

STATEMENT OF OPINION

on the scientific works submitted for the competition for the academic position of “Professor” by Assoc. Prof. Ilina Tsvetanova Doykova, PhD, candidate for the academic position of “Professor” in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, specialty “English for Medical Purposes,” announced in the State Gazette, No. 50/02.06.2026, for the needs of the Department of Western and Classical Languages, Department of Foreign Language Education, Communication and Sport at the Medical University – Varna

Prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petina Valentinova Vicheva

Field of higher education: 2. Humanities

Professional field: 2.1. Philology

Scientific specialty: General and Comparative Linguistics, including Applied Linguistics

Place of employment: Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy

Address: 73 V. Drumev St., Varna

The competition for the academic position of “Professor” in the specialty “English for Medical Purposes” in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, was announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 50 of 02.06.2026, for the needs of the Department of Foreign Language Education, Communication and Sport at the Medical University “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov,” Varna. The only candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Ilina Tsvetanova Doykova, PhD. The competition procedure and the submitted documents have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Article 4, Paragraphs 1 and 2; Article 29a, Paragraph 1), Article 6, Paragraph 1 and Article 139, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna, and Order No. R-109-278/30.07.2026 issued by Prof. Dr. Dimitar Raykov, MD, PhD, Rector of the Medical University – Varna.

The candidate meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of “Professor” under Article 26, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria concerning the acquisition of academic degrees and the holding of academic positions.

1. Professional Development of the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Ilina Tsvetanova Doykova, PhD, was born on 22 February 1967 in Varna. She graduated from the First Language School in Varna and completed a master degree in Bulgarian and English at St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo, obtaining the qualification of teacher of English and Bulgarian.

In 2016, she obtained the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor” in Germanic Languages (Modern English) at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen. Her professional career includes teaching and academic positions at the University of Economics – Varna, the Technical University – Varna, higher education institutions and educational institutions in Germany, as well as at the Medical University – Varna, where she has held the academic position of “Associate Professor” since 2018 and has served as Director of the Department of Foreign Language Education, Communication and Sport since 2022.

Assoc. Prof. Doykova’s research and expert activities focus primarily on specialised and medical English, academic communication, foreign-language teaching methodology, and contemporary educational technologies. She is the author and co-author of 81 scientific publications, textbooks and monographs, and has participated in numerous national and international scientific forums and international projects, including projects related to language education in healthcare.

She actively develops curricula and teaching materials for various medical specialties, supervises and advises doctoral students, participates in scientific juries, and prepares reviews and statements for academic procedures. Since 2010, she has been a licensed ECL examiner for English, German and Bulgarian.

Her professional competence is further enhanced by specialisations and qualifications acquired in Bulgaria and abroad, not only in English for Academic Purposes, digital education, medical pedagogy, but also in the use of artificial intelligence in teaching.

2. Description of the Scientific Works Submitted in Connection with the Competition

Assoc. Prof. Doykova participates in the competition for the academic position of “Professor” with a total of 39 scientific and teaching-methodological works, which demonstrate the consistent and sustained development of her research and teaching activities.

Her scientific output includes 1 monograph, 1 published book based on a doctoral dissertation, 30 articles, of which 4 have been published in refereed and indexed journals and 26 in non-refereed publications, 5 textbooks, and 2 co-authored monographs.

A significant part of the publications addresses current issues in applied linguistics, specialised and academic English, language education, and professional communication.

3. Major Scientific Results and Contributions

3.1. Evaluation of the Habilitation Work

The monograph “Academic Teaching through English: Language and Pedagogy in Medical Higher Education” addresses the topical issue of effective English-medium instruction in higher education by combining approaches from applied linguistics, university pedagogy, academic discourse, and internationalisation.

A major contribution of the work is the systematisation and conceptualisation of the notion of "Academic Teaching through English" (ATE), as well as its differentiation from related concepts such as EMI, CLIL, EAP and ESP.

Of particular value is the empirical basis of the study—a corpus of 50 academic lectures in medical specialties, through which differences in the linguistic and rhetorical organisation of lectures delivered by native and non-native speakers of English are identified.

A significant strength of the work is its practical orientation towards lecture and seminar teaching, assessment, academic speech, and the professional development of university teachers. The author convincingly demonstrates that effective teaching through English requires not only a high level of linguistic competence but also pedagogical, professional, rhetorical, and intercultural skills.

The monograph offers practical models and tools for improving teaching practice and makes a significant scientific and applied contribution to the development of EMI, EAP, ESP, and medical education.

Although the broad interdisciplinary scope of the study limits the possibility of examining certain aspects in greater depth, this is justified by the overall conceptual framework of the work.

In conclusion, the monograph represents a topical, scientifically grounded, and practically significant study that contributes to contemporary higher education and the internationalisation of academic teaching.

3.2. Scientific Contributions

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Ilina Doykova are characterised by thematic consistency, interdisciplinarity, and a strong theoretical and applied orientation.

The monograph is a natural outcome of a consistently developed line of research, its principal contribution being the development of an interdisciplinary model of academic teaching through English in medical higher education.

Among the significant contributions are studies in the field of contrastive linguistics and translation, focusing on translation equivalence, interlingual transformations, and medical terminology; corpus-based analyses of medical academic and professional discourse; as well as research into academic writing and language competence.

An important place is occupied by contributions to the methodology of teaching English for Medical Purposes, including the creation of the university textbook series "Professional Communication in English", as well as the development of contemporary approaches to electronic assessment, test banks, and the use of artificial intelligence in language teaching and assessment.

The scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilina Doykova demonstrate sustained research interest and recognition within the academic community, as evidenced by the 17 identified citations of her scientific works.

The cited publications cover major areas of her research activity, including academic and medical discourse, the structure and linguistic characteristics of scientific texts, medical terminology, English for Medical Purposes, and electronic and communicative language teaching.

The citations in scientific publications, monographs, and collected volumes, including publications with international visibility, demonstrate the topicality of the research issues addressed and the practical and scientific significance of the results obtained. They also attest to the candidate's contribution to the development of research in applied linguistics, specialised English, and medical academic communication.

In summary, the scientific results have significant theoretical and scientific-applied value, enriching applied linguistics and the methodology of specialised language teaching and finding direct application in the practice of medical higher education.

4. Conclusion

The scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilina Tsvetanova Doykova convincingly demonstrates that she is an established researcher with a clearly recognisable academic profile and an individual scholarly contribution in the field of applied linguistics and the methodology of specialised language teaching.

The submitted publications contain original scientific contributions, demonstrate international visibility, and reflect a high level of methodological competence.

Based on my overall assessment, I consider that the candidate fully meets the national and institutional requirements for holding the academic position of **"Professor"** in professional field 2.1. Philology, specialty **"English for Medical Purposes."**

In view of the arguments presented above, I give my **categorically positive assessment** and confidently recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury vote in favour of the election of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ilina Tsvetanova Doykova** to the academic position of **"Professor."**

14. 09. 2026

Prepared by:
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petina Vicheva

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679