

STATEMENT

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)

by assoc. prof. DSc Lyuben Vitanov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

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

The competition has been announced for the needs of FNIO, Department of "Primary School Pedagogy". It has been announced and is proceeding 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".

The position foresees a study load in the field of technology and entrepreneurship education methodology.

Only one candidate participated in the competition, Nikolay Tsanev, associate professor at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski", who presents documentation that complies with all formal requirements.

General biographical presentation of the candidate

Nikolay Tsanev completed his pedagogical education at University „Neofit Rilski“, Blagoevgrad. He worked as a teacher at the National Educational Complex for Culture in Sofia. Since 1987, he has been an assistant, senior and chief assistant in the department of elementary school pedagogy at the "St. Kl. Ohridski". From 2005 until today, he has been a full-time associate professor of teaching methods in technique and technology at Sofia University with a rich and successful professional career.

He actively participates in the management of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts as the head of the "Primary School Pedagogy" department, Deputy Dean for OCS "bachelor" and e-learning, and a member of the faculty council. In recent years, he has been a member of the Academic Council of "St. Kl. Ohridski". The connection between the scientific, academic and managerial pedagogical activity during the professional career of Nikolay Tsanev in the field of teaching methodology can be clearly stated. It fully corresponds to the ongoing competition for a professorship.

Teaching activity

Assoc. prof. Nikolay Tsanev has a rich and successful teaching career. He plans, develops and conducts training for bachelor's and master's students from various pedagogical specialties in the disciplines of technique and technology didactics, constructive applied activities and information technology training methodology. Students with interest and desire are included in its optional electives on origami for learning purposes, educational software for children, digital competence and digital creativity, construction and modeling, etc.

Scientific research activity

Assoc. prof. Nikolay Tsanev carries out a successful and rich scientific research activity, including the participation and management of a number of projects in the field of technology training methodology and information technology in education.

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

Excellent impressions are made by the research that assoc. prof. N. Tsanev carries out for the development of multimedia educational resources for electronic forms of distance learning, as well as research and presentation of good practices in the integration of information and communication technologies in education.

His research work as head of the Faculty Center for Electronic and Distance Learning at the Faculty of Educational Sciences 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 Education at the University of St. Kl. Ohridski" is very successful.

All this presents the candidate as a competent researcher and organizer of successful research work in the methodology of technology and entrepreneurship education.

Scientific production

Assoc. prof. Nikolay Tsanev is the author of a total of 75 publications from different scientific genres and fields. They address various issues of technology and entrepreneurship education. He participated in the competition with 27 publications - habilitation thesis, two separate monographs, reports and articles. The main ones are independently developed.

The major thesis examines the concepts of the most influential pedagogical theory of technology and entrepreneurship education. The main concepts, characteristics and applied aspects of constructivism for technological learning are examined. A lot of good theoretical and applied research has been done, trends have been identified, solutions have been indicated and many ideas and pedagogical options have been provided for planning and organizing more effective teaching and learning. Constructivist methods and techniques in technological learning are very well described, analyzed and structured, as well as the possibilities of information and communication technologies in the constructivist classroom. Also useful is the described constructivist lesson design in technology learning.

The monograph "The Art of Origami in an Educational Environment" is also a useful methodological development with a contribution to technology education. A variety of ideas, tasks, activities and examples are excellently structured for learning through visual cues, pattern work and planning in the construction and paper modeling process. The presented ideas and techniques for therapeutic work in the conditions of the Bulgarian educational system deserve admiration.

A very good scientific and methodological study is also collected in the monograph "Didactic foundations of technological education in primary school". It examines a wide range of questions from the methodology of technological education in primary grades. Important concepts, characteristics and trends in the development of theory and practice are presented. Problems such as the content of the training, the main didactic principles that are the basis of modern technological training, the methods and strategies of training, organizational forms and the lesson, the learning environment in technological training, etc., are very well structured and analyzed. Important contemporary concepts and theories are reviewed.

The remaining publications also cover important issues of technology education and entrepreneurship. They present the candidate as a competent researcher and scientist.

The system of textbooks, teaching aids and teacher's books for elementary grades created under his leadership also made a significant contribution to technology and entrepreneurship education. The proposed methodology, tasks and activities in them are effectively selected, constructed and organized.

Compliance with scientometric indicators of occupancy of the academic position

For the competition, a detailed and complete report on the implementation 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 – 315 points, indicator E – 604 points.

This gives reason to believe that all scientometric indicators have been fulfilled.

Scientific-theoretical, practical-applied, artistic and other contributions

The presented scientific and methodological production has sufficient contributions in the theoretical, experimental-research and practical-applied aspects.

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

Leading pedagogic theories and their influence on the methodology of teaching technology and entrepreneurship are indicated through proposed specific ideas and guidelines for their use in primary classes (Source B3 №1, D4 №2, D7 №4).

Theoretical studies have been made that structure basic pedagogical and methodological issues related to approaches, ideas and techniques for construction and modeling (Source D4 №1, D5 №1).

Many practical problems of the technology and entrepreneurship education methodology have been developed: the constructivist approach (Source B3 №1), integration of information and communication technologies (Source D7 №3), as well as the distance form of education (Source D7 №3, №5, E20 №1).

There are also contributions in a practical sense, mainly aimed at integrating 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).

Developed textbooks, teaching aids and books for the primary school teacher based on a modern methodological approach in the study of technology and entrepreneurship (Source E20 №1 – 9, E21 №1 – 7).


Personal impressions

My personal impressions of assoc. prof. Nikolay Tsanev are wonderful. They are for a colleague dedicated to science, teaching and management work. In all his work, he is distinguished by professionalism, dedication and diplomacy.

Final assessment

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 Sciences and Arts at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" to elect Associate Professor Nikolay Ivanov Tsanev as "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).

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Sofia

Presented the opinion: 
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