

OPINION

by **Dr. Svetlana Milcheva Momchilova,**

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on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the occupation of an academic position “**Associate Professor**” at the **University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”** in: field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional direction 4.2 Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology)

In the competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor”, announced in the State Gazette, Issue 96 of 11.11.2025 and on the website of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Chemical Technology in the Faculty of Chemistry of the Plovdiv University “P. Hilendarski”, Chief Assistant Professor Olga Tencheva Teneva, PhD, from the Department of Chemical Technology in the Faculty of Chemistry of the Plovdiv University “P. Hilendarski” has been admitted as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. RD-22-56/09.01.2026 of Prof. Dr. R. Mladenov - Rector of PU "P. Hilendarski" I am appointed as a member (external to PU) of the Scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" at PU "P. Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional direction 4.2 Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology), announced for the needs of the **Department of Chemical Technology** in the Faculty of Chemistry of PU "P. Hilendarski".

The candidate **Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Tencheva Teneva** from PU "P. Hilendarski" has been admitted to participate in the announced competition.

General presentation of the received materials

The set of materials presented by Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU “P. Hilendarski” and includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector for admission to participate in the competition;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Diplomas for the Master's and Doctoral degrees;
- Lists of publications on the dissertation work for obtaining the Doctoral degree and those participating in the current competition under Indicators V4, G7 and G8;
- Electronic copies of the publications under Indicators V4, G7 and G8;

- List of citations (Indicator D);
- Certificate of compliance with the minimal national requirements for professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences and Certificate of compliance with the minimal additional requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry of the PU “P. Hilendarski”;
- Annotations of the materials under Art. 65. of the Regulations for development of the academic staff of the PU “P. Hilendarski” (in Bulgarian and English) and an extended habilitation report for the publications under Indicator V4;
- Self-assessment of the contributions of the scientific works (in Bulgarian and English);
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- Certificate of work experience;
- Documents for academic work: report on classroom and extracurricular employment - supervision of lecture courses and laboratory practice for students of the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, incl. updating the teaching material and methods for current control, as well as supervision of five graduate students;
- Documents for scientific research work - lists of coordination and participation in projects and scientific conferences;
- List of participation in other activities.

The candidate, Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva, has submitted **17** scientific papers for participation in the competition for "Associate Professor" (16 publications and 1 book chapter) excluding those in her procedure for PhD degree and for the academic position "Chief Assistant Professor". Of these 17 scientific papers (all in journals referenced in the Scopus and/or Web of Science databases), **5** belong to the Indicator **V4** (as an equivalent number of articles for a habilitation thesis), and **12** belong to the Indicator **G** (11 in G7 and 1 book chapter in G8).

Brief biographical data of the candidate

The candidate in the competition, Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva, obtained her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry in 2009, and a Master's degree in Food Chemistry in PU “P. Hilendarski” in 2010 with excellent results. There, in 2014, she defended a dissertation titled "Studies on the composition and oxidative stability of vegetable oil from Bulgarian flax varieties" for the acquisition of a Doctor's degree in the Faculty of Chemistry of the Plovdiv University “P. Hilendarski”. In 2014-2015, she was an Assist.Prof., and from 2015 to the present, she has been a Chief Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical Technology in the Faculty of Chemistry of the PU “P. Hilendarski”, where she is actively engaged in research and teaching activities.

Personal impressions

I have talked to Dr. Olga Teneva during my visits to the PU “P. Hilendarski” and I have excellent impressions of her scientific competence.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

Assessment of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific activities

Among the scientific publications of Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva presented in this competition:

- **10** are in journals with a rank of **Q1** - 5 by Indicator V4 and 5 by Indicator G7;
- **3** are in journals with a rank of **Q2** by Indicator G7;
- **1** is in a journal with a rank of **Q3** by Indicator G7;
- **2** are in journals with a rank of **Q4** (by Indicator G7) and
- **1** chapter in a book by Indicator G8 (with a rank of **Q3** by Scopus).

