

REVIEW
at the competition for the occupation
of the academic position of Associate Professor

Field of higher education:	1.0 Pedagogical Sciences
Professional Field:	1.2 Pedagogy (ICT in education, e-learning of learners with special educational needs)
Announced in:	State Gazette, issue. 57 of 26/6/2020
Candidate:	Chief Assistant Blagovesta Stoyanova Jovkova
Reviewer:	Prof. D.Sc. George Totkov

1. Background and CVs of the applicant

The review was prepared on the basis of Order No. ПД 38-321/21.07.2020 г. of the Rector of Sofia University, Prof. D.Sc. Anastas Gerdzhirov, which approves the Scientific Jury for the open procedure for occupying an academic position of „Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1.0 Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2 Pedagogy promulgated in SG, issue 57 of 26.06.2020 and published on the SU website on the same date, as well as Record No. 1 of 08.09.2020 of the Scientific Jury for the selection of reviewers.

For the participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", only Chief Assistant Blagovesta Stoyanova Jovkova Ph.D. was submitted documents.

Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova was born in 1971. In 2000 she graduated with a Master's degree in Special Pedagogy from Sofia University. In 2011 she defended her doctoral dissertation in the field of the competition on „Interactive educational multimedia in the teaching of oral speech to children with hearing impairment". Since 2008 she has been a lecturer at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University.

2. General description of the submitted materials

Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova has presented the required documents and materials on paper, and electronic media.

From the Report for fulfilment of the national minimum requirements and the List of scientific production it is evident that Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova participates in the competition with monography in the field and 21 publications (12 according Г6. Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases with scientific information) and 9 according to Г7. Articles and reports published in nonreferenced journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes). Of the 21 publications presented, 15 are in English and 6 (from group Г7) are in Bulgarian, and do not repeat those presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and those for the acquisition of the academic position „Chief Assistant“.

3. General characteristics of the research and pedagogical activity of the candidate

Mrs. Bl. Jovkova works in the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University, where she has been a part-time assistant professor since 2008. Since 2013 she has held the academic position of „Chief Assistant“.

Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova is a lecturer in more than 10 disciplines in Master's and Bachelor's programmes at the Faculty of Pedagogy and the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University. In most of the disciplines she is the leading lecturer. Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova has been a lecturer in disciplines such as ICT in education, Education of children with learning difficulties, Distance education of adults, Theory and methodology of e-learning, Evaluation and selection of educational software, Pedagogical design of e-learning, Creating educational multimedia, Educational functions of social media, Technologies in the Education of Children with Special Educational Needs,

Workshop in Primary School and Secondary School, ICT in Education and Work in the Digital Environment, ICT and Management in Education, ICT and Management in Education, ICT in Education and Inclusive Education. Since the academic year 2013 she has been a lecturer and designer of e-learning content in disciplines of speciality „Information and communication technologies in education" (distance learning) at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova is a co-author of a guide for redesign of traditional e-learning (Adaptation of the PREEL model) and 3 manuals for students with hearing impairments.

From the presented General list of publications, it is evident that Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova is the author or co-author of 30 articles and 4 textbooks. The other publications are a monograph (main thesis for the attainment of academic rank) and a book based on a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree „Ph.D.“.

Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova has participated as a researcher and designer of electronic content in 9 (nine) projects - 3 (three) international, 4 (four) national, and 2 (two) university - all in the field of competition.

4. Main contributions

Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova conducts research in thematic areas such as Integration of ICT in education, e-learning of students with special educational needs (SEN), e-learning and e-assessment. Her main contributions in these areas can be summarized as follows:

- analyses of the opportunities, limitations, accessibility and effectiveness of e-learning (including e-assessment) for people with SEN;
- analyses of modern ICT (particularly of simulation software, interactive multimedia, and electronic games) in terms of implementation and effectiveness of various pedagogical models and approaches, especially in the context of training and hearing and speech rehabilitation of children with hearing impairment;
- integration of interactive educational multimedia in individual lessons in mastering vocabulary by children with hearing impairment;
- categorization of approaches, models, criteria and standards for pedagogical and technological accessibility of education for students with SEN (from the point of view of teachers and students);
- developed tools (including teaching strategies, personalized and supportive learning environments, statistical approaches and tools for data collection and analysis, etc.), suitable for implementation and research in the field of e-learning for people with SEN;
- proposed model of an electronic course for persons with SEN;
- study of electronic evaluation as an adaptive trustbased system, etc.

Of the 21 scientific publications submitted for the competition, Mrs. Jovkova is an independent author of 4 publications, with one co-author - 6 publications, with 2 - 6 publications, and with more than 3 – 4 publications. I accept (due to lack of separation protocols) that her contribution is equivalent to that of the other co-authors.

For the enclosed scientific works of Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova there is no data and evidence of plagiarism, as well as declared by the candidate.

On this basis, the candidate has achieved 50 points by indicator A of the minimum national requirements for professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, 100 points - by Indicator Б, and 268.5 points - by Indicator Г. Citations of the attached scientific papers have been presented (respectively according to Scopus - 32 citations in 29 documents of 5 publications and h-factor = 2, and according to Web of Science - 22 citations in 19 documents of 10 publications and h-factor = 3), out of which 225 points are formed. In compliance, according to the presented data, Chief Assistant. Jovkova has a total of 643.5 points, which is more than the required minimum for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy.

The analysis of the above data shows that publications are cited by researchers in the field. This predetermines the significance of the contributions described above. Given the scientific value of the publications, their international and national publicity, and the significant number of citations abroad, it can be concluded that the scientific works of Chief Assistant. Jovkova meet the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB) to acquire an academic position “Associate Professor”.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

Regarding the teaching activity of the candidate, more intensive activity is expected in the work with students, and especially with graduates in the field (in the materials for the competition there is data for the only graduate defending diploma’s thesis, having as a scientific supervisor Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova).

Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova has also presented a general list of her scientific publications (from 2003 to date), which contains 37 titles. The candidate is not an independent author of group Г6 publications. The latter gives grounds for a recommendation - to focus on independent and in-depth research in the field.

I will note that the contributions in the relevant report for the competition are formulated very descriptively (including elements such as justification, method of achievement, general and comparative description, perspectives, etc.), and in many cases their specific and precise wording is omitted.

6. The personal impressions and opinion of the reviewer

I have no personal impressions of the candidate for the academic position of Assistant Professor.

I confirm that the data (in the form of points on the individual indicators mentioned above, regarding the significance and representativeness of the data presented by Chief Assistant Bl. Jovkova scientific achievements and results, exceed the minimum National requirements - a prerequisite for occupying the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the PF 1.2. Pedagogy.

CONCLUSIONS

All requirements, conditions and criteria under ASDARB and corresponding rules for its implementation are fulfilled, on the basis of which I give a definitive positive conclusion with “YES” for the selection of **Blagovesta Stoyanova Jovkova** at the Academic position of Associate Professor at PF 1.2. Didactic (ICT in education, e-learning of learners with special educational needs).

I suggest the Honorable Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Pedagogy of SU to vote "YES" for the appointment of Chief Assistant Prof. Blagovesta Jovkova at the academic position “Associate Professor” of the SU in the professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (ICT in education, e-learning of learners with special educational needs).

Oct 26, 2020

Reviewer:

(prof. DSc. George Totkov