

OPINION

by Assoc. **Prof. Dr. Eng. Nadezhda Petkova-Ognyanova**, Associate Professor from
the University of Food Technology - Plovdiv
on the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**"
at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski",
in: field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics,
professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology).

In the competition for "**associate professor**", announced in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 11.11.2025, and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Chemical Technology at the Faculty of Chemistry, **Chief Assistant Professor Olga Tencheva Teneva, PhD** from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", and Department of Chemical Technology has been admitted as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order No. PD-22-56 of 09.01.2026 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) in a competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" at PU in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology), announced for the needs of the Department of Chemical Technology at the Faculty of Chemistry.

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, held on 22.01.2026, I was assigned to prepare an opinion on the materials submitted by the candidate on an electronic medium. The candidate has submitted a complete set of materials on an electronic medium (flash drive and in Google Drive) consisting of 18 files that meet all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB) and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", and the specific requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry. The candidate has attached a declaration of originality and authenticity of the materials. The submitted

materials are neatly arranged and provide comprehensive information about the candidate's scientific and teaching activities.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

The teaching and pedagogical activity of Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva began in 2014 as an assistant in the Department of Chemical Technology, in the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Paisii Hilendarski, and in 2015 she was elected as a Chief Assistant at the same department. Her academic work includes conducting lectures and practical exercises in the disciplines "Chemical Industry of Bulgaria", "Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry of Bulgaria", "Foreign Substances in Food Products", "Commodity Science of Food Products" and "Analytical Capabilities and Applications of Modern Liquid Chromatography", for which disciplines she has also developed a lecture course. In addition, Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva conducts laboratory exercises with students from over 10 specialties in 18 disciplines of the Bachelor's and 8 disciplines of the Master's degree at the Faculty of Chemistry of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski.

The annual classroom work with students of Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva for the period 2015-2025 amounts to 4536 hours, which is the fulfillment of the additional requirement for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor at the Faculty of Chemistry, according to which candidates must have conducted no less than 1080 hours of classroom work with students.

Under her supervising, five student theses have been developed for the acquisition of a Bachelor's degree, of which 3 have been successfully defended and two are in the process of being defended.

Scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

Chief Assistant Prof. Olga Teneva is a co-author in **41 scientific publications**, which are referenced in the databases of Scopus and/or Web of Science. In 5 issues (or 23% of scientific publications), she is the first author. So far, there is no publication as a single author. H-index by the time of preparation of the opinion is 8, according to the Scopus database. The total number of citations by 2025 is 127 (excluding self-citations).

Of all the refereed and indexed publications for participation in the competition for "associate professor", Chief Assist. Prof. Olga Teneva presents **17 scientific materials (16 scientific publications and 1 book chapter)**. It should be noted that these publications do not repeat the materials used in the previous procedures for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "PhD" and for occupying the academic position "Chief Assistant". The candidate's scientific research is mainly related to the elucidation of the chemical and lipid composition of various plant raw materials and medicinal plants with a view to revealing their potential for application in various industries such as food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, etc. Additionally, some non-traditional sources of plant lipids with potential application in cosmetics have been studied. The objects of analysis are not only oil-bearing and medicinal plants, but also a type of moss, the flower buds and fruits of Indian lilac, schisandra fruits, raw and roasted pine nuts, as well as buttermilk. The scientific contributions in the mentioned publications are expressed in a comprehensive study of the chemical and lipid composition of a number of vegetable oils from traditional and non-traditional sources with the acquisition of new data on fatty acid, sterol, tocopherol and phospholipid profile, as well as on physicochemical parameters, and markers for nutritional assessment (n-6/n-3, atherogenic and thrombogenic index) have been introduced (e.g. plant species from the family Asteraceae, family Apocynaceae and family Lythraceae). Specific differences between species and geographical regions have been established.

The main scientific and applied scientific contributions in the presented publications are formulated by Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva briefly as follows:

- characterization of the overall chemical and lipid composition of various non-traditional plants, in order to establish the presence of biologically active components, and their application for food, pharmaceutical and other industrial purposes;
- acquiring more complete information about the studied non-traditional plants, which can serve for the preparation of food products with improved functional properties and provide the basis for their use in bioproducts for non-food purposes;

- the results obtained and the conclusions drawn can serve as a reference base for future research and increase consumer awareness before using a given product.

