

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Ivanov Tsanev, PhD  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",  
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on the competition for the academic position "Professor" for Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in ... (Technology and Entrepreneurship Teaching Methodology in the Primary School and Methods of Work in Classtime Lessons in Primary Grades), published in State Gazette, No. 48/28. 07. 2022.

The competition for "Professor" was announced in SG, issue no. 48/28.06.2022 and on the website of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the needs of the "Primary School Pedagogy" Department at the Faculty of Education Studies and the Arts. Associate Professor DSc Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov participates as the only candidate.

### *1. Compliance of the procedure and the submitted documentation with the current one regulatory framework*

According to Order No. RD 38-390/13.07.2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", to hold a competition for Associate Professor in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogics of education in ... (Technology and Entrepreneurship Teaching Methodology in the Primary School and Methods of Work in Classtime Lessons in Primary Grades) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition.

To participate in the announced competition, Assoc. Prof. DSc. Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov, from FESA, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", who is the only candidate.

The set of materials presented by Associate Professor DSc L. Vitanov is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and includes all necessary documents.

### *2. General biographical presentation of the candidate (education, qualifications, professional experience, etc.)*

Lyuben Vitanov completed his higher education with a master's degree in the specialty "Primary Pedagogy" at the Higher Pedagogical Institute – Blagoevgrad (now South West University "Neofit Rilski"), PhD degree from Faculty of primary and Preschool Education in 1995, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" (now Faculty of Education Studies and the Arts) and "Doctor of Sciences" degree in 2021.

Assoc. Prof. Vitanov's professional career began at 18 "William Gladstone" Secondary School as a primary teacher, and since 1991 he has been a lecturer at the Faculty of Primary and Preschool Pedagogy. He passes successively through all academic positions and scientific degrees. During the entire period of his teaching work, he actively participated in various qualification courses, research projects, building his academic career with great desire and professionalism.

### *3. Teaching activity*

As an excellent lecturer and specialist in technology and entrepreneurship methodology, Assoc. Prof. Vitanov has developed independently and in a team an impressive amount of training courses related to the disciplines he teaches, namely:

- Didactics of Technique and Technology – bachelor's degree
- Methodology of Pedagogical Work during the Class Hour – bachelor's degree
- Constructive-applied activities – bachelor's degree
- Methodology of pedagogical work in class time – master's degree
- Didactics of technique and technology – modern trends and approaches - master's degree
- Elective – Methods and techniques for active learning – bachelor's degree
- Elective – Methodology of road traffic safety training – bachelor's degree
- Optional – Education and play – master's degree
- Optional – Guidelines for work in optional study hours – bachelor's degree
- Inclusive education (together with Prof. Dr. Milen Zamfirov) – bachelor's degree
- Inclusive education (together with Prof. Milen Zamfirov) – master's degree

His overall activity as a teacher and expert in the Faculty gives grounds to rate his qualities and professional experience very highly in connection with the announced competition.

### *4. Scientific research activity*

Assoc. Prof. Vitanov is a university teacher with a clear orientation towards research work. The presented documentation contains data on participation in various projects of the Scientific Research Fund at SU “St. Kl. Ohridski”, financed by the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as national and international projects. The emphasis in his research are: innovative teaching methods at primary level, interactive learning, the quality of e-learning, creation of new teaching and methodical materials, tests and others.

### *5. Scientific production*

Candidate Associate Professor L. Vitanov submitted a total of 29 scientific works, of which 1 monograph (as the main habilitation thesis), 1 other monograph that was not presented as a habilitation thesis, 1 published chapter of a collective monograph, 1 article published in a scientific journal, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, 13 articles and reports published in non-refereed journals or published in edited collective volumes, 4 textbooks in the category “Published university textbook or textbook used in the school network” and 8 textbooks tools used in the school area.

#### *5.1. Compliance with the scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position*

In general, the scientific works of Associate Professor Lyuben Vitanov exceed the minimum national requirements (according to Article 2b, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the

ZRASRB), as well as the requirements of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” for occupying the academic position of “Professor” in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition, as can be seen in the table below.

A group of indicators	Content	Number of points according to the minimum requirements for a professorship	Candidate Points
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	0	0
V	Indicator 3	100	100
G	Sum of indicators from 4 to 10	200	253
D	Sum of indicators 11 to 13	100	185
E	Sum of the indicators from 12 to the end	100	460

It is necessary to note that the scientific works presented by the candidate do not repeat those from previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title and academic position. I have no evidence of proven plagiarism in the scientific works submitted for the competition.

*5.2. Content analysis of the presented scientific works for participation in the competition*

The highlight of the proposed publications is undoubtedly the monograph “Technology and Entrepreneurship Education”. It is presented as the main habilitation work. The monograph is dedicated to the specifics of the educational process in technology and entrepreneurship in primary grades. Based on the conducted research, the new priorities of technology and entrepreneurship education, important private didactic problems such as: the basic concepts of education, the normative documents and the modern aspects of the educational content, the strategies, methods and techniques of work, the STEM approach in the educational process, the work on projects, experiential research work, authentic learning, exploratory and research learning activities, business and simulation games.

