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OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Eng. Ivan Dimitrov Genov, PhD – Associate Professor at the Institute of Oceanology “Fridtjof Nansen”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), Varna (member of the Scientific Jury under Order No. 298 of 26.09.2025)

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific section “Coastal Zone Dynamics” at the Institute of Oceanology – BAS – Varna, in the field of higher education: code 4. “Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics”; professional field: code 4.4. “Earth Sciences”; scientific specialty: “Oceanology,” research area “Wave Processes, Coastal Hydrodynamics, and Coastal Zone Risk,” announced in State Gazette No. 63 / 01.08.2025.

In this competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, the sole candidate is Chief Assistant Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva from the “Coastal Zone Dynamics” section of the Institute of Oceanology – BAS – Varna.

Fulfillment of the Requirements for Holding the Academic Position of Associate Professor

The candidate’s scientific publications include 32 titles, of which 6 are related to the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor,” and 26 are presented for the current competition (22 of them published in journals indexed and referenced in Web of Science / Scopus). No plagiarism has been identified. The large number of published articles with quartile, as well as the large number of citations, which indicate the high quality of scientific production make an extremely good impression. In the scientometric indicator groups B, G, and D, the candidate’s results exceed the minimum required number of points.

I accept without any remarks the report on the original scientific contributions of the candidate, which I believe accurately reflects the research activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva. The modeling studies and the results concerning the wind-wave climate of the Black Sea are particularly notable and contribute to the standardization of methodologies for climatic reconstructions in European seas. The candidate has achieved a significant number of scientific and applied results in studies of wave impact on the coastal zone and flood risk. She declares very good communication, organizational, technical and computer skills, which she obviously applies when performing the practical tasks.

Based on the above, I assess Chief Assistant Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva as a successful and competent scientist with substantial capacity as an experienced researcher of the Black Sea in the areas of wave processes, coastal hydrodynamics, and coastal zone risk.

Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no substantial critical remarks concerning the materials submitted for the competition or the candidate’s scientific works.

I recommend that Chief Assistant Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva, in the further development of her scientific and research career, share her experience and knowledge with doctoral students and young researchers.

Conclusion

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations of the Institute of Oceanology – BAS, Varna.

Her achievements exceed the minimum requirements specified in the LDASRB and IO–BAS regulations. A sufficient number of works published after obtaining the PhD degree have been provided, along with evidence of citations and participation in important national and international projects and scientific forums.

The studies of Chief Assistant Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva contain original scientific and applied contributions.

Based on the above, I am firmly convinced that the election of Chief Assistant Dr. Natalia Kamenova Andreeva to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty “Oceanology” is well-deserved and fully justified.

I give a positive assessment of her candidacy.

11 November 2025

Varna