

STATEMENT

by Prof. PhD. Marina Spasova Ivanova

“Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv,

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 and Methodology of work in class time in primary grades)

The competition for professorship was announced in State Gazette (SG), issue no. 48/28.06.2022 and on the Sofia University (SU) website for the needs of the "Elementary School Pedagogy" department at the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts. Associate Professor Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov participated as the only candidate.

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

Pursuant to Order No. RD 38-390/13.07.2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", to hold a competition for a professor in a professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in (Technology and entrepreneurship education in primary grades and Methodology of work in class time in primary grades). I participate as a member of the scientific jury in the competition.

To participate in the announced competition, one candidate has submitted documents - Associate Professor Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov, from FNOI, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The set of materials presented by Associate Professor Vitanov is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the SU and includes all the necessary documents: item 7 - curriculum vitae, diplomas for the National Academy of Sciences "Doctor", "Doctor of Sciences", for the position held "Associate Professor" in SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" and others.

2. General biographical presentation of the candidate

Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov graduated from the Academy of Arts "Bachelor" at VPI Blagoevgrad in 1984, majoring in "Primary Pedagogy". Since 1981 until 1984 he was engaged in teaching and research work. From 1985 to 1987, he was a doctoral student at Neophyt Rilski University of Applied Sciences with an awarded diploma for ONS "Doctor" at FNPP at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1996, ONS "Doctor of Sciences" in FNOI in 2021.

Since 1991, he has been a teacher at the Faculty of Primary and Preschool Pedagogy. In the period of his teaching work as an assistant, senior, chief assistant and associate professor, he actively participated in various qualification courses, scientific research projects. A group of rich and varied work experience related to the education and education of children and students over a long period of time - from preschool to high school age.

3. Teaching activity

As a teacher and specialist in the methodology of education in “domestic life and technology” and since 2016 - “technology and entrepreneurship”, for which a change and a new concept and strategy in the professional education of children is also to the credit of Assoc. Vitanov, the latter develops independently and in a team an impressive amount study courses related to the disciplines he teaches as well as numerous textbooks and aids necessary for the study, namely:

- Didactics of technique and technology - special PNUP
- Didactics of technique and technology - special NUPCHE
- Methodology of pedagogical work during class time - special PNUP
- Methodology of pedagogical work during the class hour - MP NUP (for graduates of other specialties)

- Methodology of pedagogical work during the class hour - MP NUP (for graduates of pedagogical specialties and specialties with teacher's license)
- Didactics of technique and technology - modern trends and approaches - MP NUP (for graduates of pedagogical majors and majors with teaching qualifications)
- Didactics of technique and technology - modern trends and approaches - MP NUP (for graduates of other specialties)
- ID Methods and techniques for active learning
- ID Methodology of road traffic safety education
- FD Education and Play - MP NUP (for graduates of pedagogical majors and majors with teaching qualifications)
- FD Guidelines for work in elective study hours
- Inclusive education (jointly with Prof. Dr. Milen Zamfirov) - MP NUP (for graduates of pedagogical majors and majors with teaching qualifications).

His teaching activity is rich and varied and is also aimed at basic pedagogical training, in which he offers as an expert new innovations in teaching and learning methods - project activity and active learning.

4. Scientific research activity

Associate Professor Vitanov's expertise is oriented towards research work in general pedagogy and professional education, but carried out in a new environment with innovations, technology, digital and distance learning. To enrich his education, he participated as a member and leader of one of the groups of various projects of the Scientific Research Fund at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski", supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, as well as national and international projects. Highlights of the research are: innovative teaching methods in the initial stage of education, interactive learning, the quality of e-learning, creation of new teaching and methodical materials, tests, active learning and project work.

5. Scientific production

Candidate Associate Professor Vitanov has submitted a total of 29 scientific works, of which 1 monograph (as the main habilitation thesis), 1 (other) monograph that is not presented as a habilitation thesis, 1 published chapter of a collective monograph, 1 article published in a scientific publication, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, 13 articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, 4 textbooks in the category "Published university textbook or textbook used in the school network" and 8 teaching aids used in the school network.

5.1. Compliance with scientometric indicators of occupancy of the academic position

In general, the scientific works of Lyuben Vitanov meet the minimum national requirements (according to Art. 2b, Para. 2 and 3 of the RSARB), 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. According to indicators A, B, C, D, E and F from 1 to the end, the total points are 460.

