REVIEW

on the competition for the award of the academic position of "Professor"

Field of Higher Education:	4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics
Professional Field:	4.6. Informatics and Computer Science
Scientific Specialty:	Informatics (Open Science and Innovations in Digital Cultural Heritage)
Announced in:	State Gazette No. 63 of 10 July 2026 and on the website of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI)
For the Needs of:	Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IMI–BAS)
Prepared by:	Prof. Peter Stanchev, DSc
Member of the Scientific Jury for the Competition, pursuant to	Order No. 87 of 8 September 2026 issued by the Director of IMI

The only candidate who submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is: **Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Dobreva.**

I. General Description of the Submitted Materials

1. Candidate Application Details

The documents submitted by the candidate for the competition comply with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for its Implementation, the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at BAS.

2. Information about the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Petrova Dobreva graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where she defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Modelling Orthographic Diversity in 13th-Century Slavic Manuscripts of Bulgarian, Russian and Serbian Recensions". From June 2001 to May 2008, she held the academic position of Associate Professor at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). From September 2023, she worked at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and since December 2025, she has been a member of the team of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics. Her professional career has also included positions at the University of Strathclyde, Scotland; the University of Malta; and UCL Qatar in Doha, Qatar.

3. General Overview of the Scientific Publications and Fulfilment of Requirements

A total of 18 scientific publications have been submitted for participation in the competition, comprising 8 articles in scientific journals, 9 papers published in conference proceedings, and 1 chapter in an edited thematic volume. With regard to compliance with the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of BAS and IMI, as defined by indicator groups in the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at IMI (ПУРПНСЗАД -IMI) for the academic position of Professor in professional field 4.6, the following results have been reported: Indicator Group A – 50 points; Indicator Group B – 130 points; Indicator Group G – 248 points; Indicator Group D – 282 points; Indicator Group E – 550 points. The candidate has not supervised a doctoral student who has successfully obtained the educational and scientific degree of Dr. Some of the projects have not been described in accordance with the established requirements and could not be located. Notwithstanding these observations, **the reported scores for the individual indicators substantially exceed the required minimum thresholds**.

Regarding the requirement that candidates must not use publications, citations or other evidence that have already been submitted in previous procedures for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor, the scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences, or the award of an academic position, I establish that **the submitted materials have not been used in previous procedures.**

The examination of the citations submitted for the purposes of the competition revealed no self-citations, i.e. cases in which the cited and citing publications have at least one author in common. A total of 47 citations of the scientific publications submitted for participation in the competition have been identified.

With regard to fulfilment of the additional specific requirements of IMI for candidates applying for the academic position of Professor, pursuant to Article 3 of ПУРПНСЗАД -IMI, the candidate has submitted 18 publications in journals and proceedings indexed in Web of Science or

Scopus. For professional field 4.6, a total of 15 publications in journals with an Impact Factor (IF) or SJR (SCImago Journal Rank) or Journal Rank (SJR) have been reported. All these publications were published or accepted for publication after the date of the candidate's most recent procedure for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of Doctor, the scientific degree of Doctor of Sciences, or an academic position. The results achieved exceed the established requirements.

Of the scientific publications submitted, 2 were published in journals classified in Quartile Q2 and 1 in Q3. A total of 11 publications appeared in journals with an IF or SJR. The average number of co-authors per publication submitted for participation in the competition is 5, with only one publication being single-authored.

Having examined the candidate's scientific publications, I have found no evidence of plagiarism. No plagiarism has been established through the legally prescribed procedure either.

4. Substantive Analysis of the Candidate's Scientific and Applied Scientific Achievements Presented in the Competition Materials

The candidate's scientific publications address several main thematic areas: Computer methods for processing, searching and providing access to digital cultural heritage; Research into user models, requirements specification and evaluation of digital information systems; Semantic interoperability and the development of open infrastructures for digital cultural heritage; Open science, citizen participation and the co-creation of knowledge; Education and the development of competencies in the field of digital cultural heritage.

5. Assessment of Project Work and Other Activities

The submitted scientific publications are associated with the candidate's participation in the implementation of a number of successfully completed research projects. The submitted materials also document her leadership contribution to two projects funded in England, which have been reported as national projects.

6. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no substantial critical remarks concerning the materials submitted for the competition or the candidate's scientific publications. As a recommendation for her future research activities, I would suggest increasing the number of single-authored scientific publications.

7. Personal Impressions

I have known the candidate for many years and can highlight her achievements in developing and successfully securing research projects.

8. Conclusion Regarding the Candidate's Application

As a result of my analysis of the competition materials and the significance and contributory nature of the scientific publications submitted, I confirm that the candidate's scientific achievements meet the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for its Implementation, the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at BAS, and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at IMI-BAS.

In particular, the candidate fulfils the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of BAS and IMI for the relevant professional field, and no plagiarism has been identified in the scientific publications submitted for the competition.

I give my **positive assessment of the candidate's application**.

II. Overall Conclusion

Having reviewed the materials and scientific publications submitted for the competition and analysed their significance and the scientific, research-oriented and applied contributions contained therein, I consider it justified to give my positive assessment and recommend that the Scientific Jury propose to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences that **Assoc. Prof. Milena Petrova Dobreva** be elected to the academic position of Professor in Field of Higher Education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics; Professional Field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science; Scientific Speciality: Informatics (Open Science and Innovations in Digital Cultural Heritage).

Sofia

Date: November 2, 2026

Prepared by:

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