The submitted publications satisfy and exceed the minimum national and additional faculty requirements of the University of Sofia in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology). **The candidate presents a total of 512 points** with a minimum requirement of 400 for indicators A, B, G and D, as well as 4536 hours of additional faculty requirements for teaching activities.

Under indicator A, the candidate presents a dissertation equal to the maximum **50 points**.

Under indicator B, **5 publications** equivalent to a habilitation thesis are presented - scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) indicator B4. All of these publications are published in prestigious scientific journals falling in the first quartile (Q1), and four of them are MDPI publications. In the five publications, Chief Assistant Teneva is the first author (100%), which indicates her significant scientific contribution. The total number of points under indicator B4 (**5 pcs. x25 points = 125 points**) exceeds the minimum 100 points.

Under indicator G, **11 scientific publications** are presented (**5 pcs. in Q1; 3 pcs. in Q2, one in Q3 and 2 pcs. in Q4**) (**220 points**) and **1 book chapter (15 points)**, which equate to a total of **235 points** with a required minimum of 200 points. Seven of the scientific publications are published in various journals from MDPI (Plants, Foods and Applied Science), one in Elsevier, three publications are in indexed Bulgarian publications – *Bulgarian Journal of Agriculture Sciences*, *Bulgarian Chemical Communications* and *Journal of Environmental Protection and Ecology*. One chapter (Chapter 14pp 235-245) from the book *Medicinal and Aromatic Crops: Production, Phytochemistry, and Utilization*, ACS Symposium Series, American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, USA - **15 points** is presented.

Under indicator D, a list of **51 citations** is presented, in publications referenced or indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, which equals **102 points** and exceeds twice the required minimum of 50 points.

Additionally, Chief Assist. Prof. Teneva was the head of one scientific project and a member of the team of another 8 scientific projects, of which 5 were national and 3 were intra-university. 24 participations in scientific forums, mainly national and international held in Bulgaria (22) and international conferences – 2, respectively in Moldova and the USA, are presented. From all of the above, it is evident that Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva has published the results of her scientific work in prestigious international publications, with 10 publications under the competition from indicators B and G (over 60%) in Q1 – 10 issues. The candidate admitted to the competition not only covers, but also significantly exceeds the minimum scientific metric requirements set out in the requirement of ADSRB.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the materials of the candidate for the title of Associate Professor. There are only some recommendations regarding the author's self-assessment of the contributions of the scientific works. This part is too long, it could be more systematized, regarding the contributions regarding the studies of the characteristics of species of the Asteraceae family, for example, etc. I additionally recommend increasing participation with students and doctoral students in international scientific forums.

I am convinced that the habilitation of Chief Assist. Prof. Olga Teneva will provide her with the opportunity to continue and deepen her work in the field of lipid and food chemistry, as well as provide her with the opportunity to future supervise PhD students and other scientific projects.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva fully meet the requirements of all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the regulations

for its implementation (PPZRASRB) and the regulations of the Paisii Hilendarsky Plovdiv University. The candidate demonstrates enviable teaching and pedagogical activity, and her teaching qualifications are undoubted. In the competition, she has presented a sufficient number of scientific works published outside the procedure for the defense of the scientific and educational degree "PhD" and the competition for the appointment of academic degree "Chief Assistant". The achieved results in the educational and scientific research activity fully comply with the national requirements of the PPZRASRB and the additional ones of the Faculty of Chemistry at the "Paisii Hilendarski" Plovdiv University.

After analyzing the documents presented to me by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva, I declare that they are fully consistent with the regulatory framework for the development of the scientific and research staff, and the scientific and applied scientific contributions contained in them are significant, and many of them have also found application in practice. The publications have become accessible to the international scientific community through their publication in authoritative refereed and indexed publications. Thanks to this, many of them have been cited by other author teams. Based on the materials submitted for the competition, I **give my positive assessment** and propose and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry for the election of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva to the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" at the "Paisii Hilendarski" University in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology).

02.03.2026.

Prepared the opinion:

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