

STATEMENT

by Prof. PhD. Yordanka Stoyanova Peycheva, Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen on the competition for the academic position "professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of education in... (Technology and entrepreneurship education in primary grades and Methodology of work in class time in primary grades)

The competition for professorship was announced in State Gazette (SG), issue no. 48/28.06.2022 and on the Sofia University (SU) website for the needs of the "Primary School Pedagogy" department at the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts. Associate Professor Lyuben Vladimirov Vitinov participated as the only candidate.

1. Compliance of the procedure and the submitted documentation with the current regulations

The competition for the academic position of "Professor" at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in: area of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of education in... (Technology and entrepreneurship education in primary grades and Methodology of work in class time in primary grades) announced in the "State Gazette", no. 48/28.07.2022 is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the acquisition of scientific degrees and holding academic positions.

One candidate participated in the competition - Associate Professor Lyuben Vladimirov Vitinov.

2. General biographical presentation of the candidate

Associate Professor Lyuben Vitinov graduated in Primary School Pedagogy with a specialization in Fine Art at the VPI, Blagoevgrad, in 1984.

After winning a competition in 1991, he was appointed as an assistant at the University of St. Kliment Ohridski", where he continues his working career and professional growth to this day.

In 1995, he was awarded the educational and scientific degree PhD. In 2000, he held the academic position of "associate professor". After defending a dissertation work on the topic "Positive Pedagogical Strategy in the Class Hour", in 2021 he was awarded the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" on 1.2. Pedagogy (Primary school pedagogy).

Assoc. prof. Vitinov's professional autobiography highlights his rich teaching and scientific activity in the field of technological education, active learning methods and work methodology in the class at the elementary stage.

Regarding his language skills, Prof. Vitinov speaks English at basic level A2.

Prof. Vitinov's active involvement in activities with a high degree of responsibility is impressive.

At the department level, he carries out scientific supervision of the Master's program in Elementary School Pedagogy.

At the faculty level – member of the Faculty Council at FNOI.

Participates in 3 national projects under operational programs and 4 projects of the "Scientific Research of SU "St. Kl. Ohridski", financed by the Ministry of Education and Culture, two of which he is the head of.

He is a member of the editorial boards of the magazine "Primary Education" and of the "Electronic Magazine for Science, Culture and Education" of SU "St. Kl. Ohridski", FNOI.

The presented set of materials includes all the documents required under Art. 2 b, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

3. The educational and teaching activity of Associate Professor Lyuben Vitanov includes classes in: "Technology education" for special PNUP and NUPCHE - regular education, NUPCHE - part-time education; "Methodology of Pedagogical Work in Class Time", special PNUP and NUPCHE - full-time education, PUNUP - part-time education, special FVS - regular education and MP NUP (for graduates of other specialties and for graduates of pedagogical specialties and specialties with teaching qualifications); "Technology education - modern trends and approaches" - MP NUP (for graduates of other specialties and for graduates of pedagogical specialties and specialties with teaching qualifications); "ID Methods and Techniques for Active Learning", "ID Road Traffic Safety education", "FD Education and Play", "FD interest activities at school", "Inclusive Education" - PUNUP regular training and MP NUP.

Associate Professor L. Vitanov is a well-established, competent and authoritative teacher who applies modern methods and means of education, thereby contributing to building the appearance and competencies of the modern teacher.

A certificate of his high qualification as a teacher and researcher, possessing the ability to create interest in scientific activity and transfer his research skills, is the scientific guidance of four successfully defended doctoral students in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of education in

4. Scientific research activity

To participate in the competition, the candidate for the academic position "professor" has attached: 2 monographs, one of which is the main habilitation thesis; published chapter of a collective monograph; 1 article in an authoritative scientific publication, referenced and indexed in a world-renowned database of scientific information; 13 – in non-refereed journals with scientific review; 4 textbooks, 8 teaching aids used in the school network.

The monograph "Technology and Entrepreneurship Education" is the main habilitation work presented by the candidate. The scientific work reflects the current trends in education and enriches the theoretical-applied foundations of the technology and entrepreneurship education methodology at the initial stage. The volume of 324 pages includes six chapters, which reflect the main parameters of modern technological education in a theoretical, practical-applied and methodological aspect, necessary for the pedagogical competence of the elementary teacher.

In the first chapter, the normative base and the study documentation are presented and analyzed, key concepts for the study subject are clarified - "technological literacy", "technological and entrepreneurial competence", etc. The topic of goal setting is examined from many angles in the light of Bloom's taxonomy and state educational standards.

The essence and specifics of the main types of technologies studied in the subject are presented in the second chapter. Information on types, properties, processing technology of the materials is combined with methodical guidelines and specific examples of the implementation of the educational content.

The third chapter clarifies the essence of engineering, systematizes and refines information about types of engineering, engineering fields, analyzes the main problems of STEAM education and the "Science and Technology in Society" movements.

