

# OPINION

**From: Prof. Katya Naneva Velichkova,**

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of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to occupy the academic position "Associate professor"

of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

by: field of higher education. 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional  
direction: 4.3 Biological sciences (Botany)

In the competition for "associate professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 11.11.2025, and on the website of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of "Botany and Biological Education" at the Faculty of Biology, Krasimir Tichomirov Todorov from the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" participated as a candidate.

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

By order No. PD-22-39 of 09.01.2026 of the rector of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury 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 4.3 Biological Sciences (Botany), announced for the needs of the Department of "Botany and Biological Education" at the Faculty of Biology. One candidate, assistant professor Dr. Krasimir Tichomirov Todorov from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition. The materials submitted by Dr. Krasimir Todorov for the competition are in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". All necessary documents for participation in the competition have been submitted: administrative documents; lists of scientific works and citations; documents for scientific research activity; a certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements and additional faculty requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor"; annotation of the materials and self-assessment of the contributions; data on work experience; documents for academic work; declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents; documents proving various activities related to the additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology of Plovdiv University.

To participate in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor", the candidate submits 19 scientific publications, 1 certificate of registration of a utility model and 1

patent application. Of the submitted scientific publications, all (except one) have an impact factor/impact rank and quartiles Q1, Q2, Q4. Evidence of citations of 14 articles is also attached. Senior Asst. Todorov is a co-author of three textbooks, as well as a supervisor of 6 successfully defended diplomas and a participant in 7 national projects.

Chief assistant professor Krasimir Todorov was born on November 21, 1988. In 2007, he graduated from the Professional High School of Electronics and Chemical Technologies "Prof. Asen Zlatarov", Pleven. In 2011, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in "Ecology and Environmental Protection" at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", and in 2013, he also graduated with a Master's degree in "Medicinal and Essential Plants". In 2018, he obtained the "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Botany". From 2013 to the present, he has been an assistant professor and chief assistant professor in Botany at the "Paisii Hilendarski" University, and since 2025, he has also held the position of chief assistant professor at the Medical University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Pharmacy.

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

### ***Educational and pedagogical activity***

Chief assistant professor Krasimir Todorov impresses with his educational and pedagogical work, giving lectures, laboratory and field exercises in the disciplines "Botany", "Hydrobiology", "Pharmacognosy", "Anatomy and Morphology of Plants", "Ecology of Plants", "Essential Oil Plants", in bachelor's and master's degrees at the Faculty of Biology of Plovdiv University. He also gives lectures, laboratory exercises in the Bachelor's Degree Program at the "Lyuben Karavelov" Branch of the "Paisiy Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv, city of Kardzhali. The candidate is a co-author of three textbooks that are used in the university network. He is the scientific supervisor of 6 successfully defended graduates. Senior Assistant Professor Krasimir Todorov is a participant in numerous educational and administrative committees, as well as an editor in a scientific journal.

### ***Research activity***

The documents presented by chief assistant professor Krasimir Todorov show that he meets and exceeds the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in 4.3 Biological Sciences, according to the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, with the number of points for the individual groups of indicators being the following:

Group of indicators A. Indicator 1 (min. 50 points) – 50 points - The candidate has acquired the ONS "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Botany" in 2018 based on a defended dissertation on the topic "Biosystematic study of the genus *Carduus* L. (Asteraceae) in Bulgaria".

Group of indicators B. Indicator 4 (min. 100 points) – 100 points - A total of 4 publications are presented in journals with an impact factor/impact rank with quartiles Q1, referenced and indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases.

Group of indicators C. Indicator from 5 to 10 (min. 200 points) – 258 points - In the report prepared by the candidate for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, all 15 publications submitted under the competition are described for this indicator, which are (with the exception of one) in journals with an impact factor/impact rank with quartiles Q1, Q2, Q4, referenced and indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases.

1 utility model registration certificate and 1 patent application were also submitted (indicator 9-10).

Group of indicators D. Indicator 11 (min. 50 points) – 92 points - Evidence is presented for 14 articles that are cited in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus).

The scientific contributions of his research can be grouped into the following areas:

1. Floristic research – study of the diversity of medicinal plants, seed and spore plants, wild edible mushrooms, distributed on the territory of Strandzha Mountain and the southern Black Sea coast, railway stations in the Upper Thracian Lowland, in protected areas, in municipalities, etc.
2. Anatomical-morphological studies – comparative anatomical study of the leaf epidermis of *Betonica bulgarica*, *Micromeria frivaldszkyana*, *Micromeria dalmatica*, *Clinopodium vulgare*, *Marrubium friwaldskyanum* and *Marrubium peregrinum*.
3. Ecological research – monitoring of protected species, alien and invasive species.
4. Phytochemical and biological studies – antimicrobial, antitumor, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory activity of plant extracts; composition of essential oils and content of trace elements.
5. Molecular genetic studies - study of *Micromeria dalmatica* and *Clinopodium vulgare* with a high degree of identity between the sequences established.

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

I have no critical remarks, and my recommendation to the candidate is to focus efforts on leading authorship in scientific publications.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by chief assistant prof. Krasimir Tichomirov Todorov related to the announced competition meet all the requirements of ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application and the regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". the teaching activity of the candidate is excellent. In his scientific production there are original and scientific-applied contributions. This

gives me a reason to confidently recommend to the respected scientific jury appointed by the rector of PU "P. Hilendarski" to prepare a positive report-proposal to the Faculty of Biology for the election of dr. Krasimir Tichomirov Todorov to the academic position of "Associate professor" in the field of higher education 4 Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; professional direction 4.3 Biological sciences (Botany).

02.02.2026

**Signature:**  
*(prof. Katya Velichkova)*