

OPINION

by Prof. Marina Ivanova, PhD, Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski",
Department of "Aesthetic Education",
on the competition for the academic position "professor" in
Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Technology and entrepreneurship
education methodology in elementary grades),
announced in the State Gazette number 48 of 28.06.2022 for the needs of
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts

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

The competition has been announced for the needs of FESA by the Department of Primary School Education. It has been announced and it has taken place according to all legal requirements. All the necessary procedures under the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Only one candidate participated in the competition, Dr. Nikolay Ivanov Tsanev, associate professor at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski".

The documents submitted by the applicant for participation in the competition meet all requirements.

General biographical presentation of the candidate

Nikolay Tsanev was born in 1960 and completed his higher pedagogical education at Neofit Rilski Secondary School, Blagoevgrad. Initially, he was a teacher at the National Educational Complex for Culture in Sofia, and since 1987 he has been teaching as an assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant at the Department of Elementary School Pedagogy at the University of St. Kl. Ohridski". From 2005 to the present, he has been an associate professor in technology and entrepreneurship education methodology at the same university. His entire professional path as a university teacher has been related to the preparation of teachers for primary grades. Assoc. prof. Tsanev is a lecturer who has devoted his work to the preparation of students both in traditional university didactics and in innovative methods, distance learning and interactive electronic environment.

He actively participates in the management of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts as the Head of the "Primary School Pedagogy" department, deputy dean for the "Bachelor" and e-learning, member of the faculty council, member of the Academic Council of SU "St. Kl. Ohridski".

The entire scientific, academic and managerial pedagogical activity of Nikolay Tsanev is in the field of technological training methodology under Educational direction 1.3., in which the candidate appears as an exceptional professional. It fully corresponds to the ongoing competition for a professorship.

Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Tsanev carries out successful teaching work with students from SU, but also during repeated exchange of experience in other higher education schools, where he conducts courses on didactics of technique and technology, modeling and construction, information technology and educational software. He has extensive experience in planning, developing and conducting the training of bachelor's and master's students from various

pedagogical specialties in the disciplines of didactics of technology and technology, constructive - applied activities and teaching methodology in information technology and entrepreneurship. In recent years, Assoc. Professor N. Tsanev has been a team leader and author of textbooks and teaching aids for elementary grades in the publishing houses Bulvest and Anubis, participated in and supervised scientific projects and successfully defended doctoral students.

Research activity

Assoc. Prof. Tsanev carries out research on the development of multimedia educational resources for electronic forms of distance learning, as well as presentation of good practices in the integration of information and communication technologies in education.

The main areas of his research work are the modernization and digitization of education, the organization of effective electronic and distance learning, the applied aspects in the preparation of students-pedagogues for working with electronic resources.

Nikolay Tsanev carries out extensive research activities. He participated and successfully managed a number of projects in the field of technology and entrepreneurship education methodology. His research work as head of the Faculty Center for Electronic and Distance Learning at the Faculty of Educational Studies and Arts is also very active. His work on the creation of a variant model for the introduction of a distance form of education in the Master's College of Higher Education in SU "St. Kl. Ohridski".

Everything that has been said so far presents the candidate not only as a competent teacher and researcher, but also as an organizer of research work on the methodology of technology and entrepreneurship education.

Scientific production

Nikolay Tsanev has presented 76 out of a total of over 120 publications for all periods of his scientific activity, aimed at various problems of technology and entrepreneurship education. In the competition for the academic position of "professor" in Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of training in technology and entrepreneurship in elementary grades) he presents a detailed list of his scientific publications: dissertation work from 1998; 5 monographs (one from 2003) and four others, published in the period from 2019 to 2022, articles and reports published in scientific publications, refereed and indexed - 2 nos. from 2019; 26 pcs. articles and publications published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals; textbooks, teacher books and albums on technology and entrepreneurship; learning aids for kindergarten 13 pcs. from 2003 to 2022; books for the kindergarten teacher from 2016 to 2018 - 4 pcs. The school textbooks and aids were developed in a team with fellow specialists and are aimed at the practice of working in kindergartens and primary schools.

