OPINION

by Prof. Ph.D. Ekaterina Ivanova Todorova, Eng. – University of Forestry
(academic position, scientific degree, full name, higher education institution, scientific organization)
of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Higher Education Field 5: Technical Sciences, Professional Field 5.13: General Engineering, Specialization: "Engineering Physics"

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva is a candidate in the competition for the position of Associate Professor—announced in the State Gazette, Issue 53 of June 9, 2026, and on the website of the Technical University of Gabrovo—for the needs of the Department of Mathematics, Informatics, and Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Economics.

1. Overview of the content and results in the submitted works

The sole candidate in the competition, Chief Assistant Professor Ph.D. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva, has submitted a total of 35 scholarly works, comprising 1 monograph, 4 scientific publications in journals refereed and indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases (Web of Science and/or Scopus), and 30 publications in non-refereed, peer-reviewed scientific journals or edited collective volumes. This meets the requirements of the Technical University of Gabrovo: at least 15 publications (the candidate has 34), of which at least 4 are single-authored (the candidate has 5), and 1 with an Impact Factor (WoS) or SJR (Scopus) (the candidate has 4). The candidate has authored one textbook and one study guide related to the field and the subject matter of the announced competition, which complies with the requirements of the Technical University of Gabrovo. Furthermore, 17 citations have been identified (exceeding the minimum requirement of 5 set by TU-Gabrovo) in scientific publications—refereed and indexed in international scientific databases—as well as in monographs and collective scholarly works. All of the above demonstrates that the candidate meets both the national minimum requirements and the specific requirements of TU-Gabrovo for the academic position of "Associate Professor" within the Department of Mathematics, Informatics, and Natural Sciences. The research work addresses current issues concerning natural and technogenic radionuclides and their distribution within various environmental components, as well as the thermomechanical modification and calorimetric characterization of polymeric materials, and the physical principles and applications of high-intensity energy flows. The subject matter investigated holds significant scientific and practical importance. The thematic focus of the presented works aligns with the scope and field of the announced competition.

The candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Ph.D. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva, has submitted documents for the competition that comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Application of the LDASRB, and the Regulations for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at the Technical University of Gabrovo, regarding her advancement to the academic position of "Associate Professor". Based on the foregoing, it can be concluded that the candidate's scientific output is relevant to the competition procedure and addresses issues of current significance to both theory and practice.

2. General Overview of the Candidate's Activities

2.1. Teaching and Pedagogical Activities (Work with Students and Doctoral Candidates)

Chief Assistant Professor PhD Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva has been a lecturer at the Technical University of Gabrovo since 2017. She delivers lectures and conducts practical exercises for full-time and part-time students in the following subjects: Physics, and Vibration Analysis and Noise Protection (for the Bachelor's degree level); Physics (for the Professional Bachelor's degree level); as well as Physics, Air Purification Techniques, Management of Specific Waste Streams, and Radiological Environmental Monitoring (for the Master's degree level). She has supervised 4 students

who successfully defended their Master's theses and has served as a reviewer for 13 Master's theses. She has authored 7 publications with a methodological focus aimed at enhancing the quality of the educational process; these are utilized in her teaching activities at the Technical University of Gabrovo for the training of Bachelor's and Master's degree students, as well as for the supervision of students working on their final theses. Her work with students also extends to their participation in 6 scientific sessions and conferences. Furthermore, the candidate has participated in 7 educational projects.

The candidate holds a Master's degree from the "Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen. Between 2010 and 2014, the candidate developed and defended a doctoral dissertation at the Technical University of Gabrovo. The candidate has completed two periods of specialization: one in Germany at Hochschule Mittweida (June 1 – August 31, 2013), and another under the Erasmus+ program—specifically a teaching mobility assignment at the University of Craiova, Romania (January 8 – January 23, 2023).

2.2. Scientific and Applied Scientific Activity

Chief Assistant Professor Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva, PhD, has established herself within the academic community as a lecturer and researcher in the fields of physics, radiological monitoring, vibration analysis, and noise protection for environmental conservation.