The monograph “Education in technology and entrepreneurship” is a kind of bible of modern technological education. The research questions are outlined very clearly and concretely in the book, which gives the reader a very good orientation. In this regard, it is important to note that the scientific research is conducted on the basis of a broad theoretical analysis of modern technological training in our country and around the world.

The monograph “STEM education in technology and entrepreneurship” by Associate Professor Lyuben Vitanov is distinguished by a rich scientific apparatus, important conclusions about modern theory and practice, directly oriented to the modern understanding of the

STEAM approach, the main characteristics, methods, content of the training, problems, which accompany its implementation in the school environment. A place is also devoted to the preparation and use of various resources by teachers and students. The text is very readable, the descriptions are clear and specific, a large base of sources on the subject is correctly used.

The rest of the scientific works are also in accordance with the profile of the competition and cover the two areas – Methodology of Teaching Technology and Entrepreneurship in Primary Grades and Methods of Work in Classtime Lessons in Primary Grades.

#### *6. Scientific-theoretical, practical-applied, artistic and other contributions*

The scientific production of Prof. Vitanov is distinguished by its own style in the scientific research of a range of questions relevant to modern education. The interpretation is not associated with elementary superficial conclusions and conclusions. Diverse perspectives are sought. Scientific ethics and tolerance for differences are demonstrated. The complexity, multifactorial nature of the investigated processes and phenomena is taken into account. The thesis, as well as the other publications submitted for the competition, give a very broad and complete view in the field of technological education and entrepreneurship and the methodology of work in the classroom in the primary grades.

The main contributing points can be briefly listed as follows:

1. The monograph “Education in Technology and Entrepreneurship” presents the main definitions, characteristics, types and guidelines of education in the field of technology and entrepreneurship.

2. A special place in the same monograph is devoted to engineering education in its two main aspects and methodological levels – modeling education and construction education as a complete process of defining the problem or task, generating and presenting ideas, making products, testing and evaluating no.

3. The teaching and mastering of popular materials processing technologies, mechanical technologies and techniques, energy, information, food and agricultural technologies, product manufacturing and entrepreneurship are clarified from a theoretical and methodological point of view.

4. The issue of the STEM/STEAM approach to learning, as well as several effective concepts for understanding science and technology in society, are addressed in a variety of ways.

5. The approach created and tested over the years to dynamically combine and upgrade traditional direct methods and methods of active and discovery learning in technology and entrepreneurship education and in the classroom.

6. All the main issues and problems of technology and entrepreneurship education and classtime are presented and interpreted in detail – normative documents, educational content, planning and organization of education, concepts, priorities and basic organizational forms and methods for teaching and learning.

7. The new priorities of technology and entrepreneurship training, aimed at increasing its contribution to general education, have been systematized.

8. The main publications outline the leading priorities of technology and entrepreneurship education and in the classroom, grouped around the pragmatic, cognitive, humanistic, constructivist and connectionist concepts of learning.

9. The habilitation thesis explains in detail the organization and planning of technology and entrepreneurship education, the main organizational forms, the types of study hours, interest-based activities, etc.

10. A significant contribution is also the reflexive pedagogical practice and the model for a holistic approach to creating a positive learning environment in technology and entrepreneurship in the classroom as well.

11. A methodology has been created and approved for interactive training of students from the majors for the preparation of primary teachers on the methodology of teaching technology and entrepreneurship and the methodology of pedagogical work in the classroom.

It is necessary to note the exceptional competence of the author and the knowledge of the situation on a global scale and in Bulgaria.

### *7. Personal impressions*

The scientific works submitted for review reflect in an indisputable way the qualities of the candidate. My overall impression of Assoc. Prof. Vitanov's work and attitude are excellent. He is an extremely capable and ambitious scientist who fully meets the requirements of the competition for which he is applying.

### *8. Notes, recommendations and questions.*

I have no critical notes and recommendations. I recommend the colleague to continue persistently developing knowledge in his chosen scientific fields.

### *9. Final assessment.*

In conclusion, I can state with conviction that there are many theoretical and scientific-applied contributions in the scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Vitanov. The documents and scientific production submitted by him for participation in the competition meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted more than a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD degree, DSc degree and the acquisition of the academic position of Associate Professor. There are original contributions in his works that have received national and international recognition. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Vitanov and his professional experience cannot be doubted.

Having acquainted myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the theoretical and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I find it completely justified to give my positive assessment

and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts for the election of Associate Professor DSc Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov to the academic position of “Professor” in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.3. Pedagogics of education in ... (Technology and Entrepreneurship Teaching Methodology in the Primary School and Methods of Work in Classtime Lessons in Primary Grades).

26/09/2022

Presented the opinion:

Sofia

(Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Tsanev, PhD)