OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Dariya Milcheva Mihaleva
Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" – Varna

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "professor" in the professional field 5.7. Architecture, construction and geodesy (Construction materials, products and technologies of their production).

In the competition for a professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 69/31.07.2026 and on the website of the VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" for the needs of the Department of "Construction of Buildings and Facilities" at Faculty of Architecture, Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Rositsa Veselinova Petkova-Slipets from Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" participated as a candidate.

1. Short geographic data

Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Rositsa Veselinova Petkova-Slipets graduated from the Technical University of Varna in 1999 with a Master's degree in "Metal Technology and Metalworking Equipment". In 2004, she defended her dissertation on the topic "Theoretical and Experimental Study of the Carbide, Nitride and Carbonitride Phases of Some Transition Group Metals" and acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Her professional development at the VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" began in 2006 as a part-time lecturer. She successively passed through the academic positions of "assistant" (2007), "chief assistant" (2009) and "associate professor" (since June 2011). She has been registered in the NACID register as a habilitated person since 2014. Currently, the candidate has over 20 years of total teaching and research experience. Since 2020, Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets has been Dean of the Faculty of Architecture.

2. Total description of the submitted materials

To participate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Rositsa Petkova-Slipets has submitted a full set of required documents and materials. The submitted scientific production, which has not been used in previous procedures for acquiring the ONS "Doctor" and AD "Associate Professor", includes:

- 2 stand-alone textbooks –"Building Materials (First Edition)" and "Building Materials (Second Edition)";
- 1 monograph – "Structure of Materials: Hierarchical Levels, Research Methods, Relationship with Properties";
- 23 publications – 12 articles in refereed and indexed global databases (Scopus/Web of Science), of which 1 in Q1, 1 in Q2, 4 in Q3 and 6 with scientific abstract/indexing; 6 publications in peer-reviewed publications from the National Reference List of NACID and 5 publications in other international and academic peer-reviewed publications.

3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

The candidate has presented a list of 87 known citations, a significant part of which (64) are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes. This impressive number of citations is a clear

proof of the high international authority of the candidate and the significant impact of her research on the global scientific community.

4. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

4.1. Educational and pedagogical activity

Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets is an established lecturer with an exceptionally rich teaching experience. She leads lecture courses and tutorials at the Bachelor's and Master's level in the following disciplines:

- Building materials – Part I and II;
- Construction materials and technologies;
- Building materials and their condition in case of fire;
- Design materials and technologies;
- Machine elements;
- Energy-efficient construction;
- Materials for additive technologies;
- Low-carbon products and green deal;
- Modern building materials;
- Building materials and their condition in case of fire;
- Building structures and their behavior in case of fire.

Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets also teaches in English to foreign and Erasmus students.

All disciplines are provided with up-to-date learning and digital resources.

Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets has been the scientific supervisor of 5 doctoral students (one of whom successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in 2024) and actively prepares students for participation in scientific forums.

4.2. Scientific and applied scientific activities

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets is focused on the field of fundamental and applied materials science, structure formation and phase stability of materials, the development of new ecological and energy-saving construction products, and non-destructive testing and materials testing.

Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets has extensive experience in project management and implementation. She was the coordinator of 2 significant projects under OPNOIR and OPRKBI (including for the establishment of the Technology Transfer Office of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar"), a senior researcher and expert in a number of projects under the National Innovation Fund (NIF), Operational Programs, FNI, etc.

Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets is a member of the International Editorial Board of the journal Civil and Environmental Engineering (Slovakia, Scopus Q3) and of the e-Journal of the VFU "C. Hrabar". She has held roles as an external expert at the Slovak Research Agency (SRDA), the Scientific Research Fund and the National Innovation Fund.

Excellent proof of her high scientific value and public recognition are the prestigious awards she has received, including as a team leader, the winner of the collective "VARNA Award" for 2026 for achievements in the educational and research activities of the Faculty of Architecture, as well as the individual Gilded Breastplate "Chernorizets Hrabar" (2026).

4.3. Contributions

The contributions to the scientific and applied science production of Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Rositsa Petkova-Slipets are indisputable and I fully accept its categorization as scientific, applied science and applied contributions.

5. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

The analysis of the submitted competition documents shows that the quantitative and qualitative indicators of Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets categorically cover and significantly exceed the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and para. 3, respectively, and the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of the ZRASRB for occupying the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, professional field 5.7. Architecture, construction and geodesy.

6. Critical notes

I have no critical comments regarding the materials submitted for the current competition for the academic position of "professor".

7. Personal impressions

As a long-time colleague, I have excellent and direct impressions of the professionalism and personality of Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Rositsa Petkova-Slipets. I know her as an extremely hardworking, principled and ethical lecturer and researcher who puts inexhaustible energy and precision into every endeavor she undertakes. Assoc. Prof. Petkova-Slipets is an extremely dialogical and collegial person – always responsive, ready to share her rich experience and lend a hand of support to both young assistants and her established colleagues.

8. Conclusion

Having considered the above, I propose Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Rositsa Veselinova Petkova-Slipets to be selected as a "professor" by professional direction 5.7 Architecture, construction and geodesy (Building materials, products and technologies of their production) **for the needs of the Department of "Construction of Buildings and Facilities" at the Faculty of Architecture of Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar".**

30.10.2026

Jury member:

/Assoc. Prof. PhD Eng. Dariya Mihaleva/