

REVIEW

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on the scientific works for participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor", by professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, announced in SG no. 69/ 16.08.2024, NBU, with candidate Ch. Assist. Dr. Hristo Chukurliev

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

It can be seen from the applicant's attached documents that Ch. Assist. Dr. Hristo Chukurliev fulfills the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activities for the HE Scientific Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, PN 1.2 Pedagogy, defined by Art. 2b of ZRASRB and Art. 1a, para. 1PPZRASRB, as well as the requirements of the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of the NBU.

Groups of indicators		Min. requirements – Assoc. Prof.	Fulfilment	
A	Indicator 1	50	50	
Б	Indicator 2	0	0	
B	Indicator 3	100	100	
Г	Sum of indicators from 4 to 10	200	260	
Д	Sum of indicators from 11 to 13	50	100	
Е	Sum of indicators from 14 to 21	0	65	
Ж	Sum of indicators from 22 to the end (obligatory for NBU)	50	100	
З		70	70	
И		50	130	

II. Research (creative) activity and results

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, creative performances or other publications corresponding in volume and completeness to a monographic work, including an evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author.

In the current competition Ch. Assist. Dr. Hristo Chukurliev participated with a scientific production including 15 articles (2 co-authored), one main monograph and one additional one. One article was published in a publication indexed in Web of Science and SCOPUS, the rest in non-refereed peer-reviewed publications or published in edited collective volumes. I believe that the presented scientific production is sufficient for participation in the announced competition and corresponds to the professional direction and the scientific specialty in which it was announced.

The presented monograph of Ch. Assist. Hristo Chukurliev, Ph.D. "Evolution of university education. Classical and modern forms and methods of teaching in higher education" contains four main chapters, an introduction, a conclusion and a bibliography with a total volume of 299 standard typewritten pages.

The bibliography follows a uniform standard. It counts 218 sources, divided by both language and source form. This allows for easy orientation in the citations in the text, as well as information about the broad theoretical basis of the work.

The goals and tasks are clearly formulated and precisely implemented in the course of the research. A diverse methodology was used - apart from the empirical research in Chapter Three, a chronological review of the development of higher education and the form and methods it uses was used; typologizing by analyzing the factors and causes of evolution, which facilitates the adaptation of historical patterns to the future; analysis and synthesis of normative documents, quantitative and qualitative studies that outline the connections of higher education with the external environment and the prospects for professional realization of the students. In addition to the conclusions related to the forms and methods, as a result of the analyzes made, conclusions related to the challenges for the management of higher education and educational institutions have also been drawn.

The research is mostly aimed at university professors and trainers in the lifelong learning system, as it provides them with detailed information on the evolution of learning forms and methods related to learner characteristics and preferences. Since the dynamics in recent years require a rethinking of the forms and methods of teaching, and hence - a change or reaffirmation of the mission of the university as an element of the structure of the educational system, in my opinion, the monograph would be of interest to the managements of the universities, who can use the recommendations for introducing reforms in the educational process.

As scientific contributions of the monograph, I could point out:

1. In-depth chronological analysis of forms of learning methods from antiquity to the present day with justification of the influence of the environment on the changes.
2. Argued modern forms and methods of education in higher education with proposals for their adaptation to the preferences of current generations of students and the professions of the future.
3. Study of the attitudes of students and teachers regarding forms and methods of education in higher education.
4. Correlation between the opinions of teachers and students, which makes it possible to see the necessary reforms and work for a fruitful meeting of different generations in the field of learning and teaching.

The text is well structured, logically sound and sustains the reading interest. I would give a high rating to a rare stylistic tactic – sometimes leaving the monographic genre through paragraphs with a highly emphasized personal attitude to the topic.

Evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications (creative performances) made after the appointment of the academic position "associate professor".

In the presented additional monograph "Post-pedagogy - illusion or reality", the author introduces the term "post-pedagogy", related to changes in the idea of education - decentralization of authorities, relevance/personalization of training, integration of technologies, emphasis on critical thinking and creativity, UPJ, breaking the educational corridors, global and ethical awareness. Four methods are analyzed (two good practices and two author's) with the development of a step-by-step methodology, incl. tracking student progress, expected outcomes and competencies. The book is an attempt to qualitatively integrate the indisputable achievements of pedagogical science and the radical changes of the last 30 years in educational technologies and the specifics of the new generations of children and youth.

The remaining publications (articles) can be grouped around several topics - innovative methods in teaching, influence of technology in education, specifics of new generations in relation to education, as well as the interrelationships between them.

