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ASSESSMENT

by Prof. Dr. Lyubomir Dimitrov

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Member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education: code 4. "Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics", Professional field: code 4.4. "Earth Sciences", Scientific specialty: "Geology of the Oceans and Seas", Scientific field: "Paleoclimate and Geoecology of the Black Sea" at the Institute of Oceanology – BAS, Varna.

1. Information about the procedure and the competition

The competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" was announced in the State Gazette, Issue 63 of 01.08.2025. The only candidate participating in the competition is Dr. Krasimira Ruseva Slavova, senior assistant in the "Marine Geology and Archaeology" scientific section at the Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna. At a meeting on 01.10.2025, the Admission Committee found that the documents submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition meet the requirements of Art. 19 and Art. 24, para. (1) of the ZRASRB; Art. 52, para. (1) and Art. 53, para. (4) of the "Rules for the conditions and procedure for acquiring educational and scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at the Institute of Oceanology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna" and admitted her to participate in the competition. On the basis of the Decision of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Oceanology-BAS of 17.09.2025, the Director of the Institute of Oceanology-BAS issued an order for the composition of the scientific jury for the competition on 26.09.2025. In accordance with this order, the first meeting of the scientific jury was held on October 10, 2025. This assessment is based on the decisions taken at the meeting.

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Krasimira Slavova has submitted comprehensive documentation that allows for the preparation of a reasoned opinion on her scientific research activity and compliance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application. The available information shows that there have been no violations of the competition procedure and the composition of the scientific jury.

2. Information about the candidate

Krasimira Slavova was born on September 19, 1970, in Varna. In 1997, she graduated from the Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov Naval Academy with a degree in Ecology and Environmental Protection and obtained a Master's degree in Ecology.

From 1999 to 2004, the contestant was a doctoral student in the Marine Geology and Archaeology Section at the Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna.

On January 11, 2005, the Higher Attestation Commission awarded her a Doctorate based on her successfully defended dissertation on "Climate and Geocatastrophes in the Black Sea Region." On January 11, 2005, the Higher Attestation Commission awarded her the academic degree of Doctor based on her successfully defended dissertation on "Climate and Geocatastrophic Events in the Black Sea 7,500 Calendar Years Ago." In April 2005, she acquired the scientific title of Senior Researcher I, and from January 1, 2011, to the present, she has held the academic position of Senior Assistant in the Marine Geology and Archaeology Section at the Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She is a long-standing chair of the General Assembly of Scientists at the Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Krasimira Slavova's work experience as a senior assistant is 14 years, which far exceeds the requirements of Article 52 of the Regulations for Holding Academic Positions at the Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The review of the documents submitted by Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Krasimira Slavova for participation in the competition proves that she fully meets the minimum national requirements and those of the Regulations for Occupying Academic Positions at the Institute of Oceanology-BAS for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in PN 4.4. "Earth Sciences."

I have known the candidate since she joined the institute, and my personal impressions of her are excellent. She is a dedicated scientist with good knowledge in her field, meticulous in detail, loyal, and independent.

3. Publications and citations

For participation in the competition, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Krasimira Slavova has submitted a total of 34 scientific publications. Of these, 14 publications are in editions in the global scientific information database Scopus. The submitted report shows that the publications in the competition are both scientific articles referenced in the global database Scopus with quartiles Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4 according to the SJR metric (according to indicators B4 and G7), as well as "other" scientific publications in peer-reviewed publications (according to indicator G7).

Distributed by quartiles, the ratio is: 4 publications in Q1 quartile journals, 2 publications in Q2 quartile journals, 7 publications in Q3 quartile journals, and 1 publication in a Q4 quartile journal. The majority of the publications – 28 – are in English, and 6 are in Bulgarian.

Six of the publications are independent, and the rest are co-authored, with Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Krasimira Slavova as the lead author in 6 of them and second author in 7. This distinguishes her as a researcher with a personal contribution to the field of scientific problems under development.

Based on the publications presented for the minimum requirements for indicator group B, for the academic position of "Associate Professor," the candidate has earned 115 points out of the required minimum of 100 points. For indicator group G, with a minimum requirement of 220 points, the candidate has earned 262 points.

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Krasimira Slavova has submitted evidence of 115 citations in scientific publications of 16 cited publications. Of these, 81 are citations in scientific publications referenced and indexed in the internationally recognized scientific information databases Scopus and/or Web of Science, 14 citations are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, and 20 are cited in non-referenced journals with scientific review.

The citations presented under indicator D11 amount to 487 points, which exceeds the minimum requirement of 60 points several times over. The citations visible in the global databases Scopus and/or Web of Science prove beyond doubt the quality of the scientific output.

4. Most important scientific and scientific-applied contributions

The candidate has presented seven scientific contributions with 22 additional points and three scientific-applied contributions, all related to the study of surface sediments in the Black Sea, with the aim of establishing direct and reverse correlations of the paleoecological conditions of the basin. Each of the contributions is supported by relevant publications and significantly enriches the current knowledge in the field of paleoclimate and geoecology of the Black Sea.

Although some of the scientific contributions, or rather some of the supplementary points, are controversial (such as: "II.1. A new interpretation of the paleoexchange of water masses between the Aegean, Marmara, and Black Seas is proposed, as well as two new models—a deep-threshold and a shallow-threshold model for the depth of the Bosphorus threshold...", remains at the level of hypothesis rather than a proven and fact-supported statement to be considered a significant contribution; "IV.1. New data has been obtained that convincingly traces the evolution of the basin during the late Glacial and Holocene periods...", is more of a collective achievement, as it cites data from geophysical (echo sounder and acoustic) studies in which the candidate does not have the relevant expertise. I accept the candidate's claims regarding the main claims for scientific and applied contributions, as I consider his personal contribution to be indisputable.

Scientific contribution seven: "Research and assessment of radionuclide contamination of Black Sea sediments..." with all sub-points, as well as scientific and applied contributions one and two, are directly related to the geoecology of the Black Sea and complement the scientific direction of the competition "paleoclimate and geoecology." They demonstrate a good research approach and analytical thinking, and I recognize them as original contributions by the candidate.

5. Project activity

The submitted report on participation in research projects shows that Dr. Krasimira Slavova has participated in the implementation of 23 projects – 15 international and 8 national. She is the national coordinator of three international projects funded under contracts with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the coordinator on behalf of the Institute of Oceanology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IO-BAS) for four projects. In the remaining projects, she was a member of the scientific teams. Although the four projects she coordinates on behalf of the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences are aimed at promoting science (European Researchers' Night under the Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 programs), this only demonstrates her commitment and organizational skills.

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Her overall project activity is proof of her personal contribution to scientific research missions and her teamwork skills.

6. Conclusion

Based on the above regarding the content, relevance, and significance of the scientific activity, the recognized scientific and applied scientific contributions, as well as the personal qualities of the candidate, I will vote "FOR" senior assistant Dr. Krasimira Slavova to take up the academic position of "associate professor" in: code 4.4. "Earth Sciences," Scientific specialty: "Geology of the Oceans and Seas," Scientific field: "Paleoclimate and Geoecology of the Black Sea" at the Institute of Oceanology – BAS, Varna.

12.11.2025

Signature


Prof. Dr. L. Dimitrov/