STATEMENT

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition

for the academic position of Associate Professor

Scientific area:	4. Natural sciences, mathematics and Informatics
Professional field:	4.6. Informatics and computer sciences (Informatics)
For the needs of:	Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”
Announced in:	State Gazette (SG), No. 69 / 31 July 2026
Author of the statement:	Assoc. Prof. Emil Georgiev Delinov, PhD, Department of Cybersecurity, Faculty of Digital and Green Technologies, Trakia University, Stara Zagora (Professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences)

I submit this statement as a member of the scientific jury for the announced competition, pursuant to Order No. 605 of 30 September 2026 issued by the Rector of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”, Varna, and the decision adopted by the scientific jury at its first meeting on 7 October 2026, on the basis of which I was appointed as a member of the jury responsible for preparing a statement. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for its Implementation, Ordinance No. 3 on the Academic Staff of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”, and the scientometric criteria for professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences for the academic position of **Associate Professor**.

The announcement of the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in scientific area 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences, for the needs of the Department of Computer Sciences at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”, was published in the State Gazette, No. 69 of 31 July 2026.

The sole candidate in the competition is **Chief Assist. Prof. Ivan Stanimirov Stoyanov, PhD,** from the Department of Computer Sciences at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”. The candidate meets the minimum national requirements under Article 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the DASRBA.

The set of materials submitted in electronic form by Chief Assist. Prof. Ivan Stanimirov Stoyanov, PhD, complies with the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for its Implementation, and Ordinance No. 3 on the Academic Staff of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”.

I have found no procedural irregularities.

1. Information about the candidates

The sole candidate in the competition, **Chief Assist. Prof. Ivan Stanimirov Stoyanov, PhD**, graduated from Sofia Mathematics High School “Paisii Hilendarski”. He obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Finance from the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, and a Master’s degree in Software Technologies, specialising in Mobile Systems and Applications, from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” in 2019. In 2023, he successfully defended a dissertation entitled “Research on the Development of a Virtual Operator in an Intelligent Agriculture Infrastructure” at the same university and faculty, earning the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD) in professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences, doctoral programme Informatics.

Since 2021, he has worked at the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where he currently holds the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor. Since 10 July 2026, he has also held the position of Chief Assistant Professor at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”. The candidate is entered in the Register of Academic Positions and Dissertations of the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID) and is a member of the John Atanasoff Union of Automation and Informatics.

2. Description of scientific works and contributions

The works submitted by Chief Assist. Prof. Ivan Stoyanov, PhD, for participation in the competition comprise 12 publications and one collective monograph contribution (submitted as a habilitation work), as follows:

- Monograph (chapter in a collective monograph) – 1;
- Journal publications – 5;
- Publications in proceedings of international conferences available through IEEE Xplore – 7.

The book “Artificial Intelligence in 24 … / Book Three” (Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, 2024, ISBN 978-619-245-470-8, 804 pages) is presented as the habilitation work. The candidate authored an independent chapter of approximately 120 pages devoted to an introduction to generative artificial intelligence. All publications are in English and appear in outlets referenced and indexed in the internationally recognised scientific databases Web of Science and Scopus. Four have an impact factor: two in quartile Q1, one in Q2, and one in Q4. Through the submitted works and citations, the candidate meets and exceeds the scientometric indicators required for the academic position of Associate Professor under the minimum national requirements of Article 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the DASRBA, as well as the additional requirements of Article 18, paragraph 2 of Ordinance No. 3 on the Academic Staff of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”.

I accept the following correspondence of indicators:

Indicator group	Content	Minimum for Assoc.Professor	Ivan Stoyanov, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 4	100	100
G	Sum of indicators 7 and 8	200	417
D	Sum of points under indicator 11	50	152
	Total	400	719

The scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions of the publications submitted for this competition fall within professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences. They are grouped into the following interrelated areas of artificial intelligence, its applications and its teaching in education:

- Event-based models and modelling of intelligent systems;
- Knowledge-based systems;
- Intelligent assistants and agent-oriented systems;
- Artificial intelligence education in secondary schools;
- Generative artificial intelligence.

I am not aware of any established plagiarism in the submitted scientific works.

3. Research and teaching activities

The research activities of Chief Assist. Prof. Ivan Stoyanov, PhD, have a direct educational orientation and demonstrate sustained interest and practical teaching experience. These activities include developed and approved artificial intelligence curricula for specialised and innovative secondary schools, teacher qualification courses and teaching materials, as well as experimental teaching involving 115 pupils and an assessment of seven competencies in 53 pupils using criterion-referenced diagnostics and Bloom’s taxonomy. This work provides a valuable foundation for his teaching activities at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”, where he has held the position of Chief Assistant Professor since July 2026 and where his teaching work is yet to develop.

He also actively participates in four research projects: the Ministry of Education and Science National Research Programmes “Intelligent Crop Production” (No. D01-65/19 March 2021) and “Intelligent Animal Husbandry” (No. D01-62/18 March 2021); project KP-06-M62/2 “Knowledge Modelling in the Field of Bulgarian Folklore”, funded by the National Science Fund; and project IS-PGR-SADOVO “Intelligent System for Managing the Bulgarian Plant Gene Pool Preserved in the Gene Bank of the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources – Sadovo” (Contract No. KP-06-N86/9 of 9 December 2024).

The candidate has presented results of his research at the international conferences BdKCSE, ICAI and IEEE Intelligent Systems.

My recommendations to the candidate are to devote time to working with students and to involve them in research activities in professional field 4.6. Informatics

and Computer Sciences through course projects, diploma theses and subsequent dissertations.

4. Conclusion

On the basis of the documents submitted in the procedure, I conclude that:

- the candidate, **Chief Assist. Prof. Ivan Stanimirov Stoyanov, PhD**, meets all the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for its Implementation, and Ordinance No. 3 on the Academic Staff of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor;
- he possesses in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge, demonstrated research capabilities in professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences, and the necessary prerequisites for a successful teaching career.

This gives me grounds to provide a **positive evaluation**, and I propose that the esteemed scientific jury unanimously prepare a report-proposal to the competent body of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” for the appointment of **Chief Assist. Prof. Ivan Stanimirov Stoyanov, PhD**, to the academic position of Associate Professor in scientific area 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences.

02.11.2026 г. Member of the scientific jury:

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/Assoc. Prof. Emil Delinov, PhD/