

Opinion

for the competition for occupation of the academic position „associate professor”, in professional field: 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science, specialty: Informatics, for the needs of the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (SU), Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI), declared in the State Gazette No 32/16.04.2021 and on the Web pages of SU and FMI

Member of the scientific Jury: Prof. Dr. Krassen Stefanov Stefanov, SU – FMI

I am presenting this opinion as a member of the Scientific Jury in the above mentioned competition, on the base of order № 38-267/14.06.2021 of the Rector of SU, as well as on the ground of Decision of the Scientific Jury (Protocol 1 from 22.06.2021). This opinion fully corresponds to the ZRASRB, Statute of MC for the application of ZRASRB, Statute for the development of the academic staff of SU and FMI.

There is only one candidate for the competition – Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova.

1. General description of presented materials

I received the following documents as a member of the scientific jury: nine (9) scientific publications for the participation in the competition, and 17 other documents (CV, copy of Diplomas, certificates, lists with additional information, etc.) According to all presented materials, the candidate fulfils the national minimal requirements to become associate professor, and all the requirements stated in the ZRASRB, Statute of its implementation, as well as statutes of BAS and IMI. In particular:

1. She achieved the PhD in 2012
2. She holds a position of Associate Professor for more than ten years
3. There are no official proofs for plagiarism in her publications.

The publications presented for the competition correspond to the thematic of the competition. The candidate has almost 15 years professional experience working at SU. She graduated in 1998 at SU, and she became PhD at the Free University of Brussels. In the last 5 years she worked as Chief Assistant Professor at SU-FMI.

2. A general characteristics of the candidate’s research, education and application activities

The whole number of the publications of Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova is 40, all in English language, and from them 17 are indexed in Web of Science (WoS) and/or Scopus, and 13 have IF and/or SJR. From these publications she had chosen to present 9 for the official participation in the competition. All these publications have IF and/or SJR. Eight publications are in international journals and one is a publication in international conference.

Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova has rich and successful experience as a university lecturer. Her main teaching experiences are related with BSc students from different faculties at SU.

3. Analysis of the scientific and applied research results of the candidate

The main scientific results of Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova in the publications, presented for the competition, are related with modelling and application of different plasma processes for climate analysis and prediction.

There are no cases of plagiarism related to publications of Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova.

All the scientific publications of the candidate are related to the competition and are published in high quality international conferences and highly reputed scientific journals.

The main characteristics of the scientific publications are related to enriching scientific knowledge and application of scientific results in practice.

She is first author in 6 publications, second author in 2 publications and third author in one publication. The scientific results are definitely her own and could be classified as creation of models for the analysis and practical use of plasma for climate investigations.

4. Influence of the publications of the candidate to the research community

The candidate has 37 overall citations for her publications presented in the competition, from which 31 coming from scientific publications indexed in Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus.

I can conclude that the number of citations of research publications selected for the participation in the competition satisfies all the requirements for the position of Associate Professor, and even exceed them significantly.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I don't have any critical remarks.

I can recommend to the candidate to increase her efforts in more active research participation related to the Centre of Excellence UNITE at SU, which is closely related to her scientific research interests.

6. Personal opinion about the candidate

I know the candidate for about 5 years and I have excellent opinion for her modesty, diligence, scientific competences and collegiality. She has all the necessary personal and professional characteristics to become an associate professor.

7. Conclusion

On the ground of all above mentioned facts and conclusions, and taking into account the standards expressed in the laws and statutes, I confirm that all scientific results and achievements fully correspond to the requirements expressed in ZRASRB, Statute of MC for the application of ZRASRB, Statute for the development of the academic staff of SU and FMI. In particular, the candidate is satisfying all the minimal requirements expressed in various scientific indicators. Also, there are no evidence for any form of plagiarism in respect to the scientific publications of the candidate.

I give my positive vote for all presented materials from Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova.

General Conclusion

As the candidate fully satisfy all requirements of ZRASRB and the rest of normative documents, standards and statutes enumerated above, this gives me the conviction to state, that Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova is fully suited to take the position of Associate Professor. So, I propose to the Honorable Members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the assignment of Dr. Mariana Ilieva Atanasova to the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field: 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science, specialty: Informatics.

Date: 08.08.2021

Member of scientific Jury:

/Prof. Dr. Krassen Stefanov/