The research work of Chief Assistant Professor Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva, PhD, encompasses the following areas of scientific interest: physics, physics teaching methodology, modern technologies in physics education, laser technologies, electron-beam material processing, ecology, and environmental protection. In addition to her teaching and research activities, Chief Assistant Professor Ph.D. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva actively participates as a researcher in the implementation of research projects—29 national and one international.

Between 2023 and 2026, she serves as the lead of three projects: "Modern Engineering Solutions for Environmental Management and Protection – Stage 3" (2024), "Intelligent, Eco-friendly, and Energy-saving Technologies in Modern Industry and Practice – Stage 1" (2025), and "An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Industry through Intelligent and Innovative Technologies" (2026)—all of which are directly aligned with her research interests and expertise.

2.3. Implementation Activities

The candidate's scientific results are successfully applied both in teaching activities and in the execution of research projects. One such project, titled "Laser Technological System with a CuBr Laser," was funded by the South Korean company BIZON, which facilitates the practical application of the results. The scientific-applied contributions hold potential for implementation within industrial enterprises.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's teaching, research, and scientific-applied activities, as well as the results she has achieved, I highly rate the professional and academic qualifications of Chief Assistant Professor Ph.D. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva. I consider that the presented scientific results, applied contributions, and pedagogical competencies demonstrate the necessary qualifications and professional preparation for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor."

3. Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, and applied). Significance of the contributions to science and practice.

I accept the primary scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions, based on the following rationale: they provide a realistic and reliable insight into the connection between the scientific research, the obtained results, and their practical applicability.

All contributions, regardless of their nature, are structured into four areas: radioecological monitoring of natural environments and biological objects (distribution, accumulation, and transfer of radionuclides); high-intensity energy flows (physical principles, materials processing, and applications); thermomechanical modification and calorimetric characterization of polymeric materials; and thermoluminescent materials for UV and radiation dosimetry. Despite the candidate's efforts, the distinction between scientific-applied and applied contributions is minimal; merging these categories would likely lead to a more comprehensive and unambiguous definition of the

contributions. The specific results—which form the basis for these contributions—are significant, verified, scientifically proven, and indisputable.

4. Assessment of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

The analyses, assessments, conclusions, and results presented in the candidate's scholarly works are set out clearly, coherently, and precisely. The works demonstrate an ability to systematize and critically analyze existing scientific concepts, as well as to formulate well-substantiated conclusions and positions regarding the issues under examination. Chief Assistant Professor Ph.D. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva, has authored 5 independent publications. Based on the materials submitted, I conclude that the scientific and applied scientific contributions formulated therein are the personal work of the candidate.

5. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I recommend that the candidate focus primarily on publishing in prestigious scientific journals—including those with an Impact Factor (WoS) or an SJR (Scopus) ranking—as this will increase the visibility of her research work and lead to future references and citations.

6. Personal impressions

I do not know the candidate personally and have no personal impressions.

7. Conclusion

Following a review of the materials and documents submitted for the competition and an assessment of their compliance with the requirements—as stipulated by the Regulations for the Application of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (published in the State Gazette, Issue 75 of September 24, 2010... most recently amended in the State Gazette, Issue 59 of July 22, 2025) and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and the Occupation of Academic Positions at the Technical University of Gabrovo—it is determined that the candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Ph.D. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva, has accumulated 534.44 points, exceeding the required minimum of 400 points. Given that the candidate has surpassed both the national minimum requirements and the additional criteria established by the Technical University of Gabrovo, and considering her research activities, contributions, and their significance to the field, I conclude that the candidate meets all legal requirements for appointment to the academic position of "Associate Professor".

In view of the above, I propose that Chief Assistant Professor Ph.D. Daniela Gospodinova Nedeva be appointed to the academic rank of "Associate Professor" in the Field of Higher Education 5. Technical Sciences, Professional Field 5.13. General Engineering, and the specialty "Engineering Physics."

October 18, 2026 Jury Member:

/Prof. Ph.D. E. Todorova, Eng./