

## Opinion Statement

by Prof. Dr. Boyko Lazarov Berov, Geological Institute at BAS – member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position “**Professor**”, Area 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional Field 4.4. Earth Sciences, Scientific Specialty “*Methods and Techniques of Geological Investigations*”, for the needs of the Department of **Geology and Geoinformatics** at the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” (State Gazette, issue 41 of 05.05.2026).

This opinion was assigned to me on **9 July 2026**, during the first meeting of the scientific jury, established by Order No. RD-13-26/01.06.2026 of the Rector of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” (UMG). The document has been prepared in accordance with the **Guidelines for Preparing Reviews and Opinions** of UMG “St. Ivan Rilski”. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov is the sole candidate in the competition. He is a lecturer in the Department of **Geology and Geoinformatics** at the Faculty of Geological Prospecting of UMG.

### Biographical Information

Ivan Ivanov was born on **20 March 1968** in the village of Malomir, Yambol District. In 1987 he completed his secondary education at the Technical School of Mining Industry “Temelko Nenkov” in Dimitrograd, specializing in **Underground Mining Construction**. He holds a **fifth professional qualification rank** in underground mining construction and has worked under real production conditions in the “Minyor” mine of the MARBAS mining enterprise.

His professional career as a geologist began in **1994**, when he graduated from UMG with a degree in **Engineering Geology – Mineral Exploration**.

In **1995**, he won a competition for full-time PhD studies at the Geological Institute of BAS, in the Laboratory for Precambrian Studies, headed by Senior Research Fellow I degree, Dr. Dimitar Kozhukharov.

In **1999**, he obtained the educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**” at the Geological Institute of BAS. His dissertation topic was: “*Sequence of Metamorphic and Deformation Events in the Gneiss-Granites of Southern Sakar*”. In 2000, he was appointed as **Research Associate II degree** at the Geological Institute – BAS.

Between **2001 and 2007**, the candidate specialized at the **University of New Brunswick (Canada)**. This specialization was carried out upon invitation by **Prof. Emeritus P. F. Williams**. He worked on the project “*Structural Geometry of the Chaleurs Synclinorium as an Aid to Mine Design and Prospecting*”, funded by the Canadian Research Council.

In addition to the applied scientific research he carries out, he teaches General Geology and leads practical classes in Structural Geology, Geological Mapping and Rock Mechanics at the Department of Geology of the University of New Brunswick. At this university he holds the position of **Research Associate** under the project cited above.

This seven-year stay in Canada has made a substantial contribution to his professional and scientific development. The accumulated experience, the research methods he mastered, and the scientific contacts he established have shaped him into a researcher with a broad scientific outlook and have had a positive impact on the quality of his scientific, teaching and expert work.

Since 2008 he has been an Assistant, teaching Structural Geology and Geotectonics in the Department of Geology and Paleontology at the Faculty of Geological Prospecting of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, and since 2011 he has held the position of Associate Professor in Geotectonics in the same department, now renamed the Department of Geology and Geoinformatics.

I emphasize the biographical data of the candidate in order to highlight his long and consistent career in the field of **Geology** and its subdisciplines.

### **Characteristics of the Submitted Materials**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Ivanov meets the requirements of Art. 29, para. 1 and Art. 29b, para. 1 of the **Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB)**, as well as the criteria set out in the **Regulations for the Application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RALDASRB)**. The candidate covers both the minimum national indicators and the additional requirements of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, and therefore has been admitted for evaluation within the present procedure.

The submitted materials are comprehensive and allow a complete and objective assessment of his scientific, teaching and expert activity. A total of **46 publications** have been submitted for the competition, of which **9** are in Group B and **37** in Group G. None of them duplicate or repeat publications previously used in his competitions for “Associate Professor” or “Doctor”.

### **Scientometric Indicators**

The summarized information presented below in Table 1 regarding the candidate’s scientific and publication activity clearly shows that he fully meets the minimum national and institutional scientometric criteria established for holding the academic position “**Professor**” in Professional Field 4.4. Earth Sciences.

The evidence submitted for the individual indicators is correctly structured and does not duplicate works used in the procedures for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” or for the habilitation to the position “Associate Professor”. In this way, the candidate complies with the requirement to avoid repetition of publications and other scientific materials at different stages of academic advancement.

**Table 1. Scientometric indicators for holding the academic position “Professor” (4.4. Earth Sciences – State Gazette, issue 23 of 18 March 2025)**

| <b>Indicators</b>                            | <b>Minimum requirement</b> | <b>Achieved by the candidate</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Group A (Doctor)</b>                      | 50 points                  | 50 points                        |
| <b>Group B (Habilitation work or 10...)</b>  | 100 points                 | 156 points (B-3)                 |
| <b>Group C (Publications)</b>                | 200 points                 | 259 points                       |
| <b>Group D (Citations)</b>                   | 100 points                 | 139 points                       |
| <b>Group E (Doctoral students, projects)</b> | 150 points                 | 340 points                       |

#### **Distribution of publications substituting the Habilitation work**

| <b>Publication category</b> | <b>Number</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Q1</b>                   | 3             |
| <b>Q2</b>                   | 1             |
| <b>Q3</b>                   | 1             |
| <b>Q4</b>                   | 3             |
| <b>SJR-indexed edition</b>  | 1             |

## **Main Scientific and Applied Contributions**

The scientific and applied results presented by the candidate are reliable, and with this opinion I accept that they represent his own original scientific work, fully corresponding to the thematic scope of the competition. The contributions are clearly formulated, well-argued, and directly related to his professional specialization.

The scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov is characterized by clear thematic development, an interdisciplinary approach, and a distinct practical orientation. His research covers a wide range of fields: methods of geological investigations, structural and engineering geology, geomorphology, geoconservation, geotourism, as well as the application of modern geoinformation technologies.

The publications presented by the candidate skillfully combine classical field-based geological methods with modern techniques for spatial analysis and digital modeling.

The main scientific contributions can be grouped into several key areas. A significant part of them is related to the structural geology and petrography of magmatic complexes in Bulgaria, with these studies contributing to a more detailed clarification of their internal structure, evolution, and geodynamic interpretation. An essential place is occupied by the works dedicated to the implementation of geoinformation systems and remote-sensing methods in geological investigations. These studies propose methodological solutions for spatial analysis, processing, and interpretation of geological data, which are applicable in the assessment of natural resources and the modeling of geological processes.

An important focus of the candidate's scientific work is research in the fields of geoconservation, geological heritage, and geotourism. Methods have been developed for the identification and evaluation of geosites, as well as for their sustainable management, including within the framework of the concept for the "Eastern Balkan Geopark". The publications devoted to engineering geology and geological risk assessment also have practical value, offering methodologies for analyzing and modeling natural hazards.

It should also be emphasized that the candidate actively participates in national scientific-research projects as both a leader and a team member, demonstrating organizational skills and the ability to produce scientific results with practical application.

In summary, the scientific works presented contain important original scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions. They enrich knowledge in the field of geological research methods and introduce modern geoinformation approaches into geological practice. The candidate's scientific output demonstrates a fully developed researcher with a clearly defined scientific profile, fully meeting the requirements for holding the academic position of **"Professor"**.

## **Teaching Activity**

The teaching work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov has been steadily developed over the years and covers a wide range of disciplines related to geological investigations,

geoinformation technologies, engineering geology, and geomorphology. As a lecturer in the Department of Geology and Geoinformatics, he is actively involved in the education of bachelor's and master's students, delivering lectures, leading practical exercises, conducting field training, and supervising diploma theses.

The submitted materials demonstrate a high teaching workload and engagement in both theoretical instruction and practical training of students.

The development of teaching materials and a textbook further demonstrates his commitment to improving the quality of the educational process. Assoc. Prof. Ivanov has made a significant contribution to the supervision of diploma students, doctoral candidates – three in number – and young researchers, involving students in real scientific research tasks through his project activities. Based on the submitted documents, his teaching activity fully meets the criteria for holding the academic position of **“Professor.”**

### **Visibility and Scientific Recognition**

The scientific visibility of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov is high and is demonstrated both through the fulfillment of scientometric criteria and through his active publication and project work. The candidate significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements for the position of “Professor,” presenting a total of **942 points** against the required **600**, distributed across all indicator groups.

His publications have been issued in international and Bulgarian scientific journals, with citations in editions indexed in international databases. His scientific recognition is further confirmed by his participation in national and international projects, including as project leader, which demonstrates established authority and organizational capacity.

The candidate maintains active scientific contacts through participation in conferences, forums, and expert initiatives, and his involvement in interdisciplinary teams shows that his expertise is sought after both in academic settings and in applied scientific projects. The presented indicators, citation record, and project activity convincingly demonstrate high scientific productivity and strong international recognition, fully corresponding to the requirements for the position of **“Professor.”**

### **Personal Impressions and Recommendations**

I have known Ivan Ivanov since 1999, when we were colleagues at the Geological Institute of BAS. I hold excellent impressions of his depth of understanding and meaningful insight into the problems he addressed with professional rigor then and continues to do so now. He consistently establishes himself as a highly qualified and dedicated researcher, distinguished by perseverance, professionalism, and high standards in scientific, applied, and field work.

Throughout his career, he has become a preferred partner and co-author in various scientific teams working on complex research projects, as well as a sought-after expert in the implementation of significant international, national, and regional projects.

For the future development of his scientific activity, it is advisable for him to continue expanding his international collaboration, including through participation in more European and international research projects. This would enhance the international visibility of his results and broaden his scientific partnerships. It would also be beneficial for a larger share of his future publications to be directed toward high-ranking international journals indexed in **Web of Science** and **Scopus**. Such publication activity would increase the citation impact and international recognition of his scientific work. These recommendations aim to support the further development and stronger international positioning of his research.

## **Conclusion**

I consider Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov to be an established scholar and lecturer with proven scientific achievements, a significant contribution to the development of methods and techniques in geological investigations, and active teaching and research activity. The submitted works are up-to-date, contain original scientific and applied contributions, and fully correspond to the thematic scope of the competition.

The candidate significantly exceeds the national and institutional requirements for the position of “Professor,” demonstrating high scientific productivity, solid publication activity, international visibility, successful project work, and substantial teaching experience. His scientific activity is consistent, recognizable, and of clear fundamental and applied significance.

I give my positive assessment of the candidate’s scientific and professional work and strongly recommend that the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury prepare a positive report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Geological Prospecting Faculty at the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov to the academic position “**Professor**” in Professional Field 4.4. *Earth Sciences*, specialty “*Methods and Techniques of Geological Investigations*”, for the needs of the Department of **Geology and Geoinformatics** at the Geological Prospecting Faculty of UMG.

**Sofia, 26.08.2026**

**MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY:**

**/Prof. Dr. Boyko Berov/**