

OPINION

by Associate Professor Dr. Katya Dimova Getova-Timcheva, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – DIUU (Department for Information and Teacher Improvement), 1.2. Pedagogy, on the scientific works (artistic-creative production) for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, ½ time position at New Bulgarian University, in the field 1.2. Pedagogy, announced in the State Gazette No. 69, dated 16.08.2024, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Vasilev Chukurliev.

I. Evaluation of Compliance with National Minimum Requirements and the Requirements of New Bulgarian University

The scientific works presented by the candidate for participation in the competition meet the minimum national requirements (under Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the Higher Education Act) and, accordingly, the additional requirements of New Bulgarian University for the position of Associate Professor, ½ time in the scientific field 1.2. Pedagogy. From the report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements by the candidate, the following conclusions can be drawn:

Under criterion A, with a minimum of 50 points required, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev has 50 points. Under criterion B, with a minimum of 100 points required, the candidate has 100 points. Under criterion C, with a minimum of 200 points required, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev has 280 points. Under criterion D, with a minimum of 50 points required, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev has 100 points. Under criterion E, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev has 65 points. Under criterion F, with a minimum of 50 points required, the candidate has 100 points. Under criterion G, with a minimum of 70 points required, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev has 70 points. Under criterion H, with a minimum of 50 points required, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev has 130 points.

The total points of the candidate are 895, which exceeds the minimum number of points required for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 1.2. Pedagogy.

II. Research (Creative) Activity and Results

1. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev presents two monographs and one book. As his main habilitation work, the candidate presents the monograph "Evolution of University Education" (currently in print at NBU). He has also published a monograph that is not presented as the main habilitation work, "Postpedagogy - Illusion or Reality?", as well as a book based on his defended doctoral thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". The volume of the habilitation work, the number of specialized sources studied and analyzed on the topic, as well as the academic style and scientific expression of the candidate, are impressive. The main habilitation work undoubtedly contributes to the scientific and applied field of pedagogy.
2. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev is the author of 16 articles and reports, two of which have been published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. The remaining 14 articles and reports are

published in non-refereed journals with peer review and edited collective volumes. The scientific works presented by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev for the competition do not repeat those from previous procedures for acquiring scientific titles and academic positions. There is no evidence of plagiarism in the works submitted for the competition according to the legally established procedure. He has adhered to the rules of academic ethics – he has not published the same manuscript in different places, there is no plagiarism, and he has not used the "copy-paste" technique in the publications presented for review. Since his appointment as Chief Assistant Professor, Hristo Chukurliev has published eight scientific articles in refereed specialized journals.

3. The results of the research by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev have been cited in the specialized scientific literature – he has provided 10 cited references to his publications.
4. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev is a member of the Pedagogy section in the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures at NBU. His interests cover several areas: management models and their application in various social and individual activities; digital technologies, processes of digitalization and transformation; the history of civilizations and religions in the context of the evolution/revolutions of models for understanding and managing processes. Regarding higher education, he is interested in the transformation of teaching forms and methods and their connection to future professions.

Scientific and Applied Achievements of the Candidate in the Materials for Participation in the Competition

The scientific contributions of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Chukurliev can be categorized as follows:

1. Scientific contributions in the publications presented for participation in the current competition;
2. Scientific contributions to the development of teaching and methodological activities;
3. Contributions in the implementation of project activities;
4. Scientific contributions in his work as a scientific supervisor.

I have no critical remarks. The scientific production presented for the competition does not contain any significant weaknesses that would undermine its merits. As a recommendation, I would suggest that the candidate expand his experience in international scientific journals.

III. Teaching and Educational Activity

Together with Associate Professor Dr. Ventsislav Djambazov, he has been involved in implementing unified electronic learning at NBU since 2008, improving the MOODLE platform, and training lecturers to use it. From 2010 to 2014, he implemented a management model for the Distance Learning Department, which still functions with minor modifications.

He completed his secondary education at the National High School of Ancient Languages and Cultures "St. Constantine-Cyril Philosopher" and his higher education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a Master's degree in "Bulgarian Philology". His doctoral degree is in the field of 3.7. Administration and Management and is titled "Management of Distance Learning in Higher Education: Forms, Trends, and Perspectives".

He is the leader of the project BG051PO001-4.3.04 - 0037 "Improving the Quality of Distance Learning at the Center for Distance and E-Learning at New Bulgarian University". The project was funded by the Operational Program "Human Resources Development", co-financed by the European Social Fund of the European Union.

IV. Administrative and Public Activity

Since 2018, Chief Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliiev has been the Director of the Central University Administration at NBU.

From 2010 to 2018, he was the Director of the Faculty for Distance, Electronic, and Continuing Education.

He has been working at NBU since 2002 as the Director of the Master's Faculty.

He has been a member of the NBU Board of Trustees since 04.06.2016.

He defended his doctoral dissertation in September 2018.

Since March 1, 2019, he has been a full-time lecturer at the Faculty for Distance, Electronic, and Continuing Education.

V. Personal Impressions of the Candidate (if any)

I do not personally know the candidate.

VI. Opinions, Recommendations, and Remarks on the Candidate's Work and Achievements

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, and based on the analysis of their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained within them, I confirm that the scientific achievements meet the requirements of the Higher Education Act and the additional requirements for the candidate to occupy the academic position of Associate Professor, ½ time at New Bulgarian University, in the field of 1.2. Pedagogy. Specifically, the candidate meets the minimum national requirements in the professional field, and there has been no plagiarism detected in the submitted works.

I give my positive conclusion for the candidate's application.

Conclusion

Based on the above, I recommend that the scientific jury propose to the competent selection authority at NBU to appoint Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Vasilev Chukurliiev to the academic position of Associate Professor, ½ time, at New Bulgarian University, in the field 1.2. Pedagogy.

01.12.2024

Reviewer

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