



OPINION

by Prof. D.Sc. in Psychology Manol Nikolov Manolov,
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on the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position of Associate Professor
at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

in: Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences
Professional Field 3.2. Psychology
(name of scientific speciality: Positive Psychology)

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 11.11.2025, and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education, the applicant is Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dilyana Svetoslavova Angelova.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

After reviewing the submitted competition documentation, I accept that the procedure is properly documented and that the set of materials is structured in accordance with the requirements for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. From the submitted documents it is established that there is only one applicant in the competition - Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dilyana Svetoslavova Angelova.

For the purposes of the competition, the applicant has submitted a body of scholarly works including 1 habilitation thesis - a monograph, 1 book developed on the basis of a defended dissertation, and 16 publications (articles, studies, and conference papers), as well as data on citations and on teaching, research, and expert activity. This quantitative and qualitative basis makes it possible to form a reliable assessment of the applicant's development as a researcher and university lecturer.

The available data provide grounds to conclude that the submitted materials meet and, in substantial respects, exceed the minimum national requirements for holding the position. No procedural deficiencies stand out that would call into question the admissibility of the application.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

The scholarly output of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dilyana Angelova is distinguished by thematic consistency, a clear internal logic, and good connectivity between theoretical analysis, empirical work, and applied perspectives. Her main research interests



are situated in the fields of positive psychology, developmental psychology, the educational environment, and counselling practice. In this sense, the submitted works are fully relevant to the announced scientific field.

I accept the two main thematic lines outlined in the submitted materials around which the applicant's scholarly work is organised: "Friendship and positive peer relations" and "Positive education and counselling practice." These two directions are not mechanically assembled; rather, they form a meaningful unified field focused on the resources for positive development, adaptation, and psychological support during school age and adolescence.

Within the first direction, several substantial contributions can be identified: an argued theoretical framework of friendship as a significant developmental factor has been developed; a multidimensional construct of friendship relations has been systematised; contextual, emotional, and behavioural parameters of friendship in the contemporary environment have been analysed; and psychometric instruments applicable to the study of friendship relations in adolescence have been adapted. This line has not only theoretical but also clear methodological value.

Within the second direction, the contributions are related to the development of a comprehensive concept of positive education, the outlining of the personal and professional profile of the school psychologist, and the expansion of knowledge about counselling work in the educational environment. It is especially valuable that the theoretical propositions here do not remain at the level of general declarative statements but are brought into real fields of application - school practices, supportive environments, psychological counselling, and the promotion of well-being in education.

Alongside the scholarly output, the applicant's teaching engagement should also be noted, as she teaches courses directly related to the competition. There is a combination of teaching, participation in scholarly and educational initiatives, and practical expertise, which strengthens her profile as a university lecturer with a clearly expressed applied orientation.

In summary, I accept that the presented activity demonstrates a formed, recognisable, and promising academic profile. The scholarly contributions are real, thematically consistent, and directed toward issues of current importance both for psychological theory and for educational practice.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I do not make substantial critical remarks regarding the submitted scholarly output or the applicant's overall academic activity. The materials are sufficient in scope, consistent in subject matter, and convincing with regard to the asserted contributions.

As a recommendation, I would point out that the applicant should continue to expand the international visibility of her research through publications in refereed and indexed



outlets, and should also support part of the courses she teaches with authorial instructional and methodological materials. Such a step would further strengthen both her academic presence and the applied value of her work.

Conclusion

On the basis of the submitted competition materials, of the scholarly, scholarly-applied, and applied contributions contained therein, and of the overall positive assessment of the teaching and research activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dilyana Svetoslavova Angelova, I find it justified to support her application for the academic position of Associate Professor.

I firmly give my positive assessment and recommend that the members of the respected scientific jury elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dilyana Svetoslavova Angelova to the academic position of Associate Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.2. Psychology, scientific speciality "Positive Psychology".

08.03.2026

Opinion prepared by:

(signature)

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