulations of the University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has presented a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD degree, the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor" and the defense of the ONS "Doctor of Sciences". The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, as a representative part of them have been published in journals and scientific collections published by international academic publishing houses. His theoretical

developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented towards academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Manol Nikolov Manolov are undoubted.

The results achieved by Manol Nikolov Manolov in the educational and scientific research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the "Paisiy Hilendarski" University, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University for the Application of the Law on the Education of the Republic of Bulgaria for the Faculty of Pedagogy.

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

09.07.2025

Prepared the opinion:

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