

## STATEMENT

**By Assoc. Prof. Tzenka Ivanova Radoukova PhD,**

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**Faculty of Biology, University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”**

regarding the materials, submitted for participation in the competition

for occupying the academic

position “Associate Professor“

in University of Plovdiv „Paisii Hilendarski“

in: area of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics; Professional

Field: 4.3 Biological Sciences (Botany)

In the competition for ‘Associate Professor’ announced in the State Gazette, No. 96 of 11.11.2025, and on the website of University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of the Department: "Botany and Biological Education" at the Faculty of Biology, as a candidate participates **Krasimir Tihomirov Todorov**, PhD - Chief Assist. Prof. of the Department of Botany and Biological Education, Faculty of Biology, University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski“.

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

By order No. RD-22-39, dated 09.01.2026 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury in a competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the PU in the area of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional direction: 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty Botany, announced for the needs of the Department: "Botany and Biological Education" at the Faculty of Biology at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

For participation in the announced competition, only one candidate, Chief Assist. Prof. **Krasimir Tihomirov Todorov, PhD**, of the Department of Botany and Biological Education, Faculty of Biology, “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv, submitted documents.

The set of materials in papers and electronic format presented by the candidate is in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Development of Academic Staff Regulation in the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”, and includes all necessary documents.

### **Brief biographical data about the candidate**

Krasimir Tihomirov Todorov obtained a Bachelor's degree in 2011 at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" with a specialty in "Ecology and Environmental Protection", and a professional qualification in "Ecologist". Krasimir Todorov obtained a Master's degree in 2013 with a specialty in "Medicinal and Essential Plants". In 2018, he defended his dissertation for the PhD degree at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the doctoral program "Botany".

Krasimir Todorov has 12 years of teaching experience, which began at Plovdiv University in 2013 when he was appointed Assistant Professor; since 2018, he has held the position of Chief Assistant Professor. From 01.09.2025 Krasimir Todorov holds the position of Chief Assistant Professor at the Medical University, Plovdiv, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Bioorganic Chemistry.

My personal impressions of Krasimir Todorov are that he is a colleague dedicated to working with students and actively involved in the academic life of the department and the Faculty of Biology.

### **Evaluation of the competition materials, according to the minimum national and additional faculty requirements**

The materials submitted by Dr. Todorov for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" include 19 scientific publications, 1 Certificate of registration of a utility model and 1 Patent application (which were not used for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and the academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor"). All articles for the competition are refereed and indexed in the world-famous databases of scientific information Web of Science and Scopus. The total impact factor of the articles participating in the competition is 33.74. All scientific works submitted for review are co-authored, with Krasimir Todorov being the lead author in one of them.

The candidate has participated as an academic mentor in 2 educational and as a member of the team in 5 research projects. He has presented 3 teaching aids with ISBN. In this competition, 46 citations (excluding auto-citations) in the world databases Web of Science and/or Scopus are presented, which were not included in previous procedures.

I have no remarks on the set of documents/materials presented by Krasimir Tihomirov Todorov, PhD.

*The set of materials presented by Chief Assist. Prof. Krasimir Todorov, PhD that are necessary to cover the required minimum of the ZRASRB and the regulations for its implementation are:*

**Group of indicators A** – diploma for the defended PhD thesis, which brings the candidate the required **50 points** in this group;

**Group of indicators B - 4 publications** with the equivalent of a habilitation thesis, which are evaluated with a total of **100 points** (minimum requirements for 100 points). These publications are thematically related to the scientific specialty of the competition and are presented in a separate document, such as "Extended Habilitation Report".

**Group of indicators G – 15 publications, which carry 218 points;** Certificate of registration of a utility model for which a protected document has been issued in due course (reg. No. 4924 U1, priority from 12.06.2024) – **25 points** and Published patent application (entry No. 113914/12.06.2024) – **15 points. TOTAL 258 points** (requirement for a minimum of 200 points on this indicator). The results and contributions on this indicator are clearly defined in the "Annotation of the materials" and "Self-assessment of contributions".

**Indicator group D – 46 independent positive citations** in Web of Science and Scopus, which brings **92 points** (significantly more than the required 50 points).

**Senior Assistant Professor Krasimir Todorov has fulfilled each of the groups of national scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" and, with a requirement of 400 points, collects a total of 500 points.**

The candidate's reported h-index is 5 (according to Scopus and Web of Science), which is also a very good indicator.

*Additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology, University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor:"*

Krasimir Todorov is a co-author of 3 textbooks (min. requirement 2) on Botany (Pharmaceutical Botany), Plant Anatomy and Morphology (Pharmaceutical Botany Part I) and a textbook on Plant Systematics (Pharmaceutical Botany Part II).

