STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Eng. Georgi Valentinov Hristov, University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev", Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation, Department of Telecommunications

**regarding the holding of the academic position "Associate Professor"
in the field of higher education – 5. Technical Sciences,
in the professional field – 5.3 Communication and Computer Engineering,
specialty – "Platform-Based Design"**

In the competition for Associate Professor, announced in the State Gazette, No. 89/24.10.2025 and on the website of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" for the needs of the Department of Computer Systems and Technologies at the Faculty of Technical Sciences, the candidate is Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart – Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov".

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

The candidate, Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart, participates in the competition with 24 scientific works, distributed as follows:

Habilitation work – monograph – 1 item;

Published book based on a defended doctoral dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" – 1 item;

Scientific publications in journals indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized scientific databases – 17 items;

Scientific publications in non-indexed journals with peer review or in edited collective volumes – 5 items.

Of the total 22 scientific publications submitted, 17 are in English and the remaining are in Bulgarian. Of the publications, 3 are single-author, and the rest are co-authored, with the candidate being the first author in a large portion of them. Of all publications, 17 (79%) are indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized scientific databases.

The candidate's submitted data for meeting the minimum requirements to hold the academic position "Associate Professor" at Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" are as follows:

Indicator group	Indicator	Minimum requirements for associate professor	Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart
A	Indicator 1	50	Dissertation 50 pts.
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	Monograph 100 pts.
C	Sum of indicators 5 to 11	300	Publications 318.37 pts.
D	Sum of indicators 12 to 15	100	Citations 210 pts.
E	Sum of indicators 16 to 28	100	Projects 490 pts.
	Total:	650	1168.37

The scientific publications submitted for the competition do not duplicate those listed in the abstract for the award of the PhD degree. I accept all submitted materials for review.

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2. General characterization of the candidate's activity

2.1. Teaching and pedagogical activity (work with students) According to the provided records, the candidate meets the annual teaching workload norm. Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart has participated in the development of curricula and delivers lectures in the following courses: Specialized Practice – Practical (Bachelor), Practical Training 4 – Technical College (Bachelor, Professional Bachelor), Programming of Client-Side Web Applications (Lectures + Practice, Bachelor) and Web Services (Lectures + Practice, Bachelor), included in the curricula of specialties in the Faculty of Technical Sciences – full-time and part-time studies for the degree of Bachelor. She participated in developing the curriculum for Specialized Practice – 4th year and in the development of the curriculum for Programming of Client-Side Web Applications. Regarding work with students and doctoral candidates, she conducts: practical training supervision: guidance of practical training in 2024 (44 students) and 2025 (47 students), as well as consultations: weekly four hours, scheduled according to teaching load.

2.2. Scientific and applied research activity

A strong expression of the candidate's scientific activity is shown in the presented records across all indicators. The submitted materials amount to 1168.37 points, which significantly exceed the required minimum (650). Of all the publications submitted to the procedure, 22 (79%) are indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized scientific databases. The number of citations in international databases is impressive and is an excellent testament to the scientific activity. In the Scopus platform, Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart has an h-index of 4, sufficiently high for the field of technical sciences.

2.3. Implementation activity

The research focuses on the digitization of cultural heritage, semantic models, the application of artificial intelligence and the development of innovative digital solutions for museum and cultural institutions. The publications present a consistent contribution to the standardization of digitization processes in Bulgaria, including through the construction of ontologies, structured descriptive models and integrated methodologies for managing digital resources. Particularly significant are the applied developments implemented in several museums, where digital collections, interactive exhibitions, virtual collections and VR environments have been created. These implementations demonstrate effective interaction between theoretical models and the practical needs of cultural institutions.

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

Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart has provided a very detailed account of the achieved scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions from her scientific publications (AUTHOR'S STATEMENT and SUMMARIES of the scientific works of Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart). I fully agree with the presented contributions. The achieved contributions can be applied in the fields of: Digitization of cultural heritage, Ontologies, semantic networks and digital libraries, Implementation of technologies in museums and cultural institutions, Digital archives and scientific heritage, Technological innovations for natural sciences and accessibility, and AI, VR and engineering technologies.

4. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

Evidence of the candidate's personal contribution includes: significant scientific publications, the impressive total number of citations in Scopus; participation in international and

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national projects; participation in committees of prestigious national and international conferences. Her involvement in conducting the research related to the publication activity is indisputable. The author's personal contribution regarding the monographic work is fundamental for enriching scientific knowledge and providing new perspectives on the examined topic. The author not only proposes a unified semantic framework for describing objects of cultural, historical, natural and scientific heritage but also actively participates in the processes of integrating this idea, which makes the research extremely valuable from an applied viewpoint. In the course of the research and analyses, Dr. Stewart has established contacts and partnerships with other researchers, institutions and organizations in Bulgaria and Europe, increasing the visibility and impact of her research. The author of the monograph demonstrates the ability to present complex ideas in accessible language, facilitating the popularization of the research among a wide audience. These factors combined contribute to the creation of an individual profile and to the recognizability of the author at national and European levels.

In the above, I have emphasized in each section the candidate's personal contribution and authorship in this competition, as indicated in her submitted "Declaration of Authenticity." This gives me grounds to state the absence of plagiarism and the presence of academic integrity in the materials submitted by Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart for participation in this competition.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

The presentation of the submitted materials for the competition is well prepared. I have no objections to the submitted materials and to the candidate's scientific output, but I recommend that Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart increase her publication activity in prestigious scientific journals in Q1 and Q2 categories and those with an impact factor.

6. Personal impressions

I know Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart personally. I have excellent impressions of her gained from our joint work on scientific projects and activities with social and public impact. The general characterization of the candidate is that Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart is a long-standing lecturer with authority, having progressed through the main stages of academic development, possessing a high level of research and development activity, a well-known scholar nationally and internationally.

7. Conclusion

The materials submitted by the candidate demonstrate significant scientific output, exceeding the minimum requirements of the Higher Education Act, its implementing rules and the Procedural Rules of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov." The evidence for the individual criteria is sufficient and indisputable.

In view of the above, I propose that Assist. Prof. Dr. Radovesta Todorova Stewart be elected as "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education – 5. Technical Sciences, professional field – 5.3 Communication and Computer Engineering, specialty – "Platform-Based Design."

01.03.2025 г.

Member of the jury:

/Prof.