

СОФИЯ
on a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Mineralogy and Crystallography) for the needs of the department "Mineralogy and Mineral Raw Materials" at the Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography "Acad. Ivan Kostov" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, announced in the "State Gazette", issue 36, 29.04.2025.

Candidate: *Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Elena Slavcheva Tacheva, Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography - BAS*

Chairman of the Scientific Jury: *проф. д-р Проф. д-р Михаил П. Тарасов, Институт по минералогия и кристалография - БАН*

The only candidate in the competition is **Dr. Elena Slavcheva Tacheva**, Chief Assistant Professor in the department "Mineralogy and Mineral Raw Materials". The documents submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition meet the regulatory requirements of the "Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDAS), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDAS (RILDAS), the Regulations of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (RBAS) and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at the IMC-BAS. Elena Tacheva graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2004 as a Master of Science in Geology (Petrology and Lithology). Her scientific and research development began in 2006 with a full-time doctoral program. In 2013, Elena Tacheva acquired her PhD degree. After that, she worked as an assistant, and from 2019 to the present, as a chief assistant professor at the IMC-BAS.

Dr. Elena Tacheva participated in the competition with 34 publications (Documents 6, 7, 13) – 30 in English and 4 in Bulgarian. All publications are co-authored. In 3 publications, the candidate is the lead author. In preparing this opinion for the assessment of meeting the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor", the requirements of the REGULATIONS ON THE CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING SCIENTIFIC DEGREES AND FOR HOLDING ACADEMIC POSITIONS IN THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES were taken into account, as updated in accordance with Decree No. 17 of March 14, 2025 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria for professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences.

Of the 34 publications submitted for the competition, 32 are recognized. Two publications No. 1 and No. 19 are discarded due to non-compliance with the criteria for "other publications in peer-reviewed editions". Of the total of 32 publications, 18 (23 (?) according to the candidate, Document 9) are in publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information; 10 publications have a Q rank in WoS and/or SCOPUS databases (Q1 – 1, Q2 – 5, Q3 – 0, Q4 – 4); 8 publications are in editions indexed and referenced in WoS; 14 are referred to "other publications in peer-reviewed editions". The table below shows the total values for several indicators that are used to assess the candidate's compliance with the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. From the table it follows that under indicator **B** the candidate collects 101 points (with a minimum required of 100 points), under indicator **Г** – 220 points (with a minimum required of 220 points), under indicator **Д** (citations of publications) – 215 points (with a minimum required of 60 points), from which it follows that the candidate meets the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor", although at the borderline under indicators **B** and **Г**, and under indicator **Д** (citations) with a significant excess of the minimum requirements.

According to Scopus and Web of Science, the candidate's Hirsch index (h) is equal to 2 (excluding self-citations, etc.). The candidate's h-index, according to Research Gate, is 3, and according to Google Scholar, it is equal to 5.

Table. Assessment of the candidate's compliance with the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor"

Indicators	Minimum requirements in BAS (points)	The achieved results (points) for E. Tacheva with details by types of publications
В	100	Total – 101 points: - Q1 publications – 1 (No. 8) – 1x25=25 points - Q2 publications – 1 (No. 2) – 1x20=20 points - publications in WoS editions (without Q and IF) – 4 (Nos. 6, 9, 10, 11) – 4x8=32 points - other publications in peer-reviewed editions – 4 issues (Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7) – 4x6=24 points
Г	220	Total – 220 points: - Q2 publications – 4 (No. 21, 31, 33, 34) – 4x20=80 points - Q4 publications – 4 (No. 20, 27, 28, 29) – 4x12=48 points - publications in WoS editions (without Q and IF) – 4 (No. 22, 24, 25, 26) – 4x8=32 points - other publications in peer-reviewed editions – 10 (No. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 30, 32) – 10x6=60 points
Д	60	Total – 215 points точки (56 citates)

In addition to the minimum requirements for candidates for the academic position of "associate professor", Dr. E. Tacheva has participated in national and international scientific events - congresses, conferences and symposia with 31 reports and poster presentations in co-authorship. She is a participant in a total of 7 projects (2 international and 5 funded by the Ministry of Education; 2 projects are ongoing). So far, the candidate has not led a scientific project.

The candidate's scientific activity can be classified into two main areas: (1) composition and properties of accessory minerals from intrusive rocks as part of petrological, geochemical and geochronological studies (this is typical of the earlier stages of her scientific activity); (2) application of electron microscopy methods in the study of minerals, artificial phases, archaeological artifacts and other materials related to the study and protection of the environment. In the majority of publications with the candidate's participation, the scientific contribution is collective. However, the candidate's participation can be seen in the qualitatively performed analytical work using electron microscopic techniques and the reliable interpretation of the obtained data. It is recommended that the candidate be more active in his future work and have more publications in which she is the lead author.

There are no significant critical remarks or questions regarding the submitted materials for the competition. It should only be noted that some of the materials for the competition were prepared with some carelessness.

Based on the submitted documents, it can be concluded that Dr. Elena Tacheva is a well-established researcher with clearly defined scientific topics. I support the candidacy and recommend that the members of the Scientific Jury propose to the Scientific Council of IMC-BAS **to elect Dr. Elena Tacheva to the academic position of "associate professor"** in the professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Mineralogy and Crystallography).

12.09.2025 г.

Sofia

**Заличено съгласно чл. 2
от ЗЗЛД**

/Prof. Dr. Mihail Tarassov/