

Opinion

for the competition for occupation of the academic position „ 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 48/28.06.2022 and on the Web page of SU
Member of the scientific Jury: Prof. Dr. Eliza Petrova Stefanova, SU – FMI

I am presenting this opinion as a member of the Scientific Jury in the above mentioned competition, on the base of order № ПД-38-519/25.08.2022 of the Rector of SU. 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 – Associate Professor Dr. Milen Yordanov Petrov, Faculty of mathematics and informatics, Sofia University.

1. General description of presented materials

The documents submitted by the candidate comply with the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "(PURPNSZADSU). The candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milen Yordanov Petrov has presented a monograph and a list of nineteen (13) scientific publications for the participation in the competition. Four of them is with SJR in Scopus and all other 9 publications are indexed in Web of Science, Scopus, IEEE Xplore Digital Library, ACM Digital Library. More than 50 other documents (CV, copy of Diplomas, certificates, lists with additional information, etc.) are also presented. The publications presented for the competition correspond to the thematic of the competition.

There are no official proofs for plagiarism in her publications.

The documents are well structured and best illustrate the candidate's work and contributions.

2. Candidate data

Milen Petrov graduated from the Faculty of Computer Systems and Management of the Technical University in Sofia in 1999. In 2010 he acquired PhD degree from Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

In 2001 he started working at the Research Sector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2006 he joined as an assistant at the Department of Information Technologies at

the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Sofia University, from which in 2007 the department Software Technologies was established, to which Milen Petrov was transferred. Since 2009, he worked in it consecutively as a senior assistant and chief assistant professor. Since 2012 he has been an associate professor in the same department, where he has teaching and research activities.

3. A general characteristics of the candidate's the scientific works and achievements

The scientific results of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milen Petrov are in the field of software platforms, systems and technologies. Particularly, the focus of his work, especially in the last years, is on cloud, network and web technologies. With his active participation, a number of software components and applications in e-learning systems have been defined and developed, including for recommending and adapting learning content and learning activities based on learning analysis, for storing and processing personal data of learners. In addition, Assoc. Prof. Petrov also contributed to the optimization of traffic information through his proposed model for calculating the index of the transport flow for a city or for a road section, based on data for public transport vehicles, as well as mechanism for traffic visualization tool, including in real time. The candidate's results have been published in articles with good scientific visibility. This is confirmed by the citations of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Petrov.

According to the documents submitted by the candidate, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milen Petrov meets the minimum national requirements (under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB) and respectively the additional requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for holding the academic position of "professor" in the scientific field of the competition. According to *indicator G* points are 94 above the minimum, according to *indicator D* – 12 above the minimum, and according to *indicator E* - 150 points above the minimum required.

As can be seen from the NACID registers and the evidence provided in addition, the scientific papers submitted by the candidate do not repeat those of previous procedures for obtaining a scientific title and academic position.

There is no legally proven plagiarism in the scientific papers submitted at the competition.

4. Characteristics and evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Milen Petrov has intensive teaching activity. His annual teaching load and total teaching load is more than the norm for the required teaching load at the University. The

candidate teaches basic courses, most of which at bachelor level. The feedback for his work from the students is very good.

In addition, Assoc. Prof. Petrov has more than 110 successfully defended graduate students, as well as one successfully defended the doctoral student.

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

The candidate has submitted one monograph and 13 scientific publications for participation in the competition. They have scientific and applied results related to 3 main areas of design and development of cloud, network and web systems - technology-enhanced learning, security of personal data and applications, optimization of traffic information.

The total number of scientific publications of the candidate at the moment is 82, of which 1 monograph, 14 publications in scientific journals, 67 – in conference proceedings. Of all these editions indexed in Web of Science are 16, in Scopus – 19, in ACM Digital Library – 5, in IEEE Xplore – 4. Four of the publications presented for the competition have an impact rank. The works of Assoc. Prof. Petrov have been cited a total of 85 times, of which 22 citations are in publications indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. With the exception of the monograph, all other publications submitted for the competition are in English. In these 13 scientific publications the candidate is the first author in 3 publications, the second author in 5 publications and the third author in 5 publications. In each of the scientific publications the candidate has a major contribution. The candidate has an h index of 2 in Web of Science and 3 in Scopus.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I don't have any critical remarks. I can recommend to the candidate to continue work professionally and actively.

7. Personal opinion about the candidate

I have known Milen Petrov since the years when he worked at the Research Sector of the Sofia University, and later as a colleague in the department of Information Technologies of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at the Sofia University, as well as in his capacity as the head of the Master's program "Information Protection in Computer Systems and Networks" and as vice-dean in charge of master's programs at FMI.

In all cases in which I have had the opportunity to work with Assoc. Prof. Petrov, I have encountered his collegial attitude.

8. 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, Regulations for its application and the relevant Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for holding the candidate for the academic position "Professor" in the scientific field of the competition. In particular, the candidate satisfies the minimum national requirements in the professional field. 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 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milen Petrov.

II. 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 Assoc. Prof. Milen Petrov is fully suited to take the position of Professor. So, I propose to the Honorable Members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the assignment of Assoc. Prof. Milen Petrov to the academic position of Professor in the professional field: 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science.

Date: 4/10/2022

Member of scientific Jury:

/Prof. Dr. Eliza Stefanova/