

## STATEMENT

from Assoc. Prof. Petya Marinova, PhD  
Faculty of Chemistry, University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski",  
member of a scientific jury assigned with order № RD-22-55/09.01.2026  
of the Rector of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

**REGARDING:** competition for the academic position "Associate Professor",  
Field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics,  
Professional direction 4.2. Chemical Sciences (General and Inorganic Chemistry),  
published in the Governmental Gazette, no. 96 from 11.11.2025

### Procedure materials

One candidate took part in the announced competition – Chief Assist. Prof. Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova, PhD. The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents and their examination shows that they are in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Implementation (RILDASRB) and the Rules for the terms and conditions for the acquisition of scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

### Brief biographical details of the applicant

Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova graduated from secondary education at the School of Tourism "Asen Zlatarov" in Plovdiv in 2004 with the qualification "Technologist". In 2008 she graduated from the P. Hilendarski University, Faculty of Chemistry, Bachelor degree in "University Chemistry" with the professional qualification "Chemistry Teacher", in 2009, she graduated from the Paisii Hilendarski University, Faculty of Chemistry, with a Master's degree in the specialty "Medical Chemistry". In 2014, she obtained her PhD degree in Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry at the Paisii Hilendarski University with a dissertation title: "Study of ternary ion-associated gallium complexes with the participation of tetrazolium salts" with scientific supervisor assoc. prof. Atanas Dimitrov, PhD. During the period 2010-2011 she was appointed as a chemist at the Medical University - Plovdiv. In 2011 she began her research work as a PhD student at the Department of General and Inorganic chemistry with Methodology of Chemistry Education, during the period 2012-2015 she was appointed as an assistant professor in the same department, and from 2015 - until now - a chief assistant professor.

### Evaluation of the candidate's research activity

#### *Evaluation of the quantitative indicators for the scientific activities*

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. K. Stoyanova is a co-author of 30 scientific publications. Of the publications, 29 are in journals, referenced and indexed in the world databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus; 4 publications – Q1; 2 publications – Q2; 17 publications – Q3; 6 publications – Q4) and 1 of the publications are in journals without impact factor and impact rank.

In the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", the candidate participated with 21 scientific publications. They are distributed as follows according to the indicators in the RILDASRB – 8 in indicator group B (a sum of 114 points was achieved),

and the remaining 13 scientific works in indicator group D (a sum of 216 points was achieved). The majority of publications (17 in number) are in third quartile (Q3) journals, which is indicative that the results are published in recognizable and established journals and is a testament to the quality of the research. In group B, the articles with Q3 are 6 in number, and with Q4 – two. In group D, the publications that belong to the quartile Q1 are 3 in number, Q2 – no, Q3 – 7, and with Q4 – 3. At the time of submission of the documents for participation in the competition, over 37 citations (refereed and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science) have been noted, the Hirsch index (h-index) is 5. The most cited article is in the journal *J. Serb. Chem. Soc.*, 2015 (Q3) – 6 citations, followed by a publication in *Croat. Chem. Acta*, 2015 (Q3) – 6 citations and in *Applied Sciences*, 2024 (Q2) - 6 citations. In all 8 articles from indicator B, Dr. K. Stoyanova is the first author, and in two from indicator D. In eight publications from indicator D, the candidate is the second author, in 1 she is in eighth place, in 1 – in ninth and in one in tenth place. The large team of scientists in the last three publications is a sign of a large-scale, interdisciplinary, multi-component study, which in the future will bring many dividends in the form of an established international response, namely citations. These three publications (numbers 19, 20 and 21 of indicator D) are in first quartile (Q1) journals, which is indicative that the results were published in recognizable and established journals and is an extremely good attestation to the quality of the research. The scientific results have been presented in a total of 31 oral reports and poster presentations at national and international forums. She has participated in 5 research projects.

### ***Evaluation of the scientific contributions***

Based on the presented author's reference for the contributions, the presented habilitation thesis, as well as the articles in the competition, I believe that the scientific research of Dr. Stoyanova is interdisciplinary and scientifically applied. The scientific research work of Chief Assist. Dr. K. Stoyanova can be summarized in the following two main areas:

1. Research in the field of complexation and spectrochemical analysis (publications under indicator B – 8 in number, articles under indicator D – 11 in number).
2. Research on the biological activity of new hybrid molecules (publications under indicator D – 2 in number).