The presentation of the current trends in STEM education as one of the priorities of the European educational policy and the methodological guidelines for its implementation are extremely useful for the practice of educators.

In the fourth chapter you can find the answers to all the questions related to the theoretical foundations and entrepreneurship education.

In the fifth and sixth chapters of the monographic work, emphasis is placed on the methodology in implementing the educational content. Contemporary concepts, strategies, organization, planning, didactic categories, and tools necessary to organize an effective learning environment in technology and entrepreneurship are examined.

The monographic work is the result of years of proven methodological experience of Assoc. prof. Vitanov as a university teacher and author of textbooks and aids in technology and entrepreneurship for all classes in the elementary stage. It successfully fills a niche in modern education by uniting traditions, modernity and perspectives in the development of technological training. The contribution of the author, who skilfully combines traditional methods and forms with innovative ones, is extremely valuable, as a result of which conditions are created for provoking the activity of students.

The monograph "STEM education in technology and entrepreneurship", which is not presented as a habilitation thesis, examines an extremely current and useful topic for pedagogical practice.

The STEM education in technology and entrepreneurship in terms of integration with natural sciences, mathematics and visual arts is described, systematized and analyzed. It examines the essential role of technology and engineering, which provide conditions for the conceptualization and practical application of theoretical knowledge, thus contributing to the effectiveness of STEM education.

The idea of implementing STEM education through project work is a promising field in modern education, for which pedagogical specialists need specific ideas and methodologies. Therefore, the examples of STEM projects and the derived pedagogical guidelines for their implementation in the educational content described in the book are extremely useful for both students and teachers. The author's contribution to presenting the topic of implementing problem-based learning in the conditions of STEM projects on technology and entrepreneurship is significant.

Articles

Assoc. prof. Vitanov's research interests can be systematized in the following thematic-problem areas:

- Technology and entrepreneurship education methodology

The presented publications reflect the author's aspiration to clarify current problems in technology and entrepreneurship education and reveal effective methodical solutions contributing to: optimization of the learning process in accordance with normative documents and trends in education; revealing the possibilities of the educational content for the application of innovative methods and techniques for the acquisition of knowledge, skills, assessment and reflection of student achievements; implementation of a competence approach, application of information technologies in education, formation of initiative and entrepreneurship among students from the primary stage, the practical-applied nature of the methodology is enriched by constructing methodological developments.

- Methodological guidelines for the implementation of the student-oriented positive pedagogical approach in class.

Questions related to positive upbringing, socialization and active learning are clarified based on the results of tests and expert evaluations. One of the articles was published in a scientific publication, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.

- Interactive teaching and learning of students - pedagogues.

As a result of a study of interactive methods and techniques applied in the education of students, the author proposes an effective methodology for implementing interactive learning, which contributes to enriching the practice of the university teacher.

In a published collective monograph chapter: "Strategies for active teaching and learning in the elementary grades. In: Methods and techniques for active learning", associate professor Vitanov examines the subject of active learning from many aspects. It clarifies the essence and classifications of methods and techniques for active learning, offers a new option for their structuring, describes the results of experimental research work of the team, which are in favor of increasing the share of strategies for active learning in the initial stage at the expense of reproductive ones.

Assoc. prof. Lyuben Vitanov is the head of a team that published a complete set of textbooks on Technology and Entrepreneurship for the 1st - 4th grades, of the "Prosveta Plus" publishing house, approved by the Ministry of Education and Culture for the education of technology and entrepreneurship at school.

He is also the author of 8 teaching aids, which are used in the initial stage:

- Teaching aid for teaching technology and entrepreneurship at school Books for the teacher of Technology and entrepreneurship for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade of "Prosveta plus" publishing house;

- Learning aid for class time at school

"I follow the rules". A teacher's book for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade, published by "Riva".

I fully accept the contributions in the works of assoc. prof. Vitanov, brought out by him in the reference attached to the documents, with which he applied for the academic position of "professor".

In support of the high assessment of the candidate's scientific output, the attached reference with registered citations - a total of 24 in number, of which 1 - in a refereed edition, 17 - in monographs, 6 - in non-refereed editions, speaks eloquently.

The scientific and scientific applied activity of assoc. prof. Vitanov fully meets and even significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements under Art. 2 b, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB.

5. Conclusion:

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that scientific contributions in the field of technology and entrepreneurship education methodology and work methodology in the class time in primary grades, professionalism and ethics in the academic activity of the candidate are indisputable. This gives me the reason with full conviction to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to prepare a report with a proposal to the FS of FNOI at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", Assoc. prof. DSc Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov to be elected to the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.3. Pedagogy of education in... (Technology and entrepreneurship education in primary grades and Methodology of work in class time in primary grades) for the needs of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

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Shumen

Presented the opinion:
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