

OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor
Professional Field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language)
announced in the *State Gazette*, No. 33/03.04.2026

**Candidate: Magdalena Stefanova Abadzhieva, PhD, Chief Assistant Professor,
Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia**

**Prepared by: Prof. Hristina Mileva Toncheva-Todorova, DSc.
Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

Following Order No. ПД-09-36 of 01.06.2026, issued on the basis of a decision of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin" (Protocol No. 9/27.05.2026), I was appointed a member of the Academic Review Board for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language), for the needs of the Department of the History of the Bulgarian Language.

The only applicant in the competition, **Chief Assistant Professor Magdalena Stefanova Abadzhieva, PhD**, has submitted the following materials: a habilitation monograph, a monograph not presented as a habilitation thesis, an anthology, 27 scholarly articles, out of which 8 have been published in journals indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases, while 19 have appeared in peer-reviewed journals or edited scholarly volumes, one study, one chapter in a collective monograph, and evidence of 29 citations in Bulgarian and international scholarly publications. The candidate has also documented her role as principal investigator of two research projects and participation in 11 additional national research and educational projects. Her record further includes 17 conference presentations, 12 of which were delivered at international scientific forums.

Habilitation monograph: *The Literature of the Bulgarian Catholics from the 19th c. and the Banat Literature*, 2024.

The submitted habilitation monograph, comprising 168 pages, is devoted to a historical-linguistic issue that has remained insufficiently investigated and has long awaited comprehensive scholarly elucidation, namely the relationship between the literature of Bulgarian Catholics in the southern Bulgarian lands and that of the Bulgarian Catholics in Banat. The author accurately defines the concept of the "literature of Bulgarian Catholics", discusses previous attempts at its periodization, and convincingly argues for the inclusion of Banat literature as a distinct and separate stage within this tradition. Dr. Abadzhieva's observations concerning the diverse terminology and her proposal for a unified terminological framework deserve particular commendation.

Especially impressive are the selected literary texts analyzed at the graphemic and orthographic levels in comparison with the orthographic system devised by Yozu Ril for the Banat Bulgarians during the 19th century.

The author convincingly develops the thesis that the Banat Bulgarians consciously attempted to preserve their historical memory and native language under conditions of prolonged emigration, to establish a normative literary culture, and even to create a literary standard based on the Latin script. Valuable material for comparing the Banat literary norm with that used by Catholics in the southern Bulgarian lands is presented in the sixth chapter of the monograph.

Particularly noteworthy are the conclusions concerning the so-called “second type of orthography”, as designated by the author, which is considerably more complex.

Personally, I have always found lexicological research especially intriguing. The eighth chapter presents lexical evidence of continuity between the literature of the Banat Bulgarians and that of the Bulgarian Catholics in the southern Bulgarian lands. The meticulous survey and analysis of the various lexical strata (Christian vocabulary, everyday vocabulary, etc.) constitute a significant contribution to Bulgarian historical lexicology and will undoubtedly find a place in the Historical Dictionaries currently being prepared by the Department of the History of the Bulgarian Language at the Institute for Bulgarian Language.

Monograph: *The Bulgarian-Italian Manuscript Dictionary of Father Maurizio from 1845* (2020)

This scholarly edition presents the complete text of the earliest preserved and currently known Bulgarian-Italian manuscript dictionary, compiled by the Catholic missionary and man of letters Father Maurizio da Castelazzo for the Catholic population of the southern Bulgarian lands. The publication includes a linguistic study addressing orthographic, phonetic, and lexical features and contains approximately 3,500 lexical entries. Particularly interesting are the principal thematic groups represented in the vocabulary: Christian terminology, abstract vocabulary, kinship terms, names of professions, foods, plants, and many others.

Anthology: The Anthology published this year, entitled *Texts from the Literature of Bulgarian Catholics and Banat Literature*, was prepared jointly with Prof. Mariana Tsibranska-Kostova of the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

This publication is of considerable value because it introduces 38 previously unpublished or little-known texts and translations from the history of Bulgarian literature and language. It contributes substantially to the popularization of Bulgaria's historical literary heritage and will be particularly useful to students of philology and history in seminar courses on Historical Linguistics.

