

## STATEMENT

**by Dr. Vasil Georgiev Georgiev – Associate Professor at the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition

for the academic position of " **associate professor** "

at Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

in: field of higher education 5. Technical sciences

professional direction *5.11. Biotechnology*; specialty Biotechnology,

In the competition for " associate professor " , announced in the SG, issue 21 from 14.03. 20 25 and on the website of the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IMikB - BAS) for the needs of laboratory "Bioremediation and biofuels" at the Department of Biotechnology - IMikB - BAS , as the only candidate participating **Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Yordanova Chorukova** from the same Laboratory.

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate**

By order No. I-66 of 29.04.2025 of the Director of the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, I am appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" at the IMikB - BAS in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, professional direction 5.11. Biotechnologies (specialty Biotechnology), announced for the needs of the Laboratory " Bioremediation and biofuels" at the Department of Biotechnology.

Only one candidate has submitted documents to participate in the announced competition:

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Yordanova Chorukova is in accordance with the "Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences" and includes all required documents, accompanied by the relevant evidentiary materials.

The candidate , Ch. Assist. Prof, Dr. Elena Chorukova, has submitted a total of 41 scientific papers, with a total impact factor of 30.82, H-index = 5 and 122 citations found (According to Scopus 88, and according to WoS - 61 ). 33 scientific papers are accepted for review - 22 in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (including 14 articles, 7 full-text publications in conference proceedings and 1 book chapter) and 11 in non-refereed

journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes. The candidate is the first author in 12 of the submitted publications. 8 scientific works on the dissertation for the ONS "Doctor" are not reviewed. The candidate also attaches a list of participation in 33 scientific forums (28 with international participation) at which he presented 22 talks and 26 posters. Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Chorukova has participated in the implementation of 17 research projects (11 national and 6 international).

The documentation package is well-organized and very detailed.

## **2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities**

To participate in the competition, the candidate Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Chorukova has attached a "Certificate for fulfilling the minimum requirements according to the Law on Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria" and a "Certificate for fulfilling additional criteria for the growth of the academic staff at the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology - BAS for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor". The submitted scientific works can be distributed in accordance with the criteria for the minimum national requirements of the Law on Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations thereto as follows: Group A - dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" = 50 points; Group of indicators B, indicator 4. Habilitation work - scientific publications in publications that are refereed and indexed in WoS / Scopus - 10 publications with a total number of points of 142.57 out of the required 100; Group of indicators D, indicators from 5 to 10, Indicator 7 - 12 scientific papers and Indicator 8 - 11 scientific papers with a total number of points of 250.86 out of the required 200; Group of indicators E, indicator 11. Citations in scientific publications, monographs, collective volumes and patents, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information ( Web of Science and Scopus ): Although the candidate has indicated 92 citations under Indicator 12, taking into account the requirements described in the Regulations for the Application of the ZRASRB, I accept that the number of citations is the one that can actually be reported by the Scopus system – namely 88. I have no comments regarding the 21 citations presented in Indicator 13 and 9 citations in Indicator 14. The corrected number of points under Indicators Group D is 961, which is 50 when required. Overall, the materials presented by the candidate, **Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Chorukova, for this competition significantly exceed the required minimum** according to the ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application, as well as the increased requirements of the Institute of Microbiology - BAS described in the "Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences".

The analysis of the research activity of Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Chorukova shows that she is an established scientist in the field of applied biotechnology, an intensively working scientist in the field of mathematical modeling, the development and application of neural networks and artificial intelligence for successful modeling and management of biotechnological processes with a strong focus on ecological and sustainable biotechnologies for obtaining biofuels. **The topic on which Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Chorukova works is extremely relevant**, in line with the modern trends for green transition and circular bioeconomy and with enormous potential for future development.

I am convinced that the contributions presented by the candidate, Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Chorukova, are original and are the product of her high professionalism and undeniable expertise.

## CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Chorukova **meet all** the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADSRB and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The candidate in the competition **has** presented **a sufficient** number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "doctor".

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** assessment and **to** recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to propose to the Scientific Council of the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology - BAS the election of the Ch. Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Yordanova Chorukova to occupy the academic position of "associate professor" at the IMicB - BAS in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, professional direction 5.11. Biotechnologies (specialty Biotechnology), announced for the needs of the Laboratory " Bioremediation and biofuels" at the Department of Biotechnology of the the Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology - BAS.

10.06. 2025

**Prepared the opinion : .....**

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Georgiev/