

OPINION

**By Dr. Eng. Diana Velkova Stoyanova-Associate Professor at Plovdiv University
“Paisii Hilendarski”**

Regarding the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position of Associate Professor
at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”,

in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences,
professional field 5.2. *Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation (Theoretical Electrical Engineering)*

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 34 of 7 April 2026, and published on the official website of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, for the needs of the Department of Electrical Power Engineering and Communications at the Faculty of Physics and Technology, the applicant is Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD from Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

1. General Overview of the Procedure and the Candidate

By Order No. ПД-22-1116 of 5 June 2026 of the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (PU), I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for a competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at PU in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, professional field 5.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation (Theoretical Electrical Engineering), announced for the needs of the Department of Electrical Power Engineering and Communications at the Faculty of Physics and Technology.

Only one candidate has submitted application documents for participation in the announced competition: Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD from Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The set of materials submitted by Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD in hard copy complies with the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University and includes the following documents: an application for admission to the competition; a curriculum vitae in Europass format; a higher education diploma certifying the award of a Master’s degree; a diploma for the educational and scientific degree Doctor; a list of scientific publications, accompanied by copies thereof; a list of citations; a statement demonstrating compliance with the minimum national requirements; summaries of the materials under Article 65 of the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University; a self-assessment of the candidate’s contributions; a declaration of the originality and authenticity of the submitted documents; a certificate of employment experience; documents relating to teaching activities; documents relating to research activities; and other documents.

For participation in the present competition, Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD has submitted a total of 31 scientific works:

1. A monograph- 1;

2. A published book based on the successfully defended doctoral dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”-1;
3. Scientific publications- 29;

Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD has more than 30 years of teaching experience. From 1996 to 2017, she successively held the positions of Assistant, Senior Assistant, and Chief Assistant Professor at the Technical College – Smolyan, affiliated with Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski.” Since 2017, she has been a Chief Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Physics and Technology of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski.” In 2015, she successfully defended a doctoral dissertation in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, professional field 5.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation, scientific specialty “Electrical Engineering Materials and Cable Technology”.

Based on the materials submitted for the competition, it may be concluded that the candidate Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD possesses the requisite scientific and professional experience relevant to the position.

2. General Characteristics of the Candidate’s Activity

2.1. Evaluation of Teaching and Educational Activities

During the period 2021–2026, Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD delivered lectures and practical classes in a total of 12 courses at Bachelor’s and Master’s degree levels: “Electrical Engineering”, “Electrical Engineering 1”, “Electrical Engineering 2”, “Electrical Engineering and Electronics”, “Electrical Engineering Materials”, “Electrical Measurements”, “Measurement Technology”, “High-Voltage Engineering”, “Power Conversion Technology”, “Relay Protection”, “Power Electronic Converters in Electric Vehicles” and “Renewable Energy Sources.” Her annual teaching workload ranged from 830 to 1020 classroom hours. Independently or in collaboration with colleagues, she developed eight course syllabi—six for Bachelor’s degree programmes and two for Master’s degree programmes. She is the author of teaching manuals entitled “Electrical Engineering” and “Analysis of Transient Processes in Linear Electrical Circuits,” as well as a co-author of two textbooks: “Electrical Engineering and Electronics” and “Computer Simulations in Electrical Engineering and Electronics Education.” She is a member of the Faculty Quality Assurance Committee and the University Committee for Public Relations and University Events.

The candidate’s active work with students is also noteworthy. During the period 2023–2025, she supervised eight graduating students and reviewed eight theses at both Bachelor’s and Master’s degree levels. She has also submitted a list of 12 publications co-authored with students. In 2009, she supervised a student media team in the development and production of the television programme “Life Semester,” broadcast by the regional television station “Photon-K” in Smolyan. Since 2022, she has been actively involved in organising and preparing students for participation in the annual Olympiad in Theoretical Electrical Engineering.

2.2. Evaluation of the Candidate’s Scientific and Applied Research Activities

My assessment of the scientific and applied research activities of Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD is highly favourable and positive.