Once again, I would like to emphasize the particular significance of the candidate's lexicological investigations at the dialectal level, which considerably extend the knowledge presented in existing textbooks on Bulgarian Dialectology. It is highly commendable that much of the material was collected through direct communication with informants, providing strong evidence of its authenticity.

Nor should another important discovery by Dr. Abadzhieva go unmentioned: the manuscript dictionary of Perku Duptsu, published in 2004 as *The Vocabulary of the Banat Dialect. Supplement*, which has significantly enhanced our understanding of the Banat dialect.

Dr. Magdalena Abadzhieva's overall scholarly output presents her to the community of Palaeoslavists as an accomplished linguistic researcher. Through broad-ranging and large-scale investigations of the literature of Bulgarian Catholics and Banat literature, she successfully situates these traditions within their historical context and enriches our understanding of the thematic scope of this little-known yet important segment of the Bulgarian manuscript tradition.

Owing to her efforts, texts from the private collection of Ivo Raykov of Rakovski, as well as nineteenth-century manuscripts by Father Benvenuto and Father Andrea Canova, have been discovered and expertly analyzed. She has also introduced into scholarly circulation a newly discovered nineteenth-century manuscript by Father Eduardo of Turin, belonging to Mr. Y. Patazov from Rakovski.

Special attention should be paid to her numerous studies devoted to the work of Petar Kovachev Tsarski, widely regarded as the founder of the so-called “Paulician literature”, which

the author more precisely defines as “the literature of Bulgarian Catholics in the Modern Bulgarian language”. As a result, the scholarly thesis concerning a new graphemic and orthographic model based on the vernacular language and developed during the 18th century has been further substantiated; this model was subsequently transmitted by other Catholic men of letters active in the southern Bulgarian lands during the following century.

With remarkable diligence and philological insight, Dr. Abadzhieva has analysed manuscript sources that are little known or entirely unknown to Palaeoslavic manuscript sources and are preserved in the *Sts. Cyril and Methodius* National Library in Sofia.

Finally, I would like to share a personal impression arising from my long-standing acquaintance with Dr. Magdalena Abadzhieva. I have had the pleasure and honour of attending presentations of several of her conference papers delivered at successive Annual International Conferences of the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. L. Andreychin”. Both my colleagues and I listened with great interest to her discussions of the lexeme *радѡвьникъ* (2019), the new evidence concerning nineteenth-century Bulgarian Catholic literature (2020), the newly discovered manuscript of Father Eduardo (2022), and many other topics.

CONCLUSION:

According to the report on compliance with the national minimum requirements submitted as part of the competition documentation, pursuant to Article 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3, and Article 2b, paragraph 5 of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Article 1a of the Regulations for its Implementation (Appendix A to the Rules and Procedures for the Award of Academic Degrees and the Appointment to Academic Positions at the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), it may be concluded that the materials submitted by Dr. Magdalena Stefanova Abadzhieva fully satisfy all applicable requirements. Her total score amounts to 1,071 points, substantially exceeding the minimum threshold of 650.

The candidate has presented a sufficient number of scholarly publications. Her works contain original scientific and applied scientific contributions, some of which have been published in journals and scholarly volumes issued by international academic publishers. I have found no evidence of plagiarism in any of the submitted materials.

In view of the foregoing, I can state unequivocally that the candidature of **Chief Assistant Professor Magdalena Stefanova Abadzhieva, PhD**, fully meets all national minimum requirements for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor.

Therefore, I give my unequivocally positive assessment and respectfully recommend to the esteemed Academic Review Board to prepare a report proposing the appointment of **Chief Assistant Professor Magdalena Stefanova Abadzhieva, PhD**, to the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.1. Philology (Bulgarian Language), for the needs of the Department of the History of the Bulgarian Language at the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia.

Prepared the opinion:.....
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20.07.2026
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