



## OPINION<sup>1</sup>

on the submitted works for participation in a competition for the academic position of PROFESSOR in professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (journalistic editing), announced by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in SJ, issue 22 from 16.03.2021.

**Reviewer:** Prof. Tolya Angelova Stoitsova, PhD, Dr. Sc.

**Candidate:** Assoc. prof. Efrem Efremov Karanfilov, PhD

### I. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the scientific and educational production submitted for participation in the competition

With his publications submitted for the competition, Assoc. Prof. Efremov justified two new spheres in the field of journalistic editing. The first concerns the legal aspects of journalistic editing and was developed in monographic work with the same title, which was published in 2019. The monograph provides an overview of the international law and national regulation of freedom of expression, based on the interpretation and treatment of different and many

### II. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the scientific and educational production submitted for participation in the competition

With his publications submitted for the competition, Assoc. Prof. Efremov justified two new spheres in the field of journalistic editing. The first concerns the legal aspects of journalistic editing and was developed in monographic work with the same title, which was published in 2019. The monograph provides an overview of the international law and national regulation of freedom of expression, based on the interpretation and treatment of different and many

For me, this issue is extremely important for journalists and editors to be able to abide by the rules and not fall under the blows of the law. I believe that the monograph has two distinctive achievements, namely: (1) Strong arguments on the need to decriminalize insult and defamation and (2) A very useful comparative analysis between the criminal law regulation of insult and defamation in Bulgaria and that in other EU member states – France, Germany, Spain and Austria, as well as with the regulation in the UK. On this basis, the author, Assoc.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: Recommended volume of the opinion - 2-3 standard pages.



Prof. Efremov, PhD. brings out common characteristics of the standards that allow Bulgaria to take an objective place among other European countries.

A significant contribution is also the practical orientation of the monograph. This is especially important because professional journalists and editors need similar landmarks, the so-called guidelines. The monograph can actually be seen as a guide for editors and journalists on how to reflect media content. And what is important and I want to underline – not to reach an unlawful exercise of freedom of speech with the resulting negative consequences. Or to express myself with cliché, freedom, not a word of speech.

It is not to be overlooked, and the self-gaze of Assoc. Prof. Efremov on – otherwise well-known – ethical norms. The new point of view which the author expressed, is also practically useful.

The second field of contributions by the candidate for "professor" – Assoc. Prof Dr. Efremov is the tracking and analysis of fundamental processes of change in modern elite sport, which are related to the changing mechanisms of the media system in the information society. The affection of Assoc. Prof. Efremov to the problems of the sport is well known to me. Many of his publications I recommend to my students in the NSA in their Master's program "Sports Journalism".

Although true, one of the author's conclusions about the huge influence of money, politics and new technologies on sport makes it a new type of societal phenomenon, is a little sad. On the one hand, the new phenomenon undoubtedly has positive characteristics and, on the other hand, there are negatives that are not negligible at this time.

In regards to the other publications presented in the competition for professor by Dr, Efremov, I would like to highlight the two studies related to the legal aspects and in particular the issues surrounding "insult and defamation". A separate strand is related to Masonry. The third direction for me concerns the standards for editing and reviewing, which is presented by 3 articles, one of which in English.

The scientific experience and expertise of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Efrem Efremov for me are beyond doubt. He has many years of experience as a lecturer, a successfully defended doctor of



journalism and has been a supervisor of a huge number of thesis – 55. He also participated in projects and was a member of scientific juries.

The report required by the NAOA shows that Assoc. Prof. Efremov meets the requirements for the acquisition of the scientific title "Professor".

My assessment of the personal contributions of the candidate for "Professor" is very high. It is both in the field of theory and research, and in the application of results. For me, Dr. Efremov's contributions fully meet the requirements for the requested scientific title.

### III. Notes and recommendations

I have no notes on the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Efremov, PhD. participant in the competition for an academic title "professor".

### IV. Conclusion

With just one sentence, I want to confirm once again that the documents and materials submitted by the only candidate in the competition fully meet the requirements of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DRASRB), as well as the Rules of Application of the Law and the respective Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Having become very familiar with the research work of Assoc. Dr. Efrem Efremov, I am convinced that he is a serious professional in the field of journalism, and in particular in journalistic editing, a professional who has the ability to identify serious problems in the field in which he works and which I think he knows very well. I believe that his presence as a professor in the Department of Press Journalism and Book publishing, at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication of Sofia University, is a good attestation for the department and the respective faculty.

Dr. Efremov's teaching activities and his expertise in supervising students are impressive and correspond to his qualification level as well as his audience activity. His contributions to a theoretical and applied plan are also valuable to me and they are beyond doubt.

My assessment of research and teaching activities, as well as participation in various projects of Assoc. Prof. Efrem Efremov is entirely positive. Therefore, I strongly propose to the colleagues of the Scientific Jury to vote for the award of the academic position "Professor" in Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", FJMC, for Assoc. Prof. Efrem Efremov Karanfilov, in the field of 3.5. Social communications and information sciences (Journalistic editing),

Date 24.06.2021

Jury member