

OPINION

on a competition for an academic position

"Associate Professor"

in professional field 4.1 "Physical Sciences"

for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "

Faculty of Physics, announced in SG No. 21 of 2022.

The opinion was prepared by: Prof. Asen Enev Pashov, SU St. Kliment Ohridski, in his capacity as a member of the scientific jury at the competition according to Order RD-38-248 / 20.05.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University.

The only candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Gergana Emilova Aleksieva, Faculty of Physics, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

I. General description of the submitted materials

1. Details of the application

Dr. Aleksieva completed her master's degree in higher education at the Faculty of Physics at Sofia University in 1997. Since March 1998 she was a full-time doctoral student at the faculty, and in the period June 1998 - September 2000 she spent more than one year at the Technical University of Munich, dealing with biosensors and gas permeability of polymer layers. After her study, in 2003 she took the position of assistant professor. She defended his doctoral dissertation in 2013 on "Acoustic properties and applications of polymeric materials." Since the same year he has been a chief assistant at FzF.

Dr. Aleksieva participated in the competition with 19 publications published in the period 2015 - 2022. 12 of them are in group 1 (Q1 and Q2), and 7 - in group II (Q3 and Q4). She has made a significant contribution in seven of her publications. In total, Dr. Aleksieva is a co-author of 25 publications, the first of which was published in 2007. I will note the "slow" start in the scientific career of the candidate, but after 2015 the pace is very good - nearly three publications a year, as here I do not count the works from group B from the list of the candidate's publications. A significant part of the journals in which she publishes are also good, 7 of them are in Q1 and 8 - in Q2. The large number of co-authors of Dr. Aleksieva's publications is impressive: 56. This is related to the specifics of scientific research, namely:

- Research of the possibilities of various materials for sensory and pharmaceutical applications
- Characterization of the structure and properties of materials by acoustic, acousto-optical and optical methods

according to what is written in the candidate's contributions. The research has an applied character and therefore the interest in them from different research teams is understandable and speaks of the potential of these studies. On the other hand, the independent citations of the works are not very many, this is probably the specifics of the scientific field. Despite this finding, the citations received at the time of the competition are 57 according to Scopus and, with an h-index 5 (based solely on independent citations), they meet the national as well as the additional requirements of the FZF.

2. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Dr. Aleksieva since 2005. We have worked together as lecturers in the laboratory workshop on optics for students of all physical specialties at the Faculty of Physics. Together we have conducted courses in computer processing of experimental data (Optometry and Photonics and laser physics), a workshop on geometric optics and computer modeling in optometry (bachelor's and master's program in optometry) and also Introduction to Astronomical Optics for students in the Master's program in Astronomy and Promotion of Astronomy.

Dr. Aleksieva is an extremely conscientious, responsible, and hard-working teacher. The nature of teaching some students is such that teachers are supposed to take blocks many hours, including Saturday and Sunday. I have never encountered misunderstanding and dissatisfaction, on the contrary, the classes have always been conducted with diligence and precision and this is not only my opinion, but also that of the students during all these many years. Dr. Aleksieva is a colleague who can definitely be relied on.

3. Conclusion on the application

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific materials presented in the competition, I confirm that the scientific achievements meet the requirements of ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application and the relevant Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " for the candidate for the academic position " Associate Professor " in the scientific field and professional direction of the competition. In particular, the candidate satisfies the minimum national requirements in the professional field, the additional requirements of the

Faculty of Physics and no plagiarism has been established in the scientific papers submitted at the competition.

I give my positive assessment of the candidacy.

II. OVERALL CONCLUSION

Based on the above, I recommend the scientific jury to propose to the competent authority for the selection of the Faculty of Physics at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" **to choose** Dr. Gergana Aleksieva to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 4.1 Physical Sciences.