

REVIEW

by **Prof. Dr. Stanimir Ivanov Kabaivanov**

Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski”

regarding the materials submitted for the academic position of **Professor**

at Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski”

in: Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences,
Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management (Quantitative Methods and Modelling in Management)

In the competition for the academic position of Professor, announced in the State Gazette of the Republic of Bulgaria, issue No. 96 of 11.11.2025, and on the website of Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods in Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, the candidate participating in the procedure is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Petrova Yankova–Lilova from the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods in Economics.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order No. RD-22-45 of 09.01.2026 of the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of **Professor** at the university in the Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management (Quantitative Methods and Modelling in Management), announced for the needs of the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods in Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Petrova Yankova–Lilova.

The materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Petrova Yankova-Lilova in both electronic and printed form **is fully compliant** with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski”.

Assoc. Prof. Yankova-Lilova graduated from the “Academician Kiril Popov” Mathematical High School, after which she completed her higher education at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski” with a degree in Mathematics, specializing in Mathematical Structures and Teaching Mathematics and Informatics.

In 2007, the candidate defended her doctoral dissertation at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – Institute of Control and System Research (currently the Institute of Robotics), on the topic:

“Mathematical modelling, programming, computer graphics and visualization, optimization algorithms, expert systems” (Scientific specialty 02.21.06 Automation of Engineering Activities and Computer-Aided Design Systems).

The professional career of Assoc. Prof. Yankova-Lilova has passed through the Institute of Robotics – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Technical University of Sofia – Plovdiv Branch, the University of Food Technologies – Plovdiv, and Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski”.

Since 2009 to the present, the candidate has held the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Management and Quantitative Methods in Economics at Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski” in Professional Field 3.8 Economics (Quantitative Methods and Modelling).

The scientific interests and professional development of Assoc. Prof. Tanya Yankova-Lilova confirm her consistent and successful efforts in the field of mathematical modelling and quantitative methods, including the application of optimization methods, data processing, decision-making, and digitalization.

I personally know the candidate through our joint work at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, as well as through our participation in joint research projects. This allows me to state that Dr. Yankova-Lilova stands out not only for her profound expertise in the field of quantitative methods but also for her ability to work effectively within and lead teams, striving to identify efficient and practically applicable solutions.

2. General characteristics of the candidate’s activity

Assessment of teaching and educational activities

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova-Lilova has substantial teaching experience, more than half of which (17 years) has been at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

The candidate has developed five independent courses within the faculty (three for the Bachelor’s degree programmes and two for the Master’s degree programmes) that fall within the scope of the announced competition.

During the past five years, Dr. Yankova-Lilova has completed 1733 hours of classroom teaching, including 1069 hours of lectures and 664 hours of seminars/exercises. Within the independently developed courses presented in this competition, the candidate has also prepared one teaching manual.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova-Lilova has supervised one successfully defended doctoral student – Dr. Stefan Deyanov Georgiev (2023), and is currently supervising another doctoral student.

The candidate’s teaching activities fully meet all national and internal requirements of Plovdiv university “Paisii Hilendarski” for occupying the academic position of Professor in Professional Field 3.7 Administration and Management.

Assessment of the candidate's research and applied research activities

For participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted 22 publications: 1 monograph; 17 articles and studies indexed in SCOPUS and/or Web of Science; 3 conference papers in peer-reviewed proceedings; 1 teaching manual.

In addition to demonstrating consistency in the candidate's research interests, the studies included in the list contain valuable and interesting results. Particular attention deserves the models proposed for measuring the effects of the use of artificial intelligence in education and business.

The publications submitted for review are also directly related to the teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Yankova-Lilova, and the results obtained in them (for example, publications No. 14, 17, 21 and 22) can be directly applied in the educational process.

There is no reason to question the candidate's personal contribution to the research.

For the purposes of the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova-Lilova has presented a list of 47 citations, of which 39 are from publications indexed in SCOPUS and/or Web of Science. A reference check in SCOPUS indicates that the candidate has 510 citations and an H-index of 14, as well as 322 citations in Web of Science and an H-index of 11.

These indicators clearly demonstrate the high quality of the candidate's research addressing significant and contemporary problems.

The candidate's research and applied research work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova fully comply with the internal requirements of Plovdiv university "Paisii Hilendarski" and significantly exceed the national minimum requirements.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

The publications and scientific results of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova-Lilova demonstrate a rigorous and conscientious approach to research.

The candidate's academic career and research activities are directly related to the thematic scope of the announced competition. The scientific and applied contributions of Dr. Yankova-Lilova have received international recognition, as evidenced by the numerous citations observed in publications from reputable indexed journals.

I believe that Dr. Yankova-Lilova, as a Professor in Professional Field 3.7. Administration and Management (Quantitative Methods and Modelling in Management), will continue to strengthen the academic reputation of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. Her expertise and research interests will help students acquire modern analytical tools and methods in the field of management.

I would recommend that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova-Lilova continue her active research work and involve younger colleagues from the faculty in her research initiatives.

In my opinion, Dr. Yankova-Lilova can also successfully apply her systematic, analytical, and action-oriented approach to the administration and management of certain educational processes.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova-Lilova **comply with all requirements** of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The candidate has presented a significant number of scientific publications produced after the materials used for the defense of the PhD degree and the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. The research conducted by Assoc. Prof. Yankova-Lilova contains original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition. Most of them are published in reputable indexed journals and have been cited numerous times.

The candidate’s theoretical developments also have practical applicability, some of which are directly related to the educational process.

The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Yankova-Lilova are beyond doubt. Her achievements in both teaching and research substantially exceed the national minimum requirements as well as the additional institutional requirements adopted by the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences in accordance with the university regulations implementing the LDASRB.

After reviewing the submitted materials and scientific works and taking into account the significance of the scientific, methodological, and applied contributions, I give my positive assessment and **recommend** that the Scientific Jury elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Petrova Yankova-Lilova to the academic position of **Professor** in Professional Field **3.7. Administration and Management (Quantitative Methods and Modelling in Management)**.

02.03.2026

PhD

Prepared by:

(signature)

Prof. Stanimir Ivanov Kabaivanov,