S T A T E M E N T

**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 "Experimental Mineralogy and Crystallography" research department of the "Acad. Ivan Kostov" Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.
**announced** in the State Newspaper, 56 of June 19, 2026
**applicant** Senior Assistant Professor Liliya Vladimirova Tsvetanova
**member of the academic jury** Prof. Rositsa Nikolova, PhD

**The statement has been prepared** on the basis of Order No. 446 RD09/07.08.2026 of the Director of the "Acad. Ivan Kostov" Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography (IMC-BAS) and a resolution of the scientific jury meeting held on September 11, 2026. It complies with the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (RIADASRB), and the Regulations of the "Acad. Ivan Kostov" Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography – BAS (IMC-BAS) for the implementation of ADASRB.

***The biographical data*** presented by the candidate show that Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova obtained a Master's degree in "Geological Engineering in Mineral Exploration" from the "St. Ivan Rilski" University of Mining and Geology, Sofia, in 2002. She acquired the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor (PhD) in Mineralogy and Crystallography" in 2017 as a full-time PhD student at IMC-BAS, with a dissertation topic "Structural characterization of ion-exchanged ETS-4". Since 2011, the candidate has been working in the X-ray Structural Analysis Laboratory at IMC-BAS, and following the purchase of X-ray fluorescence analysis equipment, Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova underwent training to operate the apparatus and has been in charge of it since 2017. Her research interests are related to the synthesis, modification, and ion exchange of porous materials, as well as establishing correlations between their structure, composition, and functional properties. The candidate contributes to solving scientific problems in the above-mentioned fields through direct involvement in synthetic and analytical work related to the analysis and interpretation of data from wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence (WDXRF) and X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) analyses. She also has experience in single-crystal X-ray structural analysis, which was the primary method used in the preparation of her doctoral dissertation.

***In the competition for the academic*** position of "Associate Professor", Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova participates with 21 scientific papers, all published in journals peer-reviewed and indexed in WoS and SCOPUS. As of October 29, 2026, according to the information available in the WoS database, Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova is a co-author of 24 scientific publications and has an h-index of 2, while according to SCOPUS, she is a co-author of 19 scientific publications, cited 58 times, with an h-index of 5. All publications submitted for the competition are co-authored, and Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova is the first and corresponding author of one of them. All publications presented for participation in the competition were published after 2023. Six of them are in journals with a Q1 quartile, five in journals with a Q2 quartile, four in journals with a Q3 quartile, and five in journals with a Q4 quartile. In the period 2017–2025, Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova participated as a member of teams presenting research results at 22 forums. The candidate is the first author of four of the poster presentations. For the period after 2017, Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova has been the principal investigator of one research project and a member of the research teams of four other research projects financially supported by the Bulgarian National Science Fund. The candidate is part of the research team implementing a project for the development of the

"Mechatronics and Clean Technologies" Center of Excellence, funded by the European Structural Funds, as well as the team executing the National Programme "Critical and Strategic Raw Materials for Green Transition and Sustainable Development".

***Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova*** meets the requirements stipulated in the ADASRB for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor", as described in Chapter 3, Section III of the Act, as well as the criteria of BAS, as follows: she is registered in the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID) (https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/46760), where her educational and scientific PhD degree and her academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor" are recognized, and she has held this academic position for more than two years (Senior Assistant Professor since April 18, 2019). Comparing the list of materials presented by the candidate for participation in this competition with the data in NACID, it is evident that the publications submitted for the competition do not include those used for obtaining the educational and scientific PhD degree. I have found no data of plagiarism in the scientific works submitted for participation in this competition. Under Indicator 4 (Habilitation work - scientific publications in editions that are peer-reviewed and indexed in the world-renowned scientific information databases Web of Science and Scopus), the candidate has included 4 publications summarizing her work on the topic "Synthesis, modification, characterization, and application of natural and synthetic mineral materials". The total number of points for Indicator 4 of Group B is 100. For Group G, Indicator 7, 17 articles have been presented, which bring the candidate 276 points. This figure differs from the one stated in the "Reference on the implementation of the minimum criteria according to Appendix No. 1 and Appendix No. 2". Publications numbered 5, 13, and 16 carry 15 points instead of the 10 points indicated by the candidate because they are in Q3 journals. A total of 27 citations have been presented, which give 135 points for Group D. The total number of points is 515, which exceeds the required 430 points according to the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for Occupying Academic Positions at IMC-BAS.

***The materials submitted for participation*** in the competition exceed the requirements of the normative documents for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor". Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova is proficient in X-ray diffraction and X-ray fluorescence methods. She has experience in laboratory synthesis and modification of porous materials. As a research project leader, she has demonstrated skills in formulating scientific problems and experience in solving scientific tasks. I recommend that she devote greater attention to developing her own research topics and training young specialists. I am confident that the participation of Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova in research teams working on projects of national and European significance, as well as her responsibility toward conducting research in the X-ray Fluorescence Analysis Laboratory, will contribute to the development of research topics at IMC-BAS. Therefore, I propose to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to vote IN FAVOR of the election of Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Mineralogy and Crystallography).

On the grounds of the positive evaluation given above, I recommend to the Scientific Council of IMC-BAS to support the election of Senior Assistant Professor Tsvetanova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 4.4. Earth Sciences (Mineralogy and Crystallography).

Date: November 05, 2026 Prepared by: Prof. Rositsa Nikolova

**Заличено съгласно чл. 2 от ЗЗЛД**