REPORT

by Assoc. Prof. Emi Radoslavova Haladjova, PhD

Member of the Academic Jury set to render a decision on the competition for filling the academic position of an Associate Professor in the Professional Field 4.2. Chemical Sciences according to the Classifier of the Areas of Higher Education and the Professional Fields (Scientific Specialty "Organic Chemistry")

This Report is prepared in response to Order № RD-09-53/12.03.2026 issued by the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IOCCP-BAS), following the decision made by the Academic Jury that was held on 17.04.2026. The Report is in compliance with Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Rules for the Application of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Rules of BAS and with the Rules set at the IOCCP-BAS, for applying the Act aforementioned.

Ivalina Trendafilova PhD, is the only admitted candidate on the competition for filling the academic position of an Associate Professor in the Professional Field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Scientific Specialty "Organic Chemistry"), announced in SG no. 13/03.02.2026 at the Laboratory of Organic Reactions of Microporous Materials, IOCCP-BAS.

Assessment of the scientific and research accomplishments of the candidate

The materials presented by Dr. Ivalina Trendafilova for participation in the competition on her scientific research activities, includes 16 co-authored scientific publications, grouped under indicators B.4 and G.7, which do not repeat the presented publications for acquiring the PhD degree. The scientific works assigned to group B, indicator 4, include 5 scientific publications indexed in *Scopus* or *WoS*, 3 of them fall into quartile Q1 and 2 of them into quartile Q2 for the respective year of publication. Thus, the publications presented as the habilitation thesis provide the candidate with a total of 115 points, exceeding the minimum requirement of 100. In all publications included in the group B.4, Dr. Trendafilova is the first author, and in three of them, she is also listed as the corresponding author. According to the candidate's submitted materials, 11 scientific publications out of the habilitation thesis are presented in the group G, indicator 7, all indexed in the databases *Scopus* or *WoS*. The publications in this group are distributed as follows: 7 in quartile Q1, 1 in quartile Q2, 1 in quartile Q3, and 2 in quartile

Q4. These publications give a total score of 234 points, against the minimum of 220 required. Concerning the group D, indicator 11, a list of citations for 14 scientific publications included in this competition is presented by the candidate, which have been cited a total of 198 times in scientific journals indexed in the *Scopus* or *WoS* databases. Self-citations by the authors of the scientific works have been excluded from the citation list. The number of citations grants the candidate 396 points for indicator D.11, which exceed nearly six times the required minimum.

According to the Rules set at the IOCCP-BAS, in addition to the minimum requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" the candidate has presented a list of participation in research projects, scientific conferences, as well as a list of awards, specialization certificates, and others. It is evident from the submitted materials, that Dr. Trendafilova has participated in numerous national and international scientific conferences, some by invitation. The candidate has been involved in a total of 13 research projects, as she has been a project leader of 3 of them. An impressive number of personal grants are presented, including those for conducting research in established international scientific organizations (e.g., UC, Cincinnati, USA; FNCSRIC, Montpellier, France; NU, Namur, Belgium; NIC, Ljubljana, Slovenia). Dr. Trendafilova has also received many national and international scientific awards.

The review of the habilitation report presented for the competition outlines a clearly distinguishable research area, namely the development of mesoporous silica carriers for storage and delivery of biologically active substances. The research is multidisciplinary and falls within a highly topical and rapidly developing field – "nanomedicine." This field has a strong social impact, offering good potential for future development and progress. The contributions of Dr. Trendafilova's scientific works are clearly defined and systematically described in the presented habilitation report, therefore, I will not go into details on them but will only note that they are both fundamental and applied. My impression from reviewing the submitted materials as well as the scientometrics of Dr. Ivalina Trendafilova is that her research is modern and high-level.

Opinions, notes and recommendations

I do not know Dr. Ivalina Trendafilova personally, but my impression of her, based on her scientific activities, is that she is an experienced and motivated researcher, capable of conducting scientific research at a high level on current and significant scientific topics.

Dr. Trendafilova’s contribution to the scientific works considered as habilitation thesis is evident from the fact that she is the first author and/or corresponding author in them.

Nevertheless, I would recommend that when preparing documents, such as reports on scientific contributions, the candidate's personal contribution to the research and the achievement of the obtained results should be clearly emphasized.

Conclusion

The evaluation based on the review of the documents presented for the competition shows that in all groups of indicators (B, G, and D) the candidate Dr. Ivalina Ognyanova Trendafilova not only meets but exceeds the minimum requirements for filing the academic position of "Associate Professor" as defined by the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as those specified in the Regulations for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at BAS and, specifically at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry-BAS. Taking into account this evaluation, the significance of the scientific contributions, as well as my impressions of the candidate's qualities, I strongly and confidently support the candidature of Dr. Ivalina Trendafilova in the competition. I give my positive opinion and recommend the respected members of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry-BAS to support the election of Dr. Trendafilova for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Professional Field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Scientific Specialty "Organic Chemistry") at the Laboratory of Organic Reactions on Mesoporous Materials.

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Report prepared by:

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