

OPINION

by **Dr. Daniela Sevdalinova Doncheva, Associate Professor of Criminal Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"**

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic post of **“Professor”**
at the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”

by: field of higher education: **3. Social, economic and legal sciences,**
professional field 3.6. **Law,**
scientific specialty: **Criminal proceedings.**

In the competition for “Professor” announced in State Gazette No 96 of the 11th of November 2025 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of the Department of Criminal Science at the Faculty of Law, as a candidate is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova Getova.

By Order № RD-22-42 of the 9th of January 2026 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”, I was appointed member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of “Professor” at the University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 3.6. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.6. Law (criminal process) declared for the needs of the Department of Criminal Science of the Faculty of Law.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova Getova submitted documents for participation in the announced competition.

The candidate has submitted a set of materials in paper and electronic form that meet the requirements of the law and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv.

The candidate has submitted 25 scientific papers – 1 monograph, 6 studies and 18 articles – to participate in this competition. A document certifying the workload is also presented.

The materials meet the requirements of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova graduated from the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2000. Immediately after that she started working at the Institute of State and Law at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and defended her doctorate in 2006. She received her habilitation in 2013. Since 2002, she has had a teaching commitment, initially to conducting seminars on the Criminal Process at some higher education institutions in the country - the University of Plovdiv

“Paisii Hilendarski”, University of National and World Economy, the University of Sofia “St. Kliment Ohridski” and the University of Ruse “Angel Kanchev”. Since 2019 she has been Associate Professor of Criminal Procedure at the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”.

In parallel with her scientific and teaching work, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salkova has worked as a legal adviser and director of the Legal Affairs Directorate at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, an expert at the Ministry of Justice and the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs and a member, and in the next term as chairman of the Standing Committee on Social and Legal Sciences, Security and Defence at the NEAA.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova’s monographic work, entitled “Current Issues of the Criminal-Procedural Functions”, published by the “Paisii Hilendarski” University Publishing House in 2026 (ISBN 978-619-281-112-9) and complies with the legal requirements for monographs set out in para. 1, item 10 of the Additional Provisions of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The scientific study has a volume of 173 pages, 270 footnotes have been made, numerous literature in Bulgarian, Russian, English, German and French has been studied, which is correctly reflected with references to authors and titles (155 sources).

My synthesized view of the monograph work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova “Current Issues of Criminal Procedural Functions” is that it confirms the rule that volume does not determine the value of the scientific and scientific-practical meaning of a written work. In the present case, the book is not large in volume (201 standard pages), but the exposition raises extremely important and principled questions to which the author has given thoughtful and at the same time bold decisions. I firmly believe that the work applied for the academic position of professor must be such that it is justified, decisive, convincing and understandable to examine theoretical propositions, such as the questions of functions in criminal proceedings, linking them together and examining them in relation to various practical aspects of law enforcement.

I am impressed that, already, with the first sentence of Chapter I, the author expresses her opinion on the leading criminal procedural function, stating that this is the function of guidance and decision, unlike the opinions of many other authors, according to which this is the function of prosecution. And with this first sentence the style of the study is set, and it is - very correctly and in a very well-intentioned way to indicate all opinions on the discussion topics (which in turn shows knowledge of the matter), engaging in a certain opinion that is multi-layeredly justified and anticipating the possible consequences of legislative change or lack thereof.

The author’s approach in clarifying concepts, criticisms of the law and proposals for change is correct and conscientious – this is evident in clarifying the essence of the procedural guidance, in

distinguishing between control and supervision, in clarifying judicial control in pre-trial proceedings, in supporting the idea of the existence of an investigative function, in analysing the indictment function in its parts, in outlining the characteristics of the new subject of criminal proceedings, the legal person concerned.

The conclusions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salkova on the investigation mechanism of the Prosecutor General and her criticism in this direction are well justified. A new but reasoned conclusion is that this mechanism does not exclude the competence of the Sofia City Prosecutor's Office to investigate the Prosecutor General.

The opinion concerning the necessity and importance of the civil claim in the criminal proceedings is of a contributing nature.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova is a respected lecturer, dedicated to students and doctoral students, with a mission and vision to contribute to providing more and better opportunities in their criminal training.

CONCLUSION

The habilitation work “Current Issues of Criminal Procedural Functions” and the other materials submitted for peer review by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova contain scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Rules of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”

The candidate possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the field of criminal procedural law, demonstrating research qualities and skills that have led to significant scientific contributions.

Due to the above, I firmly give my positive assessment of the submitted habilitation work and recommend to the honorable scientific jury to propose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova to be appointed professor at the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”.

04.03.2026

Opinion by: (Signature)
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Doncheva)