

# OPINION

by **Dr. Ivan Georgiev Ivanov, Associate Professor at the University of Food Technologies – Plovdiv**

regarding 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 11.11.2025, and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the Department of Chemical Technology at the Faculty of Chemistry, the admitted candidate is **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Tencheva Teneva** from Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Department of Chemical Technology.

## ***1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate***

By Order No. RD-22-56 of 09.01.2026 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (PU), I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the 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.

One candidate was admitted to participate in the announced competition – Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva from the same department. 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 in electronic form, in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The candidate has submitted a declaration of originality and authenticity of the materials.

## ***2. General characteristics of the candidate’s activity***

The teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva at the Faculty of Chemistry of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv began in 2015, when she was elected to the position of Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemical Technology. Her academic workload includes delivering

lectures and practical classes 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 she has developed lecture courses and syllabi. In addition, Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva conducts laboratory exercises for students from more than 10 specialties in 18 disciplines at the Bachelor’s degree level and 8 disciplines at the Master’s degree level at the Faculty of Chemistry.

Her total annual classroom workload with students for the period 2015–2025 amounts to 4,536 hours. The additional requirement for acquiring the academic position of “Associate Professor” at the Faculty of Chemistry, according to which candidates must have conducted not less than 1,080 classroom hours, has been fulfilled. She has supervised five Bachelor’s degree theses.

### ***Research and scientific-applied activity of the candidate***

Chief Assistant Professor Olga Teneva is co-author of 41 scientific publications indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science. For participation in the present competition, she has **submitted 16 scientific publications and 1 book chapter** that do not duplicate the materials used in the previous procedures for acquiring the PhD degree and for the position of Chief Assistant Professor.

Her research is mainly focused on a comprehensive assessment of the chemical and lipid composition of traditional and non-traditional plant crops and raw materials in order to reveal their potential for application in various industries such as food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, etc.

The scientific contributions in the presented publications include comprehensive studies of the chemical and lipid composition of a number of traditional and non-traditional vegetable oils, providing new data on fatty acids, sterols, tocopherols and phospholipid profiles, as well as physicochemical parameters, introducing nutritional evaluation markers (n-6/n-3 ratio, atherogenic and thrombogenic index) (e.g., plant species from the families Asteraceae, Apocynaceae, Lythraceae). Specific differences between species and geographical regions have been established.

Of the 17 scientific works submitted in the competition, 5 publications are presented as equivalent to a habilitation thesis. Thus, under indicator B of the national requirements, the candidate receives 125 points with a required minimum of 100 points. The eleven publications and one book chapter under indicator G bring her 235 points with a required minimum of 200 points. A list of 51 citations in publications indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science is also presented, corresponding to 102 points under indicator group D, significantly exceeding the required minimum of 50 points.

According to Scopus, the publications co-authored by the candidate number 41, with a total of 127 citations up to 2025 (excluding self-citations), resulting in an h-index of 7. The quality, prestige, and impact of the research are also evident from the journal quartiles in which the results have been published (**Q1 – 10**; Q2 – 3; Q3 – 1; Q4 – 2). The admitted candidate not only meets but significantly exceeds the minimum scientometric requirements laid down in the applicable regulations.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks regarding the materials submitted by the candidate for the academic position of “Associate Professor”. I am confident that the habilitation of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva will enable her not only to deepen her work on her current research topics but also to supervise PhD students and lead research projects.

## **Conclusion**

The documents and materials submitted by **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Olga Teneva** comply with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Rules of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The candidate demonstrates very intensive teaching activity, and her teaching qualifications are beyond doubt. In the competition, she has presented a sufficient number of scientific works published outside the procedures for acquiring the PhD degree and for the position of Chief Assistant Professor.

The contributions from her research activity are original, and the good citation record and the high quartile ranking of the journals in which her works are published testify to the quality of her research. The achieved results in teaching and research fully comply with the national requirements and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained therein, I confidently **give my positive evaluation and recommend** that the Scientific Jury 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 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).

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Prepared by: .....

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