

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Iliyan Ivanov Ivanov

Faculty of Chemistry, “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for

the academic position of Associate Professor

at “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv,

in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics,

professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology).

In the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor*, announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 96 of 11 November 2025, and on the website of “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the Department of Chemical Technology at the Faculty of Chemistry, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Tencheva Teneva from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv has been admitted to participate in the competition.

General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

The set of documents submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva, in both printed and electronic form, is fully compliant with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the regulations of “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv. The materials presented by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. O. Teneva reflect her teaching and research activities and are fully consistent with the scope of the announced competition.

The volume of the submitted scientific works exceeds the requirements set out in the minimum national criteria for the research and teaching activities of candidates applying for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences.

Indicator group	For AP associate professor – number of points	Performance – number of points
A	50	50
B	100	125
Г	200	235
Д	50	102
Total	400	512

Brief biographical data and professional development

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva obtained her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv (2005–2009), with the qualification "Chemist; Teacher of Chemistry." In 2010, she earned a Master's degree in Food Chemistry, and in 2014 she defended her PhD dissertation in the professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences, devoted to the composition and oxidative stability of vegetable oils. Her professional career began as a chemical technologist at "Agria" AD – Plovdiv (2010–2011). Since 2014, she has been part of the academic staff of the Faculty of Chemistry at "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv, Department of Chemical Technology—initially as an Assistant Professor, and since 2015 to the present as a Chief Assistant Professor. Her teaching and research activities are in the fields of organic chemical technology, food chemistry, and the analysis of lipid-containing products. She actively participates in the education of students in the *Bachelor's* and *Master's* degree programs, as well as in research work related to the chemical composition and bioactive components of vegetable oils. She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Federation of Scientific and Technical Unions in Bulgaria, and the Union of Chemists in Bulgaria. She is proficient in English and German.

Research evaluation

The research activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva is in the field of organic chemical technology and food chemistry, with a focus on the chemical and lipid composition of traditional and non-traditional plant sources and the biologically active components contained in them. Dr. Teneva's overall publication activity includes 40 publications (Scopus), of which 16 publications and one book chapter are presented for participation in the competition. For the purposes of the competition, the candidate presents five scientific publications equivalent to a habilitation thesis (indicator B4), published in international journals indexed and abstracted in Scopus and Web of Science (Heliyon – Q1; two papers in *Molecules* – Q1; *Plants* – Q1; *Foods* – Q1). In all five papers, Dr. Teneva is the leading (first) author, which clearly demonstrates her main contribution to the formulation of the scientific idea, the planning and implementation of the research, and the interpretation of the results. These publications clearly outline her habilitation profile and demonstrate consistent and sustainable development in her scientific work in the field of organic chemical technology.

The studies are characterized by thematic consistency, experimental depth, and analytical precision. Original data are presented on fatty acid composition, sterol profile, tocopherols, phospholipids, and unsaponifiable substances, as well as on the influence of technological factors on lipid composition. A particularly important contribution is represented by studies on poorly investigated plant species such as *Centaurea thracica*, *Centaurea benedicta*, *Amsonia tabernaemontana*, and *Lagerstroemia indica*, which expand knowledge about their potential as sources of bioactive compounds.

The scientific results have both theoretical significance, by enriching knowledge about the chemical composition and biological value of plant oils, and applied relevance, in connection with the development of functional foods and the evaluation of the health potential of lipid fractions.

Based on the presented materials, I assess the research activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. O. Teneva as fully meeting the requirements for holding the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences.

Evaluation of teaching activities

The teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva is characterized by a high teaching workload, broad thematic scope, and consistent professional development. For the period 2015–2025, she has completed a total of 4536 hours of classroom teaching, in most years significantly exceeding the established normative workload. This is an indicator of her active participation in the educational process and her well-established role within the department. Dr. Teneva conducts laboratory exercises and lecture courses in both the *Bachelor's* and *Master's* degree programs in disciplines within the fields of organic chemical technology, food chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry, and analytical control. Her work with students from different specializations demonstrates broad professional competence and the ability to independently conduct lecture courses. A significant contribution is her participation in the modernization of the curriculum, including the development of new courses and laboratory exercises, updating course syllabi, and preparing examination materials. She has also supervised five successfully defended diploma theses.

In summary, the teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position of *Associate Professor* and demonstrates a high level of professional commitment and academic maturity.

Conclusion

Based on the presented materials and the conducted analysis, I give a positive evaluation of the candidacy of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. O. Teneva. I consider that she fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position of *Associate Professor* and recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury prepare a report and proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry for the election of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Tencheva Teneva to the academic position of *Associate Professor* at “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv in the professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemical Technology).

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Plovdiv

Opinion prepared by:.....

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