



## OPINION

by Prof. Daniela Ivanova Borissova, D.Sc. from IICT-BAS  
on a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor  
in professional field 5.1. Mechanical Engineering, scientific specialty "Elements and Devices of  
Automation and Computing" ("Robotic Devices with Application in Medicine"),  
announced in the State Gazette No. 39/13.05.2025  
for the needs of the section "Robotic and Mechatronic Intelligent Systems"  
at the Institute of Robotics "St. Ap. and Gospeller Matthew" – BAS

**Sole candidate:** Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva

### 1. General information and biographical data

The competition announced in the State Gazette No. 39/13.05.2025 is for the needs of the section "Robotized and Mechatronic Intelligent Systems" at the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

According to the order of Order No. 75/16.07.2025 of the Director of the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, I have been elected as a member of the scientific jury under the announced procedure, and according to the minutes of the first meeting held on 18.07.2025, I am determined to prepare a statement. For this purpose, I have received all the documents under the procedure submitted by the candidate.

### 2. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

According to Art. 57a of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (respectively Art. 27. (3) of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria), the Scientific Jury evaluates the candidates for the academic position of "associate professor" according to the fulfillment of the conditions under Art. 53 and in accordance with the results of the inquiries under Art. 54, para. 1. The fulfillment of these requirements is shown in the following table:

| Candidates for the academic position of "Associate Professor" must meet the following conditions:   | Submitted documents  |
|---|--|
| Art. 53 (1) 1. have acquired the educational and scientific degree "doctor"   | Diploma for EDS Doctor No. 001260 dated 19.06.2020 issued by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – Institute of Robotics |
| Art. 53 (1) 2. for not less than two years: a) have held the academic position of "assistant", "chief assistant", or b) have been a lecturer, including part-time, or a member of a | CV with information about the position held as Senior Assistant Professor at the Institute of                          |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| research team in the same or another higher education institution or scientific organization, or c) have engaged in artistic activity, or d) have been a specialist in practice and have proven achievements in their field   | Robotics "St. Ap. and Gospeller Matthew" at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences since 2017.   |
| Art. 53 (1) 3. have presented a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific publications or evidence of relevant artistic achievements in the field of arts, which do not repeat those presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and for the acquisition of the scientific degree "doctor of sciences". | 10 publications are presented in refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information                           |
| Art. 53 (1) 4. to meet the relevant minimum national requirements and the requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2   | Reference for compliance with minimum national requirements   |
| Art. 53 (1) 5. not have plagiarism proven in accordance with the statutory procedure in scientific works.   | Declaration of originality  |
| Art. 54. (1) Candidates shall submit a certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2, as well as a certificate of original scientific contributions, to which the relevant evidence is attached.   | Reference for fulfillment of minimum national requirements;<br>Reference for original scientific and applied scientific contributions |

The fulfillment of the minimum points by the groups of indicators for the academic position of "associate professor", in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the specific requirements of the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, is presented in the following table:

*Area 5. Technical Sciences,  
Professional Field 5.1. Mechanical Engineering*

| <b>Group of indicators</b> | <b>Content</b>                                      | <b>Associate Professor (min. points)</b> | <b>Presented by the candidate in the competition</b> |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>A</b>                   | Indicator 1   | 50                                       | <b>50</b>  |
| <b>B</b>                   | Indicator 2   | ---                                      | ---  |
| <b>C</b>                   | Indicator 3 or 4                                    | 100                                      | <b>228</b>   |
| <b>D</b>                   | Sum of indicators from 5 to 11                      | 200                                      | <b>207.94</b>  |
| <b>E</b>                   | Sum of the points from the indicators from 12 to 15 | 50                                       | <b>180</b>   |
| <b>F</b>                   | Sum of indicators from 16 to the end                | ---                                      | <b>100</b>   |

### **3. Research activities and results**

To satisfy the indicators of group B, 11 publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science are presented. Seven of the publications are in journals with SJR index, and the rest are indexed in Scopus. For the indicators of group D, information is presented about a published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor". The 6

publications presented in section D7 essentially refer to section D8, as they represent scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review. Consequently, the total number of points for the indicators of group D is reduced to 207.94 points, which exceeds the required minimum number of points for this group. For group E, the candidate has provided data for 18 citations in scientific publications, referred and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, equal to 180 points. Although there are no requirements for indicators from group E, the applicant has submitted information on participation in scientific projects and a registered utility model, the total of which is 100 points.

The Scopus and Researchgate databases show the following scientometric indicators for the candidate:

|                  | Scopus | Researchgate |
|------------------|--------|--------------|
| h-index          | 3      | 6            |
| Author documents | 11     | 29           |
| Citations        | 24     | 70           |

The analysis thus conducted establishes that for some groups of indicators the candidate significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Institute of Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

#### **4. Main contributions to the candidate's scientific and applied scientific activities**

From the presented publications, it can be summarized that the scientific achievements of Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Veronika Atanasova-Georgieva directly correspond to the topic of the announced competition. The main contributions in the publications submitted for participation by Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Veronika Atanasova-Georgieva can be systematized in the following main areas:

- (1) Scientific results in the field of design and implementation of robotic devices with application in medicine,
- (2) Design and development of information systems for collection, processing and visualization of medical data,
- (3) Design and development of appropriate training tools.

#### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks towards the candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Veronika Atanasova-Georgieva. My recommendations are related to publishing in refereed journals that have a wider range of readers, and hence for higher citations.

#### **6. Conclusion**

Taking into account the fulfillment of the requirements, according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the



Regulations on the Specific Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at the Institute of Robotics "St. Ap. and Gospeller Matthew" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, including the references for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, the scientometric indicators from Scopus and Researchgate, it was established that the candidate fully satisfies the requirements for occupying the academic position under the announced competition. **All this gives me sufficient reason to give a categorically positive assessment and I propose to the scientific jury to vote on a proposal to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Robotics "St. Ap. and Gospeller Matthew" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to elect Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 5.1. Mechanical Engineering, scientific specialty "Elements and Devices of Automation and Computing" ("Robotic Devices with Application in Medicine").**

05 of September 2025

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/Prof. Daniela Borissova, D.Sc./