The scientific articles in the Indicator **V4** (published in 2024 and 2025, all of them in journals with a rank of Q1) have **9** citations in sources referenced in Scopus/Web of Science by the end of 2025, and they are **11** by the beginning of March 2026.

Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva is the coordinator of 1 project (funded by the Scientific Fund of PU "P. Hilendarski") and a participant so far in 5 national research projects (4 of them funded by the National Scientific Fund of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science and 1 funded by the OP SESG) and 3 university projects. In the period 2011-2025, she has participated with posters and oral presentations in 24 scientific conferences and seminars. She has been a member of the organizing committees of 6 scientific conferences and has participated in various events with the presentation of the Faculty of Chemistry of PU "P. Hilendarski".

Assessment of the candidate's teaching and pedagogical activity

In the period 2015-2025, Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva has an intensive teaching activity at the PU "P. Hilendarski" of 4536 hours of classroom teaching and extracurricular employment with students (with a required minimum of 1080 hours), including lecture courses (2 disciplines in 4 specialties in the programs of the Bachelor's Degree and 3 disciplines in 2 specialties of the Master's Degree), as well as laboratory practice hours for students of the Bachelor's and Master's Degree programs. Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva has been the supervisor/co-supervisor to date of 5 graduates - three who have successfully defended their thesis and two in the process of developing their thesis for the acquisition of the Bachelor's Degree. She also participates in updating the teaching material and methods for ongoing control.

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, educational-methodical) and citations:

The following scientific and scientific-applied contributions can be summarized from the publications presented in the competition:

- characterization of the chemical and lipid composition (respectively, content of carbohydrates, proteins, glyceride oil, fiber, mineral substances, etc., and fatty acid composition,

phospholipids, tocopherols, sterols) of various non-traditional plants, in order to assess their potential as a source of valuable biologically active compounds for the food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, etc. industries;

- enrichment of information about the studied non-traditional plant sources in order to expand the possibilities for developing of food products with improved functional properties, as well as for their use in bioproducts for non-food purposes;
- the results obtained can serve as a basis for future investigations in the search for new sources of biologically active substances and in the development of new functional foods and other products (pharmaceutical, cosmetic) with improved properties.

By the end of 2025, the total number of **citations** (excluding self-citations) for all scientific publications of the candidate is 107 according to Scopus and 78 according to Web of Science. For participation in this competition under Indicator D (according to Scopus and/or Web of Science), 51 citations have been presented (including 11 citations of publications within Indicator G, but excluding those within Indicator V4). It should be noted that by the beginning of March 2026, the number of citations had significantly increased, and only for the publications included in the competition (within Indicators V4 and G) their number was already 55 according to Scopus, which reveals the significant interest of the scientific community in these studies.

The candidate, Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva has a Hirsch Index (h-index) of 8 in Scopus and 6 in Web of Science (as of early March 2026). Her quantitative indicators of the criteria for occupying the academic position of "Associate professor" (512 points according to the documents presented in the competition) exceed the required minimum of 400 points. The additional faculty requirements for teaching activity of 1080 hours of classes are met, too, with the realized classroom and extracurricular employment of 4536 hours.

Implementation activity

No copyright certificates, patents, etc. have been included among the materials.

Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The 17 scientific papers presented in the competition are co-authored, and in 6 of them (35%) Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva is the first and/or corresponding author.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Olga Teneva in the competition meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the PU "P. Hilendarski". The scientific works presented in the competition were published after receiving the PhD degree and occupation the academic position of "Chief Assistant Professor". They are enough and published in reputable journals refereed in Scopus/Web of Science, with contribution to the characterization of the chemical, and especially, the lipid composition of non-traditional plant sources, rich in biologically active compounds, aiming to assess their potential for application in the food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical and other industries. The indicators of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva for her research and teaching activities exceed the minimal national and additional requirements of PU "P. Hilendarski" for the academic position of "Associate Professor". These are the reasons for me to give my **positive assessment** and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry to support the election of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Tencheva Teneva at the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU "P. Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology).

06.03.2026

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetlana Momchilova