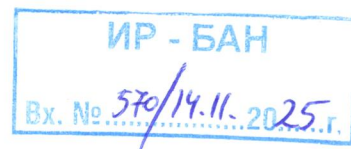


OPINION



by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Denis Safidinov Chikurtev Department of Communication
and Computer Systems Institute of Information and Communication Technologies at
the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Professional field 5.2 Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation

in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Institute
of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in the field of higher education
5. Technical Sciences, professional field 5.2 Electrical Engineering, Electronics and
Automation, for the needs of the IRSU section, announced in State Gazette No. 66
of 12 August 2025

with a candidate: Chief Assistant Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova MD

1. General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied scientific activities.

One candidate participated in the competition – Chief Assistant Dr. Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova, at the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and at the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies. The candidate's research and teaching activities are mainly in the field of the competition. The candidate fully meets the national minimum requirements, as well as those of the IR at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor, as follows:

Indicator A (50 out of 50 points) – a diploma for a PhD degree from the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" from 20.04.2022 was presented.

Indicator B (102.8 out of 100 points) – the candidate has submitted a list of 10 scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information. The presented publications can be combined into three areas: data analysis with application in artificial intelligence, systems and approaches to improve human-robot interaction, social robots and approaches to working with people with special needs. social robotics and human-robot interaction.

Indicator C (219.6 out of 200 points) – Dr. Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova has attached a list of 31 publications (10 issues in G7 and 21 issues in G8). Only one independent publication has been submitted. There is no information whether

the submitted publications are different from the publications on the candidate's dissertation. that the submitted publications under this competition were not used in his dissertation.

Publications numbered 14, 17 and 18 from the submitted list of publications represent the same publication with the same text and figures in different languages. I recognize the submitted publications as one and reduce the points for repetitions by 5.72. The same applies to publications number 15, 16 and 19, again one publication with the same text and figures in different languages. I reduce the points for indicator D from **219.6 to 203.88**. Despite the reduced points, the criterion is met.

The presented publications are in the field of human-robot interaction, social robotics, assistive technologies for people with special needs.

Indicator D (120 out of 50 points) - the author's reference for the citations by group D is accurate and detailed. 12 citations are presented in refereed and indexed world-famous databases with scientific information.

2. Main scientific and applied scientific contributions

The applicant has submitted a list of 6 categories of scientific contributions (a total of nine individual contributions) and 4 applied contributions. Each contribution corresponds to one or more scientific publications. I accept the scientific contributions presented. I do not accept the applied contributions presented.

In my opinion, 3 of the recognized contributions are applied-scientific – 1.1, 3.1, 4.1, and the remaining 6 contributions are applied.

The contributions are on the subject of the competition.
I believe that the contributions are a personal matter of the candidate.

3. Significance of contributions to science and practice

It is noteworthy that most of the publications and contributions of the candidate are extremely directly aimed at solving practical problems in the field of innovative methods and means of human-robot collaboration, social approaches, social robotics, data processing and transfer, image analysis, language models, machine learning.

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical comments.

I recommend applying for profile registration in more systems with scientific information, such as Google Science, Research Gate.

I would recommend the applicant to publish more papers in journals abroad, included in the world-famous SCOPUS and Web of Science databases, with an Impact Factor and/or Impact Rank. In addition, I recommend that the candidate publish independent articles in refereed journals.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I find that the candidate meets the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the Law on Academic Research, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Rules for Occupying Academic Positions of the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Familiarization with the materials of the competition gives me reason to confidently propose Chief Assistant Dr. Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova to take the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 5.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation at the Department of Electrical Engineering of the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. As a member of the scientific jury, I will not hesitate to vote "agree".

Date: 14.11.2025

Member of the jury:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Denis Chikurtev)