



OPPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of "**Professor**" in professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences, scientific specialty Organic Chemistry, announced in the State Gazette No. 48 of May 26, 2026, with candidate **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marin Neykov Marinov**

from **Prof. Dr. Rositsa Dimitrova Nikolova**, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," appointed as a member of the scientific jury pursuant to Order No. RD 16-769/June 22, 2026, of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv

1. Brief presentation of the candidate.

The sole candidate in the procedure, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marin Marinov, graduated from Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University in 1998, specializing in Biotechnology. In 2004, he obtained his doctoral degree from Angel Kanchev University of Ruse with a dissertation titled "Synthesis and Characterization of Sulfur Analogs of Spirohydantoins and Their Derivatives" in the field of Bioorganic Chemistry and the Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Substances. From 2004 to 2006, he worked as a specialist and later as a chief specialist in validation at Balkanpharma-Razgrad AD. From 2006 to 2010, he served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," and from 2010 to 2013, in the Department of General Chemistry at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. Following a competitive selection process in 2013, he was appointed Associate Professor at the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, where he continues to work.

2. General description of the scientific output.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marin Marinov is participating in the competition for the academic rank of "Professor" with a total output of 22 works, categorized as follows:

☐ *Scientific publications in the designated field of specialization* – 22 items, comprising:

- *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation* – 2 items (excluded from consideration);
- *Publications with an impact factor* – 15 items;
- *Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals* – 5 items;
- *Publications in conference proceedings* – 2 items;

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marin Marinov's personal contribution to these 22 works is evidenced by the fact that he is the first author on 13 of them, the second author on 8, and the third author on 1. The absence of single-authored publications is not surprising, given that the scientific output presented by the candidate requires the expertise of specialists from various fields.

- ☐ Textbooks – 1 item.
- ☐ Study guides/manuals – 4 items.

The candidate's total number of publications is 110, of which 34 have an impact factor.
Twenty-two items are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.

3. Teaching activity.

The candidate's teaching activities involve instruction in Chemistry, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry across all degree programs at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, as well as specialized courses.

Teaching workload.

Over the past five years, Assoc. Prof. Marinov has conducted lectures and practical exercises in Organic Chemistry, General Chemistry, Chemistry, Polymers in Agro-ecosystems, Polymers in Plant Protection, Operational Materials for Agricultural Machinery, Anti-corrosion Coatings, and Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry for various university degree programs, as well as lectures and exercises in Organic Chemistry under the Erasmus program. Based on the information provided, I cannot determine which of these courses are established curriculum staples and which were personally developed by the candidate; however, they cover an impressively wide range of topics. It should also be noted that the specialized courses require extensive preparation across diverse fields of knowledge.

Teaching activities are complemented by the supervision of two PhD students who have successfully defended their theses, with three additional PhD students currently in training.

Published teaching materials.

Assoc. Prof. Marinov is a co-author of a textbook on Organic Chemistry for students in non-chemistry majors and of three study guides related to Organic Chemistry, all published by the Academic Publishing House of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Developed curricula.

Based on the information provided, I cannot determine which of these courses are established curriculum staples and which were personally developed by the candidate.

4. Research activity.

Areas of publication.

Assoc. Prof. Marinov's research lies in the field of organic synthesis, focusing primarily on the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds and their metal complexes, their structural characterization using spectral and analytical methods, and the investigation of their biological activity. This research focus aligns with the scientific specialization of the competition.

Citation and indexing of scientific output.

Assoc. Prof. Marinov is participating in the competition with 22 publications and has documented 75 citations in international databases. A total of 138 citations of his indexed publications have been recorded in Scopus, and his h-index is 7.

Participation in research projects.

Assoc. Prof. Marinov has made a significant contribution to the project activities at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. He has served as the scientific supervisor for five university projects and two projects funded by the National Science Fund. He has also participated in nine university projects and one international research project.

5. Observations and recommendations..

The presented scientific publications address problems of significance to both science and practice, and the resulting novel heterocyclic compounds hold potential for application in various fields. The extensive array of synthetic and spectroscopic methods employed in the synthesis, characterization, and biological evaluation of the compounds is noteworthy, as it requires expertise extending beyond the realm of organic synthesis alone. The subject matter is timely and significant, and the research is primarily fundamental in nature.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific, and applied-scientific activities, I consider that Assoc. Prof. Marin Neykov Marinov, PhD (Eng.), meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation, and the Agricultural University's internal regulations, thereby satisfying—and in some instances exceeding—the necessary criteria. Assoc. Prof. Marinov's research and publications fall within the scientific field for which the competition was announced—organic chemistry—while his pedagogical work covers virtually all branches of chemistry.

All of this gives me grounds to assess views his overall work **POSITIVELY**. I take the liberty of recommending that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote in favor, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marin Neykov Marinov to the position of Professor in Professional Field 4.2 Chemical Sciences, specializing in Organic Chemistry.

18.09.2026

Prof. Rositca Nikolova, PhD