

REVIEW

by Prof. Georgi Ivanov Mitov, PhD,
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on the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic post of Professor
at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski",
for: field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,
professional field: 3.6. Law,
scientific specialty: Criminal Process

in the competition for 'Professor', announced in State Gazette No 96 of 11th 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 the only candidate that has participated is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova Getova.

General presentation of the received materials

By Order № RD-22-42 of 9th of January 2026 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", I was appointed as a 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.

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

The set of materials presented by the applicant in paper and electronic form is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv.

25 scientific papers – 1 monograph, 6 studies and 18 articles and reports that are outside the theme of the dissertation and with which she did not participate in the 'docent' procedure – are accepted for review for the competition. 17 scientific papers on the dissertation and the associate professorship (1 monograph and 16 articles) are not reviewed. A document (documentary note) for lecture employment is also presented.

The materials are presented with the necessary correctness and precision and meet the requirements of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv.

Short biographical details of the applicant

Ekaterina Salkova graduated in law from the Faculty of Law of the University of Sofia “St. Kliment Ohridski” and graduated in 2000 as a Master of Laws.

He joined the Institute of State and Law at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in November 2001, successively holding the academic positions of Research Fellow, Chief Assistant and Associate Professor.

In 2006, she defended her doctoral thesis at the Institute of State and Law at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and was awarded the educational and scientific degree of Doctor.

From 2002 to 2016, she was a part-time assistant at various law faculties at the UNWE, University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski“ and University of Sofia “St. Kliment Ohridski”. From 2016 to 2019, she taught a lecture course on the Criminal Procedure at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ruse “Angel Kanchev”, and from 2019 until now, at the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski“.

Along with her scientific development, Ekaterina Salkova has extensive management and expertise. Since 2013 he has been Head of the Criminal Science Section at the Institute of State and Law. She was Chairman of the General Assembly of Scientists at the Institute, Member of the General Assembly of BAS and Chairman of the Committee on normative and general academic acts at the General Assembly of BAS.

She has worked as a legal adviser to the Deputy Minister of Justice. She was a member (2018-2021) and Chair of the Standing Committee on Social and Legal Sciences, Security and Defence of the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (2021-2024).

She has worked as a chief expert assistant in the Committee on Legal Affairs in the 42nd and 43rd National Assembly.

Characteristics of the submitted works of the candidate

1. For habilitation work in the competition is presented the monograph “Current Issues of Criminal Procedural Functions”. Plovdiv: “Paisii Hilendarski” University Publishing House, 2026, 187 pp., ISBN 978-619-281-112-9, consisting of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. The bibliographical reference contains 155 titles in Bulgarian and English, all of which are cited in the work. A total of 270 footnotes were made.

The topic of the monograph study of Assoc. Ekaterina Salkova is extremely interesting and up-to-date. The last comprehensive study of this topic was more than 60 years ago (Pavlov, S. “Problems of the basic functions in the socialist penal process”. M.: Science and Art, 1966)

and is written under other socio-economic and political conditions, which gives the peer-reviewed work exceptional relevance. The author deserves admiration because of the choice of a theoretical topic, which has been rare in recent years in criminal procedural literature, which has 'filled' a gap in our legal literature. The study is skillfully focused only on some current problems of criminal procedural functions, thus taking into account the new realities in this institute, without repeating well-known postulates.

The research is structured correctly and meets the author's goals and scientific objectives set out in the introduction. The first chapter is devoted to clarifying the essence, content and subjects of the management and decision-making function, focusing on its specificity of the pre-trial proceedings and justifying two new main functions. The second chapter deals with the two opposing main functions of prosecution and defence. The third chapter is devoted to the two additional functions in criminal proceedings related to the civil claim. The conclusion draws summary conclusions from the overall analysis and makes suggestions for improving the procedural framework.

I share the contribution points made by Assoc. Salkova in the self-assessment of contributions presented. In addition, the claim for completeness and some others may be mentioned.

For the first time in our procedural literature, a successful attempt is made to theoretically illuminate the essence and content of the function performed by the court in the pre-trial proceedings. This can be distinguished as an independent scientific contribution of the study. The reasoned proposal for the separation of the new human rights function performed by the pre-trial court in the regulated mini-proceedings can be supported.

It is justified and scientifically justified to show the need to separate the pre-trial investigation function (investigative function), which until now has been standardly regarded as part of the management and decision-making function, which is carried out by the pre-trial authorities. Clearly and with the inherent scientific depth of the author, the essence and main features of these two new functions have been revealed and the specific features of the activities of individual subjects have been revealed.

With its inherent precision, the scientific study examines the two opposite functions (indictment and defence) and outlines the specifics of the activities of individual subjects in view of the new realities in criminal proceedings following the reforms in 1999, 2017 and 2025 (with the introduction of new subjects in the proceedings).

The proposal to ‘remain’ in criminal proceedings the two additional functions related to the civil claim is also worthy of support.

Extremely useful for theory and practice is the analysis of the activity of the new entity (the harmed legal entity introduced in 2025) and the function it performs. This can be identified as a self-contributing moment of the study.

The proposals made *de lege ferenda* also deserve support. They are the result of an in-depth analysis of the issues under consideration and abstract the scientific summaries and conclusions reached.

The work is readable, properly structured and this makes it easy to use. It is written in precise and exact legal language. The supported opinions are justified and express the author's position. Bibliographical sources are quoted correctly.

2. Contributions can also be found in other submissions (articles and reports) by which the candidate participates in the ‘professor’ competition. They show the breadth of scientific research on topical issues of theory and jurisprudence in the field of criminal justice.

Indicative of the scientific qualities of Assoc. Salkova is the complex approach in clarifying the issues under consideration. Her scientific interests also cover a number of substantive issues (continued crime, bribery, etc.), where the ability to seek the projection of substantive law on the process and vice versa is clearly visible.

3. Assoc. Ekaterina Salkova is an erudite teacher. Students are happy to attend her classes and share positive reviews about her teaching style and method and degree of scientific knowledge. There are two teaching aids (in co-authorship) with tests and case studies on the Criminal process.

She is respected among her students and colleagues.

She has participated in international projects and in many scientific forums (Bulgarian and international).

There are 14 doctoral students trained, of which 8 defenders and 3 are assigned with the right to protection.

Under the Erasmus+ programme, she has trained 3 foreign graduates.

CONCLUSION

The positive opinion expressed on the submitted works and the overall assessment of the scientific and teaching activities of Assoc. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova and in view of the requirements

of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, I have enough reason to express a firm conclusion that the candidate can participate in the competition for a 'professor' announced by the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Criminal Science at the Faculty of Law in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.6. Law (Criminal Process) and can take up this academic position.

Therefore, I propose to the honorable scientific jury to propose to the Faculty Council to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Salkova Getova. That's what I'm calling on the other members of the jury to also do.

09.03.2026

Sofia

Reviewer:

Prof. Georgi Mitov, PhD