

OPINION

by Prof. Slavi Yassenov Lyubomirov, PhD, Eng., Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

in: higher education area 5. Technical Sciences,
professional field 5.2 Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation (Theoretical Electrical Engineering).

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 34 of 07.04.2026, and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of "Power Engineering and Communications" at the Faculty of Physics and Technology, the sole candidate is Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD, Eng., of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

By Order No. RD-22-1116 of 05.06.2026 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury of the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU in higher education area 5. Technical Sciences, professional field 5.2 Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation, announced for the needs of the Department of "Power Engineering and Communications" at the Faculty of Physics and Technology.

Documents for participation in the announced competition were submitted by a single candidate: Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD, Eng., of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The set of materials submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Raydovska, PhD, Eng., is in compliance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes: an application to the Rector; a curriculum vitae; copies of diplomas for the Master's degree and for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; a list of scientific publications; annotations of the materials, including a self-assessment of the contributions; a list of citations; a reference regarding compliance with the minimum national requirements; a declaration of originality and authenticity of the materials; a certificate of length of service; references on teaching activity, work with students, and teaching materials; a reference on participation in conferences; and a reference on other activities.

Candidate Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Raydovska, PhD, Eng., has submitted a habilitation thesis — a monograph, a published book based on the defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", and a total of 29 scientific publications beyond the dissertation, of which 5 are in publications refereed and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (Web of Science, Scopus), and 24 are in non-refereed, peer-reviewed publications. Of these, **9 scientific publications (3 indexed and 6 non-indexed)** are

co-authored with me as a member of the Jury — the matter of their assessment is addressed separately in Section 2.3 below.

2. General Characterization of the Candidate's Activity

2.1. Assessment of Teaching Activity and Qualification

The submitted materials show that Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Raydovska, PhD, Eng., has made a substantial contribution to the teaching activity of the Department — developing and updating curricula, laboratory exercises, and teaching materials for the courses she teaches. She has successfully supervised 8 graduated thesis students and has served as a reviewer for an additional number of thesis works in the programs "Power Engineering" and "Power Supply and Electrical Equipment" at both Bachelor's and Master's level. She is the author of a textbook, a study aid, and two teaching manuals. This is evidence of her strong teaching qualification.

2.2. Assessment of Scientific and Applied Scientific Activity

The candidate's scientific activity is concentrated in two main directions: (1) research and modeling of electrical engineering materials and insulation structures — parametric models of dielectrics and inductive elements, methods for diagnosing the insulation condition of high-voltage equipment through measurement of the dielectric loss angle tangent; and (2) the application of simulation and virtual environments (NI Multisim, MatLab/Simulink, TINA-TI) in engineering education in electrical engineering, including under conditions of distance learning.

The submitted habilitation thesis — the monograph "Opportunities for Student Training through Simulation Research in Electrical Engineering under Pandemic Conditions" (2026) — summarizes the candidate's long-standing teaching experience and proposes a tested approach for integrating simulation research as an intermediate stage between theoretical instruction and the real experiment.

2.3. Publications Co-Authored with Me — Not Subject to My Assessment

Of the candidate's 29 scientific publications beyond the dissertation, **9 (three indexed and six non-indexed) are co-authored with me**, namely:

Indexed co-authored publications (Group I 7):

- Shehova D., S. Lyubomirov, V. Raydovska (2018) Research and teaching of digitally programmable oscillators with modeling in TINA-TI environment application of open source, ICERI2018 (WoS) — 13.33 pts.
- Lyubomirov S., D. Shehova, S. Asenov, V. Raydovska (2019) Engineering education and examination of electronic circuits using Multisim, ICERI2019 (WoS) — 10.00 pts.
- Asenov S., V. Raydovska, S. Lyubomirov, D. Shehova (2019) Using of the NextCloud technology in the engineer education, ICERI2019 (WoS) — 10.00 pts.

