

OPINION

by Associate Professor Nikolay Ivanov Tsanev, PhD,
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on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical studies

Professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Pedagogy of teaching information technologies in primary school)

The competition for the position of Associate Professor was announced in State Gazette, issue 96 of 19.11.2021 and on the website of Sofia University for the needs of the Department of Primary School Pedagogy to Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts (FESA). The only candidate is Chief Assistant Professor Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov, PhD.

I. General presentation of the received materials

According to Order № RD 38-4 / 04.01.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, for conducting a competition for an associate professor in a professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Pedagogy of teaching information technologies in primary school) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition.

For participation in the announced competition, only Chief Assistant Professor Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov, PhD from FESA, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", has applied.

The set of materials presented by Dr. Dushkov in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff in Sofia University and includes the following documents:

1. Curriculum vitae
2. Diploma of higher education and its appendix
3. Diploma of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
5. Document for scientific title or academic position – copy of employment contract
6. Certificate of work experience in the specialty

7. Documents proving the fulfilment of the requirements under Art. 105, para. 1, item 2 (official notes and certificates from employer, project manager, financing organization or project assignor, references and reviews, awards and other relevant evidence)

10. List of publications, inventions and other scientific and applied results:
 - a) list of all publications
 - b) list of publications submitted for participation in the competition

11. List of publications, conferences, projects and scientific manuals generated by the Authors System, in cases where the candidate already holds an academic position at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

12. Reference form for the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for the respective scientific field and the additional requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" to which the necessary evidence is attached

13. Reference to the citations with a full bibliographic description of the cited and citing publications

14. Reference to the original scientific contributions to which the relevant evidence is attached

15. Reference to the indicators under Art. 112, para. 2 with appropriate evidence (with inventory and appendices)

16. Scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition, structured and numbered according to the list under item 10 b

17. Abstracts of the peer-reviewed publications in Bulgarian and one of the languages traditionally used in the relevant scientific field (in one document)

18. Copy of the announcement in the State Gazette

The candidate Dr. Ivan Dushkov has submitted a total of 21 scientific papers, of which 1 monograph (as a major habilitation thesis), 1 book (based on the defended doctoral dissertation), 1 survey published in peer-reviewed journals with peer-reviewed or published in edited collective volumes, 2 articles and reports published in scientific journals, peer-reviewed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, 16 articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes.

In general, the scientific works of Dr. Ivan Dushkov meet the minimum national requirements (under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of LASDRB), as well as the requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific field and professional field of the competition, as shown in the table below.

Group of indicators	Contents	Number of points according to the minimum requirements for associate professor	Candidate's points
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	0	0
C	Indicator 3	100	100
D	Sum of indicators from 4 to 10	200	223.75

E	Sum of indicators from 11 to 13	50	55
E	Sum of indicators from 12 to the end	0	-

It should be noted that 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 evidence of plagiarism in the scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition as established in accordance with the statutory procedure.

II. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” with a bachelor's degree and a specialization in Applied Mathematics in 2002, and with a master's degree in Mathematical Modelling and Application of Mathematics in 2004. In 2015, he successfully completed his education and defended the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in... (Methodology of Teaching Mathematics in Primary School).

As an excellent teacher and specialist in mathematics methodology, as well as e-learning and distance learning, Dr. Dushkov has developed individually and in a team a number of training courses related to the disciplines he teaches, namely: Information and communication technologies in teaching and working in digital environment; Audiovisual and information technology; Mathematical and statistical methods in physical education and sports; Pedagogical statistics; Data processing and analysis in social research; Specialized modern information technologies; Web design for pedagogical purposes; Digital competence and digital creativity and others in bachelor's and master's degrees.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov is the administrator of the e-learning site of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – FESA, as well as a member of the Faculty Centre for Electronic and Distance Learning.

His entire activity as a lecturer and expert at the faculty gives grounds to highly rate his qualities and professional experience in connection with the announced competition.

III. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

The monograph, which is presented as the main habilitation work, is dedicated to the specifics of creating multimedia presentations for training purposes. Based on a survey, the common mistakes

made when creating a multimedia presentation are derived. These errors are classified according to their frequency. Ways to overcome them when creating a multimedia presentation are suggested.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov writes in the very preface that: "The situation we live in and the current situation of the world, the use of multimedia technologies is no longer just recommended but mandatory." This is the thesis statement that is supported throughout the monographic survey. It is necessary to note the good competence of the author and the knowledge of the situation worldwide and in Bulgaria.

The author of the peer-reviewed monograph notes that "the design and creation of electronic teaching aids such as multimedia presentations is a challenge for any teacher." The importance of motivating students by placing them in an active position within the educational work is also emphasized. A very important point is the identification of all gaps in school education, which are a significant obstacle to upgrading the knowledge and skills of students – future teachers in the field of information and communication technologies. There are also other important questions about the specifics of the use and quality of electronic resources, etc.

The research problems are defined very clearly and precisely in the monograph, which gives a good orientation to the reader. In this regard, it is important to note that the research is conducted on the basis of an extensive theoretical analysis of the integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education, as well as the benefits of using ICT in education. Naturally, their problems and shortcomings are also discussed (Chapter 1).

An overview is made and the most common mistakes in the creation of multimedia presentations are classified (Chapter 2). Rules for the proper use of each component of a multimedia presentation are presented. The typification system of common mistakes when working with presentation software and approaches to overcoming them makes a very good impression.

The third chapter presents a statistical analysis of the results of the survey. The data are presented in the form of tables and diagrams. In conclusion, the obtained results are summarized, and the relevant conclusions are made.

The monograph of Chief Assistant Professor Ivan Dushkov has a distinctive style of research addressing a range of topical issues relevant to modern education. The interpretation does not employ elementary superficial conclusions. Different points of view are sought. Scientific ethics and tolerance to differences are demonstrated. The complexity and multifactorial nature of the studied processes and phenomena are taken into account.

The main contributions can be briefly listed as follows:

1. An extensive theoretical presentation (review) of the nature and features of the creation and use of multimedia presentations in education.
2. Both the benefits and the problems of using multimedia presentations in primary school are broadly presented – a very strong authorial presence in the monograph.
3. A typification system of mistakes in the creation of multimedia presentations has been developed.
4. A survey was conducted with 1585 students of several pedagogical specialties at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, both in bachelor's and master's programmes to examine the common errors in the creation and use of multimedia presentations.
5. The main conclusions about the current state and prospects in the training of students – future teachers, are made on the basis of the seven criteria for the creation of didactic resources mentioned above in the text.

The monograph “Multimedia presentations – mistakes, omissions and guidelines for overcoming them in future primary teachers” by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Dushkov is distinctive for its rich scientific apparatus, important conclusions for modern theory and practice, directly addressing the preparation and use of electronic resources (multimedia presentations) by students in pedagogy. The text is very readable, the descriptions are clear and specific, a large base of sources on the topic has been used correctly.

IV. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the candidate

All submitted publications correspond to the profile of the competition and I can confidently confirm their authenticity.

V. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks and recommendations. I recommend that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dushkov should persistently continue to develop the knowledge in his chosen scientific fields.

VI. Personal impressions

The scientific papers presented for review reflect in an indisputable way the qualities of the candidate. My overall impression of Dr. Dushkov's work and attitude is excellent. He is an extremely capable and ambitious young man who fully meets the requirements of the competition for which he is applying.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I can confidently say that the scientific work of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov has many scientific and applied contributions. The documents and materials submitted by him meet all the requirements of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria (LASDRB), the Regulations governing the application of the LASDRB and the Regulations of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”. In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received national and international recognition, and some of them have been published in Bulgarian and foreign journals and academic collections. Most of the research output of Dr. Ivan Dushkov is directly oriented to educational work. His scientific and teaching qualifications and experience cannot be questioned.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented for participation in the competition, and having analysed their significance and their scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I find it completely justified to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts for the election of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Pedagogy of teaching information technology in primary school) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

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