

Box. № 419/KMOTD/13.11.2025

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elisaveta Lazarova Peneva

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member of a jury in the competition for the academic position of **“associated professor”** in the professional area 4. „Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.4. „Earth sciences”, specialty „Oceanology“, scientific profile: "Application of data science, machine learning, statistical and numerical methods in marine sciences", scientific section "Physics of the Sea" at the IO-BAS, Varna, Bulgaria

This statement was prepared according to the Order of the Director of the Institute of Oceanology of the Bulgarian Academy of Science (IO-BAS) No. 301/29.09.2025 on the of the scientific jury members for the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" and the first meeting of the scientific jury held on 10.10.2025. It is in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (PPZRASRB), the Regulations of the BAS and the Regulations of the Institute of Oceanology in relation to the Act.

I. Requirements for the candidate

The only participant in the competition is Head Asst. Prof. Dr. Ivelina Yordanova Zlateva, who works in the scientific section "Physics of the Sea" at the Institute of Oceanology - BAS, Varna. The submitted documents for the competition are complete and in time. The candidate meets the requirements for applying for the academic position of "associate professor" according to Art. 24 (1) ZRASRB, Art. 53 (1) PPZRASRB, and Art. 52 of the Regulations on the terms and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Institute of Oceanology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, namely:

- She has acquired the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional field 5.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation in 2019;
- She has more than 5 years of experience in the relevant scientific field 4.4. Earth Sciences
- She has been a Head Assistant Prof. at the Institute of Oceanology-BAS for 5 years
- She has submitted publications in specialized scientific journals.
- She meets the minimum requirements according to PPZRASRB for the field 4.4. Earth Sciences
- No plagiarism has been proven in scientific papers in accordance with the established procedure

- She has participated in more than 2 projects with external funding for the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Zlateva completed two master's degrees at the Technical University of Varna: one in "Automation and Control Systems" in 2000, and the other in "Industrial Management" in 2009. She worked at the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, and also held a leadership position in the "Satellite Monitoring of Fishing Vessels" section. She also defended her doctoral thesis at the Technical University of Varna in 2019, after which she started working in the Physics of the Sea Section of the Institute of Oceanology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. According to the documents presented, I do not find any violations in the procedure, I consider the criteria for the candidate's eligibility to the competition to be met, which gave me reason to express my statement.

II. Requirements for scientific research activity of the candidate

According to the requirements of Art. 24 (1), item 3 of the ZRASRB and Art. 53 (1) item 3 of the PPZRASRB, the candidate has presented scientific publications in specialized publications, as follows: 20 articles in refereed and indexed journals according to the scientometric databases Scopus and Web of science, as well as 7 in publications that are not refereed or indexed there. In 8 of the publications, Zlateva is the first author, which indicates a significant participation in the research conducted.

The review of the articles shows the following required points by indicators:

Indicator B=135 points (100 points required by the Rules of the IO-BAS)

Indicator D=255 points (220 points required by the Rules of the IO-BAS)

A large part of the publications are dedicated to analysis of the spatial distribution and fish stock of various Black Sea species, as well as assessing environmental risks. Another part concerns the dispersion of plastic pollution in the Black Sea waters, and the study uses statistical models, numerical simulations and machine learning methods. The results of the research are presented in 25 conference reports.

In the scientometric database Scopus.com, 61 citations of 17 documents are found, with an H-index of 5. Thus the indicator related to citations is also fulfilled:

Indicator D=237 points (60 required by the Rules of the IO-BAS).

The candidate also has an impressive record of research projects – 18 international and 13 national, all of which are funded by external to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences sources. The

topics are mostly monitoring the marine environment and pollution; assessing biodiversity and fish stocks for various species; as well as the effects of human activity on the marine environment.

Dr. Zlateva also conducted teaching activities during her doctoral studies at the Technical University of Varna.

III. Personal impression, recommendations and notes

I have no particular comments. I believe that Ivelina Zlateva's career development is consistent and purposeful and the promotion to associate professor is the next natural step.

IV. Conclusion

The examination of the materials submitted for the competition did not reveal any violations in the procedure. The requirements of Art. 24 (1), item 1, item 2 and item 3 of the ZRASRB, Art. 53 (1), item 1, item 2 and item 3 of the PPZRASRB, art. 2 item 4.3 of the Regulations of the BAS related to the ZRASRB and art. 52 of the Regulations of the IO-BAS in relation to the ZRASRB.

Based on the documents submitted for the competition by the Head Asst. Prof. Dr. Ivelina Zlateva and the publications presented by her, my assessment of her candidacy for the academic position "associate professor" in professional field 4.4. Earth sciences (Oceanology) is positive. I recommend that the Scientific Council of the IO-BAS approves the election.

Date: 12.11.2025

Jury member:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elisaveta Peneva/