### ***Critical remarks and recommendations***

I have no critical remarks, but I have the following recommendations to the senior assistant professor Dr. Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova, which are related to both her teaching and research activities:

- To be a supervisor of a graduate student and to include in her research work a team of students who would support her further development in the academic field and community. In the documents provided for habilitation, not a single graduate who defended his thesis in the Department of General and Inorganic chemistry with Methodology of Chemistry Education is observed;
- To be the author of curricula for some of the disciplines supervised by Dr. Stoyanova for the various specialties of the Faculty of Chemistry;
- To participate in the preparation of reviews of articles in international journals. This would bring her more self-confidence and an opportunity for future growth;
- To participate in the composition of editorial boards of Bulgarian and international journals. This activity raises the prestige and authority not only on a personal level, but also of the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Plovdiv “P. Hilendarski”;
- In order to popularize the scientific results, and thereby increase the number of citations on an international scale, I recommend that Dr. K. Stoyanova give more oral reports

at conferences in Bulgaria and abroad. Thus, the Hirsch index of 5 would increase significantly;

- To participate more actively in KSK campaigns related to the popularization of the various specialties of the Faculty of Chemistry;
- To participate in the team of a textbook on Inorganic Chemistry or to be the author of one, in order to support the independent preparation of students from the various specialties of the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of „P. Hilendarski“.

#### **Evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate**

The main part of Chief Assist. Prof. Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova, PhD teaching activities covers conducting classes with Bachelor students in compulsory disciplines such as General and Inorganic chemistry part I and II, Fundamentals of Chemistry, Inorganic chemistry, Stoichiometric calculations part I and II. She is a supervisor of exercises in the subjects for the Bachelor's degree in: General and Inorganic Chemistry Part I and Part II, Fundamentals of Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Chemistry of Coordination Compounds. According to the report, the number of classroom sessions held with students for the period 2015-2025 r. is impressive and many times exceeds the additional specific requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry - total: Bachelors - 5040 hours, for the last 5 years – 2656 hours. She is a co-author of two study guides for exercises in General and Inorganic Chemistry, namely: Gavazov K., Lekova V., Marinova P., Toncheva G., Stoyanova K., Stefanova T., Stefanova Y. & Angelacheva A., Laboratory exercises in general and inorganic chemistry, Plovdiv, UI "P. Hilendarski", 2016, p. 223, ISBN: 978-619-202-160-3; Stoyanova K., Angelacheva A., Stefanova Y., Toncheva G., Marinova P. & Lekova V., Manual for laboratory exercises in general and inorganic chemistry, Plovdiv, UI "P. Hilendarski", 2019, p. 176, ISBN: 978-619-202-359-1. Dr. K. Stoyanova has developed tests and tasks for evaluation of semester exams and ongoing control of lectures, seminars and laboratory exercises for students from various specialties of the Faculty of Chemistry.

#### **Evaluation of the implementation of the minimum national requirements and the recommended requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Plovdiv**

The comparative analysis of the quantitative criteria achieved by Chief Assist. Prof. Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova, PhD in relation to the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor", as well as in relation to the recommended requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Plovdiv, shows that the candidate fulfills the above mentioned requirements. It should be emphasized on the significant exceed of the quantitative indicators (points) achieved by Chief Assist. Prof. Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova, PhD regarding the indicator "Citations in scientific publications, monographs and collective volumes, referenced and indexed in world-recognizable databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus)". This also applies to the additionally introduced by the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Plovdiv group of recommended indicators for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in Professional Direction 4.2. Chemical Sciences.

#### **Conclusion**

The submitted materials for the competition meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Implementation, the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv, as well as the recommended requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Plovdiv. The self-evaluation materials presented by Chief Assist. Prof. Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova, PhD give me the reason

to conclude that she is an established researcher with significant activities whose academic position would contribute to the development of an important and interdisciplinary field.

**Based on the above, I give a positive assessment and recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to propose the awarding of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Chief Assist. Prof. Kirila Trifonova Stoyanova, PhD, in Field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional Direction 4.2. Chemical Sciences (General and Inorganic Chemistry) for the needs of the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".**

05.03.2026

Member of the Scientific Jury:

/ Assoc. Prof. Petya Marinova, PhD/