

## **OPINION**

**From Assoc. Prof. Mihail Nikolov Prodanov, PhD - BFU-CHS**

On the base of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the sphere of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, 3.2. Psychology (Special psychology)

In the competition for 'associate professor' announced in the Darjaven vestnik, issue 40 of 14.05.2021, and also on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", for the needs of the Department of Pedagogy and Management of Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy, as only candidate participates Chief Assist. PhD Ivan Vassilev Trichkov from the Faculty of Pedagogy - Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate.**

With order № P33-3143/13.07.2021 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in sphere of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, 3.2. Psychology (Special Psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Pedagogy and Management of Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy - University of Plovdiv „P.Hilendarski”.

The only one candidate for participation in the announced competition has submitted documents. This is Chief Assistant PhD Ivan Vasilev Trichkov - from the Department of Pedagogy and Education Management - Faculty of Pedagogy, P. Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. Presented by the candidate (Chief Assistant PhD Ivan Trichkov) set of materials is in accordance with Article 66, paragraph 2 of the Regulations (Pravilnik) for the development of the academic staff of PU.

The candidate Chief Assistant Ivan Trichkov has submitted a total of 32 scientific papers - 4 studies, 22 scientific reports and articles, 3 monographs, 3 textbooks and teaching aids (co-authored). The distribution of scientific papers by relevant sections, in the country and abroad, is as follows: five articles and reports have been published abroad (in English and Russian), and the remaining 27 publications have been published in Bulgarian editions. A declaration is submitted

by the candidate, certifying that the scientific publications submitted for the competition are authentic and original.

## **2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity.**

### *2.1. Evaluation of the educational activity and competence of the candidate.*

From the attached reference for the lecture and extracurricular employment of the candidate, it is clear that Chief Assistant Ivan Trichkov has a consistent career development at the University of Plovdiv: in 2011 he has been appointed as an assistant, and since 2013 - as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Pedagogy. He holds a PhD in Special Psychology from Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski".

He has declared an auditory employment of 700 hours per year. The large number of taught disciplines, both in bachelor's and master's programs (a total of 12), is impressive. The candidate has developed 5 curricula for bachelor's and master's programs and 1 curriculum for a qualification course for children's teachers. There is a certain discrepancy between the number of disciplines taught, on the one hand, and the number of curricula developed, on the other, which probably stems from his assistant functions so far.

From the attached documents it can be seen that Chief Assistant Ivan Trichkov has been the scientific supervisor of more than 50 graduates in bachelor's and master's programs who have successfully defended their works. A variety of activities with students (study, consultations, etc.) are reflected. He has participated as a co-author of 3 textbooks and teaching aids.

### *2.2. Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate.*

Given the limited scope of the opinion, I would like to emphasize the fact that from the attached references for the candidate's scientometric (naukometrichni) data, it fully covers and even exceeds the requirements for the position of "associate professor": the minimum requirements for indicators A and C are covered, and for indicators D and E the results exceed the minimum requirements. The total number of points of the candidate in all indicators is 700, which significantly exceeds the minimum standard for the position of "associate professor" of 400 points. It should be emphasized that **his publications are relevant to the issues in the field of Special Psychology**, and some publications cover the subject of other disciplines - Educational Psychology, Social Psychology, etc. (as key topics outside the specific problems of Special Psychology in all

publications of the candidate may be pointed out the topics "adolescent identity formation", "adolescent well-being", "inclusive education").

The research activity of Chief Assistant Ivan Trichkov is mainly expressed in his participation in scientific-educational and research projects. He has stated that he has taken part in 8 national projects and 1 international project, having held various positions in them - "team member", "expert" and "academic mentor".

### *2.3 Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied).*

From the point of view of scientific and applied contributions, I would like to consider the content of two of the three monographs of the candidate. The monograph "Psychological and pedagogical rules, models of good practices and recommendations for the work and training of children and students with behavioral disorders (2019)" has serious practical significance for teachers, pedagogical advisors, school psychologists, who daily face the problem of how to cope and how to be effective in working with children showing symptoms of behavioral and emotional disorders.

The monograph of Chief Assistant Ivan Trichkov "Psychological aspects of the manifestations of empathy in children and students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (2021)" is probably an attempt by the candidate to summarize the results of his research in this area, including mainly the ideas and empirics of doctoral studies of his dissertation. What is valuable here is the desire to reveal the mechanisms for the formation of empathy in this particular group of children and students with behavioral disorders, which would make their socialization more effective. Of course, this requires the integration of the efforts and purposeful activities of specialists, as well as the active involvement of significant people from the immediate environment of this group of children in the context of a model developed by applying a systematic approach.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks, recommendations or questions to the candidate.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant PhD Ivan Trichkov meet all formal requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations (Pravilnik) for implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations (Pravilnik) of PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of PhD dissertation. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. Achieved by Chief Assistant Ivan Trichkov results in the teaching and research activities correspond to the specific requirements of the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv (Pravilnik).

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and contained in them scientific and scientific-applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for election of Chief Assistant Ivan Vasilev Trichkov for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ at the University of Plovdiv “P. Hilendarski” in the professional field of Psychology (Special Psychology).

27.08.2021

Author of the opinion: .....

Assoc. Prof. PhD Mihail Prodanov