

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Plamen Georgiev Ivanov, Geological Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – member of the scientific jury in a competition (issue 41 of the "State Gazette" dated 05.05.2026) for the academic position of "professor", Area 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional Direction 4.4. Earth Sciences, scientific specialty "Methods and Techniques of Geological Research", at the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski", Sofia.

The opinion was prepared on the basis of order No. RD-13-26 of 01.06.2026 of the Rector of the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski" and a decision of the first meeting of the scientific jury of 09.06.2026. The opinion is in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its Implementation (PPZRASRB), the Higher Education Act (ZVO) and the Rules for Holding Academic Positions at the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski".

Candidate details

The only candidate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov, meets the conditions under Art. 29 (1) and Art. 29b (1) of the ZRASRB, the Regulations for its implementation (PPZRASRB) and the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the additional ones of the University of Mining and Geology, which has allowed him to be evaluated in this competition.

Ivan Ivanov graduated from the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski" in 1994 with a specialty "Search and exploration of minerals" (master's degree). He received his doctoral dissertation with the topic: "Sequence of metamorphic and deformation events in the gneiss-granites of South Sakar" (Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), for which he acquired the ONS "Doctor" (1999).

In 1998, he started working at the Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a geologist, and then as a research associate of the 2nd degree (2000). Since 2008, he has held the position of assistant and senior assistant in structural geology and geotectonics in the Department of Geology and Paleontology at the Faculty of Geology of the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski", and since 2011 - associate professor in geotectonics in the same department, now the Department of Geology and Geoinformatics.

Specializations and courses: In the period 2001–2007 at the University of New Brunswick (Canada). There he worked on the project *Structural geometry of the Chaleurs Synclinorium as an aid to mine design and prospecting*, funded by the Canadian Research Foundation, holding the position of Research associate.

Scientific research and applied scientific activity

Publication activity. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Ivanov is the author of a total of 93 publications, and in the competition for a professor he participated with 46 scientific papers, which do not repeat the publications submitted for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and the academic position "associate professor". The list includes: 18 scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information - WoS and SCOPUS; 28 scientific publications in publications not indexed in WoS, Scopus, ERIH+ or other profiled databases, thematic collections, including collections of international and national scientific forums. The submitted works fully correspond to the professional field and scientific specialty for which the competition was announced.

Of the 46 publications submitted for the competition, the candidate is the first author in 20 of them (9 independent). 25 publications are in English, and the remaining 21 - in Bulgarian.

In addition, the candidate has participated with scientific reports in a number of national, national with international participation and international scientific forums and conferences.

Participation in scientific, research and applied science projects.

After assuming the academic position of “associate professor”, Dr. Ivan Ivanov has participated in a total of 15 projects – of which he was the head of 4 national or educational projects and a participant in 11 national or educational projects. He is also the author of a number of scientific and applied developments and of protected geological reports for mineral deposits with a protocol from the SEC to the Directorate of Natural Resources and Concessions at the Ministry of Energy.

Scientometric indicators. The data on the candidate's scientific and publication activity summarized in Table 1 show that he fully covers the minimum national and institutional scientometric indicators for holding the academic position of "professor" (Professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences), and evidence (publications, etc.) is not repeated for the various indicators presented for acquiring the educational and scientific degree of "doctor" and the academic position of "associate professor".

Table 1. Scientometric indicators for holding the academic position of "professor" (4.4. Earth Sciences - State Gazette, issue 23 of March 18, 2025)

Indicators	Minimum requirement	Completed by the candidate
Group A	50 points	50 points
Group B	100 points	156 points (B-4)
Group Γ	200 points	259 points
Group Д	100 points	139 points
Group E	150 points	340 points

Distribution of publications

Publications in:	number
Q1	3
Q2	1
Q3	2
Q4	5
edition with SJR without IF	3
WoS and Scopus without SJR without IF	4
other publications	28

Main scientific and applied scientific contributions of the candidate.

I accept the scientific and applied scientific contributions presented in this way and that they are the personal work of the candidate and are directly related to the scientific topic of the competition (Methods and techniques of geological research). In the attached Author's Reference for Scientific and Applied Scientific Contributions, the candidate has correctly separated the scientific contributions relating to the articles (Group B-4), corresponding to the habilitation work.

The predominant part of the candidate's scientific research, throughout his entire scientific career, as well as the contributions presented in this competition, can be divided into the following groups:

- ☐ Morphotectonic and geomorphological studies;
- ☐ Studies related to the search, exploration and evaluation of minerals;
- ☐ Geochemical and ecological-hydrochemical studies;
- ☐ Stratigraphic and tectono-stratigraphic studies;
- ☐ Structural-geological studies.
- ☐ Geotechnical studies oriented to rock massifs;

Of the contributions thus proposed, I would like to emphasize the adaptation of the methods of structural geology for geotechnical studies of rock masses - the proposed methodologies contribute to a better understanding of the deep connection between fundamental structural geology and modern geotechnics.

Teaching activity

During the 7-year specialization in Canada (2001–2007), in addition to the scientific and applied research that he carried out, he taught general geology and led exercises in structural geology, geological mapping and rock mechanics in the Department of Geology of the University of New Brunswick.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov is related to his work as an assistant (2008) in structural geology and geotectonics in the Department of Geology and Paleontology, now renamed the Department of Geology and Geoinformatics at the Faculty of Geological Exploration of the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski". During this period (2008–2026), the candidate has successfully supervised a total of 12 master's students of the Department of Geology, as well as three successfully defended doctoral students (Georgi Nachev, Dimitar Sachkov and Dian Strahilov).

The candidate is also the author of two textbooks: Handbook of Structural Geology (2010) and Structural Geological Analysis and Mapping for Applied Geology (2018). They are not included in this competition.

Visibility and scientific recognition of the candidate

The scientific recognition of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov is indisputable and is due to his high publication activity in a number of international and Bulgarian scientific journals, indexed in international databases.

Citations of scientific works. The publications of the candidate in the competition have been cited 33 times. The most citations (24) are in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes (Scopus and/or WoS). One citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and the remaining 8 citations are in non-refereed publications.

Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks about the candidate's scientific work. I have known him for nearly 30 years, since he joined the Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a full-time doctoral student. I believe that he is a well-rounded scientist with deep knowledge in his field - both scientific and of great practical value.

Conclusion

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov for the competition, the scientific and applied scientific contributions contained in them, the relevance of the researched problems fully meet the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act, the Regulations for its implementation, the Higher Education Act and the Rules for holding academic Positions at the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski".

This gives me reason to give a **positive assessment** of the scientific and professional activities of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Ivan Dimitrov Ivanov** and to confidently recommend that he be elected to the academic position of "professor" at the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski" in the professional field 4.4. "Earth Sciences", scientific specialty "Methods and Techniques of Geological Research", for the needs of the Department of "Geology and Geoinformatics".

Sofia, August 28, 2026

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY:

/ Prof. Dr. Plamen Ivanov /