

OPINION

by Professor Doctor Stoyanka Lyubomirova Georgieva-Lazarova,
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Area of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences
Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy
Speciality: Information and Communication Technology in Education

on the scientific works (artistic and creative production) for participation in the competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** part-time staff at New Bulgarian University "Area of Higher Education" 1. Pedagogical Sciences
Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy, announced in Official Gazette, Nr 69, August 16, 2024

Candidate: **Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev, PhD**

Competition Overview

This opinion has been prepared following Order Z-RK-5/October 4, 2024, issued by the Rector of New Bulgarian University (NBU). It adheres to the guidelines stipulated in Annex 3 of the Regulation on the Development of the Academic Staff at NBU. In line with Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Law on Academic Staff Development of NBU, a competition has been initiated to fill the academic position of Associate Professor, with Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev, PhD, a member of the Pedagogy Section in the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures of the NBU being the sole candidate.

The competition announcement has complied with all regulations, with no violations noted.

Candidate Profile

Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev, PhD, completed his secondary education at St. Konstantin-Kiril Philosopher National High School of Ancient Languages and Cultures and higher education at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University with a Master's degree in Bulgarian Philology. His PhD degree is in the field of 3.7. Administration and Management, the subject being Management of Distance Learning in Higher Education, forms, trends and prospects.

As of 2018, he is a Director of the Central University Administration at NBU.

From 2010 to 2018 he was a Director of the Faculty of Distance, E- and Follow-up Instruction.

He has worked at NBU since 2002 as a Director of the Master's Faculty.

Member of the NBU Board of Trustees since June 4, 2016.

He defended his doctoral dissertation in September 2018.

Since March 1, 2019, he has been a full-time lecturer at the Faculty of Distance, E- and Upgraded Learning.

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

Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev, PhD, has submitted a report on fulfilling the scientific metrics for scientific area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, which I find correctly filled in. With the required 570 points (including the

obligatory ones for NBU) the candidate has 895, i.e. exceeding by almost 300 the minimum requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

The publications submitted by Senior Assistant Professor Chukurliev, PhD align with the professional field outlined in the competition for the academic degree of Associate Professor.

II. Research (creative) activities and results

1. Assessment of the monograph, creative activities or other publications corresponding in volume and entirety to a monograph, including assessment of the author's scientific and applied contributions.

In the main habilitation thesis *Evolution of University Education (2024)*, the contributions are as follows (I will note only a few):

Based on an exhaustive analysis of the scientific literature, it concludes that the forms and methods of education change in human epochs depend not only on the functions of higher education but also on the development of science and technology. The tendency for the focus of higher education to shift from the interdisciplinary and abstract to the concrete and vocationally relevant has been identified. To get stuck in either direction and ignore the other results in various problems.

The paper historically traces the emergence and development of universities up to the 21st century; it describes the dimensions of digitalisation in the context of higher education and the challenges it poses; it describes a hypothetical model of university education in the future that will overcome the weaknesses and strengthen the mission of the university; it presents the author's study of the relationship between university and profession, as seen by students and lecturers at NBU; it presents the image of a university instructor with their possible profiles; discusses some of the known competences in demand in emerging professions and more generally the subject areas in which they are emerging, as well as how and by which methods and forms they can be achieved.

2. Assessment of the contributions in other submitted publications (creative activities) made following the appointment to the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor. Contributions to other publications submitted for the competition:

In the monograph *Postpedagogy - Illusion or Reality?*, the research focuses on the impact of digital technologies on university instructors and students. The author criticises existing pedagogical models in light of the needs of new generations and presents a "hypothesis of the components of a post-pedagogy".

The monograph outlines the contributions of two instructional methods currently employed in European universities, together with two innovative instructional approaches developed by the author. Following a discussion with university faculty, the author proposes a novel method targeting graduating students, including suggestions for integrating this approach across various research areas. Further data collected from interviews and qualitative assessments have been analysed to support these findings.

The article "*Podcast—when if not now?*" magazine (ISSN: 2738-7135 (Print), 2738-7143 (Online)) presents the possibilities, options, and challenges of introducing the podcast as an additional tool in the instruction process. It provides a specific example of launching a podcast with the participation of lecturers and students from several academic specialities at New Bulgarian University.

The article *Four Innovative Instruction Methods. Is There a Place for Post-Pedagogy?* English Studies at NBU ISSN 2367-5705 (Print) ISSN 2367-8704 (Online) <https://Www.Esnbu.Org> (forthcoming) has been accepted for publication in the Journal of

English Studies at NBU (ESNBU), (<https://www.esnbu.org/>). The journal is indexed in the Web of Science, highlighting this research's scholarly contribution.

A total of fourteen articles and papers have been published in non-refereed, peer-reviewed journals or included in edited collective volumes.

It can be concluded that the scientific and practical contributions in these publications accurately represent the candidate's research efforts.

The submitted scientific works prove that Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev, PhD, is an actively developing researcher.

3. Quoting from other authors.

Ten citations of the listed works prove that Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev's publications are recognised by the scientific community.

4. Assessing the results of involvement in research and creative projects and implementing the findings.

The candidate has successfully led a research project on distance and e-learning and actively participates in scientific forums, demonstrating high professionalism.

III. Instruction Involvement

Based on the candidate's instruction activities, Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev PhD, holds significant authority as a university lecturer, commanding respect among students and academic circles alike.

IV. Administrative and public activities

The candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev, PhD, has held several significant positions at New Bulgarian University (NBU):

- Since 2018, he has served as the Director of NBU's Central Administration.
- From 2010 to 2018, he was a Director of the Faculty of Distance, E-Learning, and Follow-up Learning.

He has been at NBU since 2002, starting as the Director of the Master's Faculty

- He has been a member of the NBU Board of Trustees since June 4, 2016

- He is also a member of the National Center for Distance Learning.

Based on this information, it is clear that Senior Assistant Professor Dr Hristo Chukurliev has contributed significantly to administrative and public activities.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)

I know Senior Assistant Professor Dr Hristo Chukurliev from our collaboration at the National Centre for Distance Learning. I can say that he is a responsible and competent colleague who makes constructive suggestions and skillfully defends his views.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and comments on the candidate's activities and achievements

Based on the research output submitted for review, the following guidelines and recommendations can be made:

1. The candidate's next research studies should include not only theoretically derived conceptual formulations but also empirical studies, whose results should be statistically processed in detail.

2. I recommend greater publication activity in journals with an impact factor (IF) reflected in the Web of Science electronic database and an impact rank (SJR) reflected in the SCOPUS electronic database.

Conclusion:

I give a POSITIVE ASSESSMENT of the academic activity of the candidate Senior Assistant Professor Hristo Chukurliev, PhD, and I propose that he be elected by the Academic Council of NBU as "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy.

Date: November 28, 2024

Signed