

OPINION

on the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Methodology of teaching in biology and health education) announced in the State Gazette, issue 63/01.08.2025.

The opinion was prepared by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandria Ivanova Gendjova (SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Methodology of teaching in chemistry and environmental protection), member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by order of the Rector of the Shumen University "K. Preslavski" No. 16-239/ 31.10.2025.

A single candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition - Dr. Klaida Vladislavova Doychinova.

I. General description of the submitted materials

1. Application data

The documents submitted by the candidate for the competition comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (PPZRASRB) and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the "K. Preslavski" University of Shumen (PRASSHU).

To participate in the competition, the candidate Dr. Klaida Doychinova has submitted a list of a total of seven titles, of which 2 monographs and 5 articles in scientific journals. All documents have also been submitted, according to the requirements of Art. 67 of the PRASSHU.

2. Data about the candidate

The participant in the competition graduated as a bachelor in the specialty "Ecology and Environmental Protection" in 2011 at the "K. Preslavski" University of Shumen. She has a master's degree in law at the "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" University since 2016. Ms. Doychinova is defending a dissertation for the ONS "doctor" in 2021 at the "K. Preslavski" University of Shumen. Her doctoral degree is in Theory of Education and Didactics (Biology and Health Education) professional field 1.2. Pedagogy. From 2011 to 2021, she held various positions in the secondary education system. Since 2021, Dr. Doychinova has been a senior

lecturer, and since May 2022, she has been a chief assistant at the "K. Preslavski" University of Shumen.

3. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific works and achievements

Dr. Doychinova participates in the competition with: one monograph as a habilitation work; one monograph that is not a habilitation work; 5 scientific articles, of which she is an independent author, in the journal ACTA Scientifica Naturalis, refereed and indexed by Web of Science.

Table 1 compares the minimum number of points required for the academic position "associate professor" in the professional field Pedagogy of teaching in ... and the individual indicators of the candidate.

Table 1.

№	Group of indicators	Minimum	Individual	Opinion
1	indicators A	50 points	50 points	covered
2	indicators B	100 points	100 points	covered
3	indicators D	200 points	250 points	exceeded
4	indicators E	50 points	60 points	exceeded

All this allows me to draw the following conclusions about the candidate's scientific works and achievements:

- a) the scientific works meet and exceed the minimum national requirements (under the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific Research and Development) for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition;
- b) there is no evidence that the scientific works presented by the candidate repeat those from previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title and academic position;
- c) there is no plagiarism proven in accordance with the statutory procedure in the scientific works presented in the competition.

4. Characteristics and assessment of the candidate's teaching activity

According to the materials provided, the candidate has teaching experience in both secondary and higher education. The documents describe in detail the lectures and exercises given at university courses at bachelor's and master's degrees in the field of the competition, as well as the supervision of graduate research in the same field. All necessary documents are presented according to the requirements, including information on activities to fulfill the additional criteria for the selection procedure.

5. Content analysis of the candidate's scientific and applied scientific achievements

Research activity

The candidate's research is relevant and significant, and can be divided mainly into three thematic areas:

- 1) Ecological competence and the possibilities for its formation within the framework of formal and informal education;
- 2) Development of critical thinking in students through debate, applied in the teaching of biology and health education in secondary school;
- 3) Competency-based approach in the education of teachers of ecology

The candidate has significant authorial scientific and applied scientific contributions with independent scientific articles and monographs related to their projection in the education of biology and health education in Bulgarian schools, as well as in the training of teachers. I believe that the presented scientific results would also be useful for understanding and practice of teaching in other natural science subjects.

Citations

The noted citations presented by the candidate are 12. Half of them are to an article dedicated to constructivist teaching methods in environmental education. The remaining citations are to publications related to: the model for content and technological integration in environmental education; sustainability education; the formation of practical skills in biology, etc.

Participation in Scientific projects and forums

The candidate has declared 7 participations in projects as a member of a scientific project group. One of the projects is national, and the others are funded by the "K. Preslavsky" University of Shumen.

Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The report on scientific contributions is very well and meaningfully written, correctly reflecting the contributions of the candidate. The personal contribution of Dr. Doychinova to the presented achievements is undoubted.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no critical notes.

I recommend that the candidate publish the results of his research in other, more narrowly specialized journals in the field of Science education.

7. Personal impressions about the candidate

I have no personal impressions - I do not personally know Dr. Klaida Doychinova.

8. Conclusion about the candidacy

Based on my familiarization with the presented scientific works, their significance, the scientific, applied scientific and applied contributions contained in them, citations, assessment of teaching activities and participation in scientific projects and additional activities, I find that Dr. Klaida Doychinova meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the relevant Regulations, as well as the Regulations of the University of Shumen for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

II. General conclusion

In conclusion, I give a positive assessment of the candidacy and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to elect Klaida Vladislavova Doychinova to hold the academic position of "associate professor" in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in...(Methodology of teaching in biology and health education).

15.12.2025

Sofia

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. Gendjova