The main habilitation thesis presents constructivism as one of the leading concepts in the pedagogical theory of technology and entrepreneurship education. The basic concepts and applied aspects of constructivism for technological learning are examined, solutions and ideas, pedagogical options for planning and organizing for more effective teaching and learning are indicated. Constructivist methods and techniques in technological learning and the possibilities of information and communication technologies in the constructivist classroom are described, analyzed and structured.

The monograph "The art of origami in an educational environment" is a methodological development with an applied nature in technological education. A variety of ideas, tasks, activities and examples are offered for learning through visual cues, pattern work and planning in the construction and paper modeling process. The ideas and techniques presented are also recommended for therapeutic work with young and older children, as well as for children with SEN.

The monograph "Didactic Foundations of Technological Education in Elementary School" is a scholarly look at basic didactic concepts related to the technological education of students and is a necessary tool for the preparation of future teachers. It examines a wide range of questions from the methodology of technological education in primary grades, structured and analyzed problems such as: the content of education, the main didactic principles and methods in education, organizational forms, the lesson on technology and entrepreneurship, the learning environment, etc.

The rest of the publications are related to various problems of technological training and correspond to the profile of the professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of learning.

The textbooks, teaching aids and books for the teacher for the elementary grades created under his leadership and in a team have also contributed to the education in technology and entrepreneurship.

Compliance with the scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position

A report has been submitted for the competition for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b from ZRASRB for the scientific field of Pedagogical Sciences, Professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of training in technology and entrepreneurship in primary grades) by Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Ivanov Tsanev - candidate for the academic position of "professor".

All indicator groups have significantly more than the required points. They are respectively: according to indicator D – 333 points, indicator D – 215 points, indicator E – 604 points.

In this long journey as a teacher and researcher, Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Tsanev has fulfilled all scientometric indicators, and some have even been significantly exceeded.

Scientific theoretical and practical contributions

In the presentation made so far, it is clearly seen that in the scientific and methodical output of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Tsanev there are sufficient contributions in the theoretical, experimental-research and practical-applied aspects.

The theoretical contributions are related to a qualitative analysis of the methodology of training in technology and entrepreneurship, a new reading of some basic problems, leading concepts and perspectives related to technological training in Bulgaria and in other countries (Source B3 No. 1, D4 No. 2, D7 No. 4).

Pedagogical theories and their influence on the methodology of technology and entrepreneurship education are interpreted in a practical-applied aspect through the proposed specific guidelines for their application in elementary grades (Source B3 #1, D4 #2, D7 #4).

Theoretical studies have been made that detail and structure basic pedagogical and methodological issues related to approaches, ideas and techniques for construction and modeling (Source D4 #1, D5 #1).

The practical approaches from the technology and entrepreneurship training methodology - the constructivist approach (Source B3 #1), integration of information and communication technologies (Source D7 #3), also in connection with the use of distance learning (Source D7 #3, #5, E20 #1).

There is also a contribution point in transforming theoretical concepts into practically developed guidelines and tools for conducting technological training. (Source B3 #1, D4 #2, D5 #1, E20 #1 – 9, E21 #1 – 7).

The developed textbooks, study aids and books for the primary school teacher based on a modern methodological approach in the study of technology and entrepreneurship are the natural continuation of the scientific research of Prof. N. Tsanev (Source E20 №1 – 9, E21 №1 – 7).

Personal impressions

My personal impressions of Nikolay Tsanev date back to the student bench, when the candidate chose the difficult path in scientific development, becoming one of the first graduates in this direction, led by Professor Nikolay Bozhkov. Throughout his life and creative journey, the colleague was distinguished by his professionalism, dedication to his academic career and to his students.

Conclusion

I believe that Associate Professor Nikolay Ivanov Tsanev, PhD, possesses a variety of scientific and teaching competencies and extensive professional experience in the methodology of information technology training at the initial stage of primary education.

This gives me the reason to give a positive conclusion and to suggest to the members of the Scientific Jury to support this candidacy and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education Studies and Arts at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" to elect Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Ivanov Tsanev as "Professor" in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of training in technology and entrepreneurship in elementary grades).

Пловдив, 21.09.2022

Prepared the opinion:


(Prof. Marina Ivanova, PhD)