

O P I N I O N

**in a competition for the academic position of professor
in professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science (IT),
for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ",
Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics,
announced in SG no. 74 of 21.08.2020 and on the websites of FMI and Sofia University**

The opinion was prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eugenia Petrova Kovatcheva, 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury of the competition according to Order № RoO38-496 / 19.10.2020 of the Rector of Sofia University.

The only candidate for participation in the announced competition has submitted documents: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eliza Petrova Stefanova, from FMI at Sofia University

I. General description of the submitted materials

Candidate details

The documents submitted by the competition by the candidate comply with the national requirements and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ”

Associate prof. Eliza Stefanova is the only candidate in current competition. She has presented a list of a total of 21 titles, 2 of them in scientific journals and the rest in proceedings of international conferences. The proof for the indicator B are presented 9 articles published in refereed publications in Scopus or Web of Science, related to the field of STEM training. The indicator D are covered by 12 more papers, published into the refereed editions. The list of citations in Group D exceeds 30 articles

Other documents are also presented, such as official notes and certificates for defended doctoral students and graduates, as well as for a project manager, which complete the picture of Eliza Stefanova's activity.

Candidate details

Eliza Stefanova started her career at Sofia University as a programmer 31 years ago and at the same time was a student at FMI. Then, as part of the team of the University Computing Center, she was responsible for the design and construction of the Computer Network of Sofia University in the main bases of Sofia University, where we met. Since 1999 he has been an

assistant at FMI, since 2002 - senior assistant, 2005 - chief assistant and associate professor since 2014.

Eliza Stefanova has been working in the field of educational technologies since 2008, starting as an expert at the Ministry of Education and Science for teacher training.

In 2015 she became the head of the master's program in e-learning and vice dean for academic activities of FMI, and at the end of the year Vice-rector for information activities, academic staff and administration.

Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Eliza Stefanova for 25 years. She has always been very demanding and precise in her work. Until 7 years ago we worked in a team for both academic and scientific work, together we built many things from the computer network of Sofia University to the basics of e-learning at the university.

In the training of students and teachers, Eliza detailed and thorough attention is paid to each learner.

For many years we have been on the jury of the Information Technology Olympiads. We had built a unified creative system for evaluating students' project work.

Achievements of the candidate in scientific and teaching activity

I am extremely impressed with Eliza's development over the last 7 years in the field of STEM training. The focus on building the competencies of STEM teachers is the basis for their further development and work with students and the research approach in teaching. It applies the latest scientific advances in education and builds a research environment in the field of Data Analytics again aimed at supporting teachers in their work when they are "armed" with various means.

Her precision in performing multi-parallel processes is reflected in the activities in which she has participated over the years.

The presented scientific papers, developed courses, conducted trainings and work with doctoral students and graduates (there is one defended) meet the minimum national requirements and respectively the additional requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for holding the academic position of "professor" in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition. The scientific papers submitted by the candidate do not repeat those of previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title and academic position; there is no legally proven plagiarism in the scientific papers submitted at the competition.

Critical remarks and recommendations

The current position of Assoc. Prof. Stefanova as vice-rector does not allow her to do a monograph. My recommendation is to summarise and supplement the publications presented so far in a monograph with the addition that each chapter should be developed as teaching materials for students in a professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... and for postgraduate qualification.

Conclusion on the application

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and based on the analysis of their significance and contained in them scientific and scientific-applied contributions, I confirm that the scientific achievements of Assoc. Prof. Eliza Stefanova meet the national requirements, Regulations for its application and the relevant Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "for holding the academic position of“ professor ”in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition - 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science (IT). In particular, the candidate satisfies the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism has been established in the scientific papers submitted at the competition.

I give my positive assessment of the candidacy.

II. General Conclusion

Based on the above, I recommend the scientific jury to propose to the competent authority for the selection of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "to elect Assoc. Prof. Eliza Petrova Stefanova to take the academic position of“ professor ”in the professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science (IT).

November 30, 2020. Prepared the opinion: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eugenia Kovatcheva