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 either.

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

The monograph "Education in technology and entrepreneurship" for elementary grades is a new reading of the Didactics of education in technology and entrepreneurship and some new

elements in the implementation of the various approaches, methods, means and forms in the methodology of education in technology and entrepreneurship. The book is presented as a basic habilitation work, in which, based on research, the priorities of technology and entrepreneurship education and important private didactic problems such as: the main normative documents and modern aspects of the educational content, the strategies, methods and techniques of work, the STEM approach are identified in academic work, project work, experiential research work, active learning, business and simulation games.

The monograph presents and implements some of the approaches in the creative activity - analysis and reconstruction of past productions in the methodical activity and the relationship with nature and the world around us, which require from society adaptation, socialization and readiness for active participation in work.

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 STEM approach, the main characteristics, methods, content of the education and other important questions. A special place is also devoted to the problems that accompany its application in the school environment. A place is also devoted to the preparation and use of various resources by teachers and students. A large base of sources on the subject is correctly used.

The rest of the scientific works are also in accordance with the competition profile and cover the two areas: Methodology of teaching technology and entrepreneurship in primary grades and Methodology of work in class time in primary grades.

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

Highlight of the proposed publications is undoubtedly the monograph "Technology and Entrepreneurship Education". I consider that the scientific research was carried out by the candidate for professorship on the basis of conducting an extensive theoretical analysis and study of modern technological education in our country and around the world.

Assoc. Prof. Vitanov's monograph is distinguished by its own style in researching a range of issues relevant to modern education, which he interprets and for which he offers a new reading and analysis. The complexity, multifactoriality and integrative relationships of the investigated processes and phenomena are taken into account, re-examined in the monograph, and a very broad and complete view is given in the field of technological education and, more specifically, the subject of technology and entrepreneurship in school.

The main contributing points can be listed as follows:

1. The main definitions, content and guidelines of education in the field of technology and entrepreneurship are described and systematized.
2. The teaching and acquisition of knowledge and skills about technology and entrepreneurship in elementary grades are thoroughly clarified and analyzed theoretically and methodically.
3. Constructive engineering education is described in its two main areas: modeling education and construction education and their main characteristics at an early stage.
4. The main problems of the STEAM learning approach are systematized: theoretical methodological problems, approaches, learning content and various tasks, options, examples and good practices.
5. A methodological approach has been created and tested for the dynamic combination and upgrade of traditional direct methods and the methods of active learning in technology and entrepreneurship.
6. All the main issues and problems of technology and entrepreneurship education have been successfully constructed - normative documents, educational content, planning and organization of education, concepts, priorities and basic organizational forms and methods of teaching and learning.

7. New priorities have been systematized, aimed at increasing its contribution to the general educational preparation of elementary school students.
8. The consideration of reflective pedagogical practice and the model for a comprehensive approach to creating a positive learning environment in technology and entrepreneurship is also a contribution.

7. Personal impressions

I have known the candidate for professorship, Lyuben Vitanov since 1987 and I believe that during this long path of his development in the scientific field, he has shown persistence, tolerance, goal orientation and consistency in his work in this scientific direction in the Methodology of Technological Education and General Didactics with specific implementation in methodologies. The scientific works submitted for review reflect all these positive qualities of the candidate. He has proven himself to be an extremely capable scholar, with a great contribution to the theory and practice of subject-based learning in technology and entrepreneurship, and fully meets the requirements of the competition for which he is applying.

8. Notes, recommendations and questions

I have no critical remarks, but despite the great and clear contributions to applied learning activity, I would recommend the candidate to focus his efforts on the teaching methodology of technology and entrepreneurship for primary and junior high school level, leaving the specific teaching methodology of construction and technology for the earliest childhood (pre-school), which requires to a much lesser extent the didacticism, perfectionism and professionalism that the candidate undoubtedly possesses.

9. Final assessment

In conclusion, I share that the documents and materials presented by him meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB 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 Doctor of Science and Doctor of Science degrees. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received national and international recognition.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and analyzing their scientific and applied contributions, I find it completely justified to give my positive assessment to the Scientific Jury, of which I am a member, to prepare a report - a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts for the election of Associate Professor Lyuben Vladimirov Vitanov to the academic position of "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 and Methodology of work in class time in primary grades).

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Presented the opinion:


(Prof. PhD. Marina Ivanova)