In conclusion, it can be said that Dr. Chukurliiev demonstrates serious interests in his field of specialization. His scientific interests are current and can be grouped in several directions:

- the digital transformation of processes, especially in the part of school and university education. The role of trainers and its change;
- the application of new methods and forms of training, tailored to the specifics of the new generations;

- assessment of knowledge and skills before and after the digital revolution from the end of the last century and the beginning of this century.

3. Citations

50 points are required for the citations in the "docent" competition, and Dr. Chukurliiev has 100 points.

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the obtained results in practice.

The candidate leads 3 national educational projects and participates in another 3. As an academic and expert, he participates in 1 international and 3 national projects. Particularly significant is the project "Improving the quality of distance learning at the Center for Distance and Electronic Learning at the New Bulgarian University", financed by OP "Development of Human Resources", which on the one hand reflects the state's priorities in this period (2013-2016) , and on the other hand, it represents serious work to modernize electronic and distance learning at NBU, which is paying off during the covid-crisis. The international project - "International University Consortium ERUA" - is essentially a strategic framework of numerous innovative sub-projects for Bulgaria, in which Dr. Chukurliiev actively participates as an organizer or expert. Through these sub-projects, a number of interesting and innovative practices such as volunteering, new teaching methods, etc. are being introduced at NBU.

III. Learning and teaching activity

According to the applicant's self-assessment and the NBU electronic system reference, the applicant has developed and taught the following courses:

- EDUB404 ICT in learning and working in a digital environment
- EDUB209 History of pedagogy and Bulgarian education
- EDUB603 Interactive Learning Methods
- GENB091 Law, Politics, Civilization
- SEMM511 Event Management
- OOOK258 Civilizations and Religions
- BCRM325 Digital Business Management

And their equivalents in DO:

- OOOK017D Civilizations and Religions
- BCRM321D Digital Business Management

The fulfillment of the requirements (according to the Ordinance on the employment of full-time teachers) for the publication of teaching materials in the electronic training

module "Moodle NBU" in the last 5 years exceeds 100%. For all courses, the lectures are authored, developed as Power Point presentations and uploaded to Moodle, being updated periodically. Additional materials for the lectures or for the preparation of assignments and seminars, author's and foreign articles have also been uploaded. Interactive links, forums, assignments, tests, reference literature have been added to the courses.

The average students' evaluation for the last 6 semesters is an excellent 4.76 out of a maximum of 5.00.

It is worth mentioning the work with students outside the classrooms. Dr. Chukurliev not only takes students to various institutions in the country, but also organizes international traveling seminars (Greece, Germany), which gives students the opportunity to work with their colleagues from other universities and expand their practical knowledge, skills and self assessment.

IV. Administrative and public activity

Ch. Assist. Dr. Chukurliev has an active administrative and public activity within the NBU from 2003 until now:

- Director of the Ministry of Finance (2003-2008)
- CEO Director (2007-2008) - director of FDEPO (2008-2018)
- director of the CMA (2018 -)

He held key administrative and management positions; he was a member of commissions, of the FS of FDENO, of the RS and AS of the NBU. As a teacher, he participated in the councils of the "Administration and Management" dept., "Foreign Languages and Cultures" dept. and the "Pedagogy" section. His current position as Director of the Central University Administration contains key responsibilities related to both the operational work and the strategic development of the University.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)

I know Dr. Chukurliev as a well-intentioned, responsive and positive colleague who creates a cheerful mood and knows how to work in a team. Treats cases and problems of colleagues and students with attention and responsiveness. Our mutual work within the "Pedagogy" section led to a number of fruitful and timely decisions. His motivation, accuracy, ability to find balance without compromising on quality is impressive.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

Scientific publications show consistency and systematicity in the areas in which Dr. Chukurliev works. I highly appreciate his scientific and scientific-applied searches in the field of modern and innovative pedagogical forms and methods of work, as well

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

Scientific publications show consistency and systematicity in the areas in which Dr. Chukurliev works. I highly appreciate his scientific and scientific-applied searches in the field of modern and innovative pedagogical forms and methods of work, as well as his overall view of development trends in education. His activity and creativity is an indisputable value for the further development of the university in this area. I would recommend strengthening the emphasis on school education and the link between secondary and higher education.

Conclusion

I categorically state my positive assessment for the overall academic and research activity, as well as for the active participation in the teaching and administrative work at the NBU of Ch. Assist.Dr. Hristo Chukurliev. I recommend to the respected Academic Council that he be elected as an "associate professor", in the Department of Higher Education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.2 Pedagogy.

Date: 20.11.2024

Signature