In her sole-authored monograph, *Opportunities for Teaching Students through Simulation-Based Studies in Electrical Engineering under Pandemic Conditions*, published by Marti-Deni Group Ltd., Smolyan, 200 pp., ISBN 978-619-7207-32-3, the author presents her teaching experience in electrical engineering education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The

monograph provides specific examples of the use of simulation software for modelling and analysing electrical circuits. It examines opportunities for virtual analysis and experimentation in interactive software environments such as NI Multisim, MATLAB, and others, as well as the application of remote-access laboratories in electrical engineering education. With the resumption of in-person teaching, the methods presented by the author have not lost their practical relevance. They can be successfully applied as a complement to traditional instruction in Electrical Engineering, contributing to its modernisation, improving the efficiency and quality of the educational process, and strengthening its practical orientation.

Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD has submitted 29 scientific publications for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. These publications may be classified into the following categories:

1. Significance:

- Scientific publications in journals and proceedings referenced and indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases – 5;
- Scientific publications in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes – 24.

2. Place of publication:

- Articles in foreign journals – 2;
- Papers presented at scientific conferences abroad – 6;
- Articles in national journals – 6;
- Papers presented at scientific conferences in Bulgaria – 12, of which 4 were international conferences or conferences with international participation;
- Papers published in the scientific proceedings of universities and research organisations – 3.

3. Language of publication:

- English – 13;
- Bulgarian – 16.

4. Number of co-authors:

- Sole-authored publications – 8;
- Publications with one co-author – 7;
- Publications with two co-authors – 4;
- Publications with three or more co-authors – 10.

5. Position of the candidate in the list of authors:

- First author – 15;
- Second author – 7;
- Third author – 3;
- After third position – 4.

During the period 2015–2026, Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD participated in five research projects. Other significant achievements include:

- Member of the Organising Committee of the Second National Conference “Man and the Universe,” held on 13–14 October 2016 in Smolyan;
- Member of the Organising Committee of the National Scientific Conference “Man and the Universe,” held on 25–26 November 2021 in Smolyan;
- Member of the Organising Committee of the International Scientific Conference “Physics–Engineering–Technologies,” held on 22–24 April 2026 in Plovdiv;
- Member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Physics and Technology* since 2026.

2.3. Contributions (Scientific, Applied Scientific, and Practical) and Citations

I consider that the applied scientific, and practical contributions presented accurately reflect the results achieved by Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD.

The candidate's research achievements have received positive recognition from the scientific community, as evidenced by the 30 identified citations. Of these, 12 appear in publications referenced and indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases (Scopus), while 18 appear in non-indexed peer-reviewed scientific publications. These citations amount to a total of 156 points, exceeding the required minimum of 50 points.

2.4. Evaluation of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

I consider that the materials submitted for the competition exceed the minimum national requirements for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor and are of a high scientific, technical, and professional standard. The results of the candidate's research activities have been published in national and international scientific journals and presented at scientific forums, which attests to their significance.

It is evident that Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD is the first author of nearly 50% of the publications and the first or second author of 75% of them. This leads me to conclude that she has played a leading role and made a substantial personal contribution to the research described in the publications.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks regarding the candidate. I consider her to be an excellent lecturer and an accomplished researcher. As a recommendation for her future development, I would suggest more actively disseminating the scientific results she has achieved through publications in specialized, peer-reviewed international scientific journals.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD **meet all** the requirements of Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for implementation of LDASRB and the respective Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate has submitted **a sufficient** number of scientific publications produced after the works included in the defence of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor. The candidate's works contain original scientific-applied and applied contributions that have received international recognition, with a representative selection published in journals and scholarly volumes issued by international academic publishers. The research outputs have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented towards teaching and educational activities. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD **cannot be called into question.**

Having reviewed the materials and scientific publications submitted for the competition, and having analysed their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions contained therein, I consider it fully justified to give my **positive** assessment and to recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a report and proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Physics and Technology for the election of Chief Assist. Prof. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD for the

academic position "Associate Professor" at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, professional field 5.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation (Theoretical Electrical Engineering).

04.08.2026

Prepared the opinion:.....

Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Diana Stoyanova