

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Gabriela Nikolova Kirova, PhD
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Ohridski”

in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor,
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences,
Professional field 1.3. (Pedagogy of Information Technology Education in Primary
Grades), announced by the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in the State Gazette,
issue No. 96 / November 19, 2021 for the needs of the Department of Primary School
Pedagogy at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts

1. General presentation of the procedure

This review has been prepared on the basis of the Order No. ПД 38-4 / January 4, 2022 of the Rector of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Prof. Anastas Gerdzhikov, Doctor of Philology in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for its implementation. The submitted documents meet the requirements and the competition is conducted in accordance with the legal provisions. The only candidate in the competition is Chief Assistant Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov, PhD. The competition is for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in(Pedagogy of Information Technology Education in Primary Grades) and is for the needs of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Department of Primary School Pedagogy. I have obtained access to the applicant's competition documents.

2. General presentation of the candidate – profession and career

Ivan Nikolayev Dushkov is a graduate of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. In 2004 he obtained a Master’s degree in Applied Mathematics, majoring in Mathematical Modelling and Application of Mathematics. He has a postgraduate qualification “Teacher of Mathematics and Informatics” from the same Faculty. In 2015 he defended his doctoral dissertation in Professional Field 1.3. “Integration of information and communication technologies in the teaching of mathematics in primary school (in geometric content)”. He works as a teacher of Mathematics and Informatics in the 8th Secondary School in Sofia in the period 2004 to 2006 and from September 1, 2006 until now he has been a lecturer at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, at the Department of Primary School Pedagogy. Since 2016 until now he has been on the academic position of the Chief Assistant.

The candidate in the competition Ivan Dushkov teaches the following disciplines in the profile of the competition: **Mandatory disciplines – Bachelor’s degree:** Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Work in a Digital Environment; Audio-visual and Information Technology; Mathematical and Statistical Methods in Physical Education and Sports; **Mandatory disciplines – Master’s degree:** Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Work in a Digital Environment; Pedagogical Statistics; Data Processing and Analysis in Social Research; Specialized Modern Information Technologies; **Mandatory elective courses – Bachelor’s degree:** Web Design for Pedagogical Purposes; Digital Competence and Digital Creativity; **Elective courses – Master’s degree:** Web Design for Teachers; **Classes in the courses for postgraduate qualification “Primary School**

Pedagogy”: Information and Communication Technologies in Teaching and Working in a Digital Environment; Current Pedagogical Practice; Pre-graduation Practice.

Since 2016 until now, Ivan Dushkov has been the scientific supervisor of the postgraduate programme “Primary School Pedagogy”.

From the data generated by “The Authors of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” system, it is clear that the candidate is a scientific supervisor of 8 graduates who have successfully defended in the last 5 years.

Ivan Dushkov has annually significantly exceeded the normative teaching load in the subjects of the profile of this competition.

3. Presentation of the scientific production of the candidate

In the data generated by the “Authors” system, Chief Assistant Ivan Dushkov, PhD, has 24 publications, 11 of which are co-authored.

For his participation in the current competition for associate professor, Ivan Dushkov has indicated 21 publications, 10 of which are co-authored.

The scientific production includes two books – a monograph “Multimedia presentations – mistakes, omissions and guidelines for overcoming them with future primary teachers” and a published book on the dissertation thesis “Integration of information and communication technologies in the teaching of geometry in primary school”.

The candidate has: one study published in a referenced edition in a world database and two co-authored scientific articles published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 16 articles in non-referenced editions.

Some of the publications are in international journals (5), and the rest are in Bulgarian journals and collections with scientific editing and reviewing (14).

Apart from the publications mentioned in the competition, it is important to note that Ivan Dushkov is a team leader and author of two textbooks on computer modelling and 4 textbooks for the mainstream school in Bulgaria (KLET Bulgaria Ltd. publishing house, ANUBIS brand).

Most of the scientific publications presented in the competition are from the period 2016-2021, which shows enhanced research activities during the period of Ivan Dushkov’s holding the academic position of “Chief Assistant”.

The research interests and publications of the candidate fully correspond to the profile of the competition.

4. Participation in projects

In the documents for the competition Ivan Dushkov has indicated participation in 13 (thirteen) projects – 8 inter-university and 5 national. I will mention several more important and thematically related projects, in some of which we participated together: “Creating a positive environment for training students in pedagogical specialties in inclusive education” (2020 – member), “Exploring the possibilities of interactive learning for improving the academic achievements of pedagogical students” (2018 – member), “Resource provision of electronic courses for distance learning ”(2016 – member), “Increasing the capacity of the academic

staff of pedagogical specialties of Sofia University in designing, conducting and providing quality e-learning” (2012 – trainer), “Research of good practices in interactive learning” (2011 – member), “Laboratory of educational software – creator of educational software products for primary school” (2009 – member).

5. Citations of scientific production

The documentation on the competition shows 14 (fourteen) citations of scientific publications of Ivan Dushkov from recent years, which testify to the knowledge and use of his works and the works in which he participates in the scientific community.

6. Scientific – theoretical, experimental and applied contributions

The contributions of the author’s publications proposed for the academic position of “Associate Professor” competition can be summarized as follows:

In theoretical and systematic terms, the candidate formulates, tests and derives the advantages and disadvantages of interactive methods and in particular the implementation of information technology in the learning process in primary school age. Experimentally substantiates the positive effect of the application of multimedia presentations in the teaching of geometry in the initial stage of the basic educational degree. In addition, he researches the scientific literature on the subject and formulates typical problems in mastering and applying information technology in education.

In experimental and research terms, it should be noted the developed system of criteria for improvement of the used multimedia presentations in teaching, the developed author’s multimedia presentations with entertaining tasks for teaching mathematics in the initial stage.

Regarding the contributions in practical and applied terms, the numerous e-courses developed by the candidate (8) and guidelines for their implementation in the educational environment MOODLE come to the fore. Ivan Dushkov has participated in national and international scientific conferences on topics related to mathematical models. He also participates in a number of trainings for teachers related to the teaching process of “Computer Modelling” in 3rd and 4th grade.

7. Notes and recommendations

I have no remarks to the presented scientific works of the candidate. I would recommend in his future work to engage in the management of research projects and doctoral students.

8. Personal impressions

I work together with Chief Assistant Ivan Dushkov, PhD, from the beginning of his professional career at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. For these 16 years I have gained an excellent idea of his professional and personal qualities. I would like to note the professional correctness and collegial responsiveness he shows – he is positive, kind to everyone and always ready to help. For the last 6 years I have been the head of the Department of Primary School Pedagogy, where we work together with the candidate and I must emphasize that he is one of my colleagues whom I can count on 100% to perform official and administrative tasks. He is a favorite teacher for the students he teaches, and I had the opportunity to see for myself his exceptional qualities as a lecturer when participating in a project in which Ivan Dushkov was a trainer.

9. Conclusion

The candidate in the announced competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Pedagogy of teaching in information technology in primary school) Chief Assistant Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov, PhD, meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. He has a total of 428.75 points in his report on the implementation of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, which shows that the candidate satisfies the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism has been established in the scientific papers submitted at the competition.

My opinion on Chief Assistant Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov’s election for an associate professor is **positive**.

In view of all the above, I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the academic position of “Associate Professor” and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts to elect Chief Assistant Professor Ivan Nikolaev Dushkov, PhD for associate professor in higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Pedagogy of teaching in information technology in primary school).

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Sofia

Opinion, given by:

(Assoc. Prof. Gabriela Kirova, PhD)