Under his scientific guidance/supervision, 6 diploma theses have been successfully defended in the Bachelor's Degree programme, with the Faculty of Biology's minimum requirement being 5.

The candidate's work experience as a lecturer is over 12 years, which meets the minimum criterion for at least 5 (five) years of teaching experience.

Krasimir Todorov's participation in 7 national projects significantly exceeds the minimum requirement of the Faculty of Biology of 2 projects.

The candidate in the competition also shows active organizational and expert activities through participation in a number of commissions, committees and editorial boards (at least one activity is required): Commission for the preparation of the BF student candidate campaign for 2025; Commission for the attestation of the academic staff at the Faculty of Biology in 2023 and 2025; Bursar's Commission for conducting state exams in the Bachelor's degree program at the Faculty of Biology for 2020 and 2023; Commission for the organization and conduct of the student competition "Journey in Biology" in 2019, 2024 and 2025; Organizing committees of 2 scientific events at the BF of the University of Plovdiv: 5th Scientific Conference of Biology Balkanbio, April 15-16, 2021, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; and 6th Balkan Conference on Bioscience Balcanbio, October 30-31, 2025, Plovdiv, Bulgaria.,

He is a member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski";

Since 2018, K. Todorov was the Registrar of the Department of Botany and Biological Education;

He participates in the editorial board of the journal *Ecologia Balkanica*.

With the activities presented above, it becomes clear that Krasimir **Todorov fully covers all additional requirements of the BF of the PU for PF 4.3. Biological Sciences.**

#### *Evaluation of teaching and learning activities*

According to the submitted reference for educational and pedagogical activity, it is clear that Krasimir Todorov has extensive teaching experience, including conducting lecture courses, laboratory and field exercises. As a Senior Assistant PhD in the Department of Botany and Biological Education of the University of Plovdiv, he lectures on Botany, Anatomy and Morphology of Plants and Ecology, as well as exercises in Botany, Pharmacognosy and Hydrobiology to full-time and part-time students of the Bachelor's Degree Program. He also conducts field exercises in Botany and Anatomy and Morphology of Plants to Bachelor's Degree Program students of the Bachelor's Degree Program majors in Ecology and Environmental

Protection (full-time and part-time) and Biology and English (full-time). In the Master's program, Senior Assistant Professor Todorov lectures on "Botany" and exercises in "Essential Oil Plants", "Pharmacognosy" and "Hydrobiology and Marine Biology". For the specialty "Biology and Management of Natural Resources" (II year, full-time study, Senior Assistant Professor "Bachelor") in the "Lyuben Karavelov" Branch of the "Paisiy Hilendarski" University of Applied Sciences, Kardzhali, he lectures and laboratory exercises in the discipline "Hydrobiology".

For the last 3 academic years, Dr. Todorov has delivered over 300 hours of lectures as a senior assistant professor in the "Bachelor's" program of the Faculty of Biology of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

*Contributions (scientific, applied science, applied):*

The contributions of the candidate's research activities are the result of floristic, anatomomorphological, phytochemical and molecular-genetic studies of plant and fungal species from different territories of Bulgaria. In the habilitation work of Dr. Todorov, the main scientific results and contributions realized through research activities are aimed at the phytochemical profile, metabolomic characterization and biological activity of plant species from the Lamiaceae family. The research is focused on two taxonomic lines with high bioresource value - the genera *Micromeria* and *Marrubium*, including species with a limited and decreasing areal distribution, which gives additional scientific significance.

The presented original experimental studies demonstrate a consistently developing and developing research line, based on a systematic approach to the complex biological assessment of plants: phytochemistry, metabolomics, antioxidant, antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory activity, as well as potential for pharmaceutical application.

**Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks. I recommend that Krasimir Todorov continue his research and teaching activities with the same enthusiasm and initiate the writing of a textbook on Botany.

**CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Senior Assistant Professor **Krasimir Tihomirov Todorov** PhD, meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the

Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The results achieved by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Krasimir Todorov in the educational and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University for the Implementation of LAADRB.

The publications submitted for the competition have original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, and all the publications submitted are in journals indexed in international databases.

The good scientific and teaching qualifications of Senior Assistant Professor Krasimir Todorov are undeniable.

Based on the above, I give my **positive assessment** and strongly recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology for the **election of Krasimir Tihomirov Todorov** to the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" at the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" in: field of higher education **4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics; Professional Field 4.3. Biological Sciences (Botany).**

17.02.2026 г.

Opinion issued by: .....

(Assoc. Prof. Tzenka Radoukova, PhD)