Non-indexed co-authored publications (Group I 8):

- Lyubomirov S., V. Raydovska, A. Chekichev, M. Nedeva (2015) The Software Platform for Security Alarm System — 5.00 pts.
- Chekichev A., Sl. Lyubomirov, D. Shehova, V. Raydovska, Sn. Shotarova (2016) Modeling of Communication Channel in the Simulink Environment — 4.00 pts.
- Shehova D., A. Chekichev, S. Lyubomirov, S. Shotarova, V. Raydovska (2016) Simulation study of linear operational circuits — 4.00 pts.
- Raydovska V., Sl. Lyubomirov, D. Shehova, An. Chekichev (2017) Microprocessor implementation of a meteorological station in the Arduino development environment — 5.00 pts.
- Shehova D., V. Raydovska, Sl. Lyubomirov, S. Asenov (2017) Teaching of programmable amplifiers with modeling in the TINA-TI environment — 5.00 pts.
- Raydovska V., S. Lyubomirov, D. Shehova (2018) Functional testing and assembly of modules of a microprocessoral meteorological station — 6.67 pts.

The total point value of these 9 publications is 63.00 pts. out of the 357.34 pts. achieved overall under indicator Γ (against a minimum of 200 pts.). **In accordance with established practice and sound academic norms, publications co-authored with a member of the Jury should not be assessed by that member as a reviewer** — such an assessment would constitute a direct conflict of interest and, in effect, a self-assessment of one's own contribution. I therefore state that **I do not offer my own assessment of the scientific value and contributions of the 9 publications listed above**, and merely describe them for the sake of completeness in presenting the candidate's scientific output. The assessment of the remaining 20 publications (294.34 pts. under indicator Γ), which are not co-authored with me, is on its own sufficient to meet the minimum national threshold under indicator Γ .

2.4. Habilitation Thesis (Monograph) — Declared Conflict of Interest

It should be separately noted that the candidate's habilitation thesis — the monograph "Opportunities for Student Training through Simulation Research in Electrical Engineering under Pandemic Conditions" (2026, ISBN 978-619-7207-32-3), carrying 100 of the total 100 points under indicator B — has already been reviewed by me as one of its two reviewers at the time of its publication. **For this reason, it would not be appropriate for me to provide a repeated, independent assessment of the monograph in the present procedure as a member of the Jury** — the opinion I already expressed as a reviewer at the time the work was published cannot be regarded as an impartial new assessment. Since indicator B is covered entirely by this single work, I recommend that the assessment under this indicator be based primarily on the opinions of the other members of the Jury, who have no connection to the prior review.

Citations

A list of citations in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases, has been submitted. According to the reference on compliance with the minimum national requirements, under indicator Δ the candidate has achieved 156 points against a required minimum of 50 points — this indicator is fulfilled well in excess of what is required.

3. Assessment of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

From the submitted scientific works, excluding the publications co-authored with me referenced in Section 2.3, it is evident that the candidate is the first author in a significant portion of her publications, including in all independently published works of recent years (2020–2023). I consider the scientific-applied and applied contributions formulated in these works to be the candidate's own personal achievement. No distribution protocol has been submitted for the multi-author works; however, there is no basis for doubting her active participation in the cited publications.

4. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

My recommendation to Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Raydovska, PhD, Eng., is that her future publication activity continue to be directed toward journals and proceedings refereed and indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, including in the higher quartiles, with a view to further academic development.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD, Eng., comply with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADASRB, and the corresponding Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

With regard to the indicators for which I have no conflict of interest, I find that the candidate meets and exceeds the minimum national and faculty requirements. Her scientific and teaching qualifications are demonstrated by long-standing teaching experience, a substantial teaching workload, and sustained publication activity.

In view of the foregoing — and in particular in view of the declared conflict of interest under Sections 2.3 and 2.4 — I recommend that the Scientific Jury treat this opinion solely as supplementary information, while the principal assessment under indicators B and Γ (with respect to the joint publications) is formed by members of the Jury who have no relation of co-authorship or prior review with regard to the candidate.

With this clarification, I find it justified to give my **positive assessment** with respect to the parts of the materials that I am able to assess impartially, and to recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Physics and Technology for the election of Chief Assistant Professor Velislava Hristova Raydovska, PhD, Eng., to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in higher education area 5. Technical Sciences, professional field 5.2 Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation (Theoretical Electrical Engineering).

05.08.2026

Prepared by:

(Prof. Slavi Lyubomirov, PhD, Eng.)