

STATEMENT

**By Prof. Dr. Zhelyazka Dimitrova Raykova,
Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition
to occupy the academic position "**professor**"
of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

by: Field of higher education **5. Technical sciences**
Professional direction **5.3. Communication and computer technology (Automation
of areas from the intangible sphere – education, science)**

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 92 of 18.11.2022 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the "Electronics, Communications and Information Technologies" Department (ECIT) at the Faculty of Physics and Technology (FPT), as a candidate participates Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov from the ECIT department of the FPT of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU).

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. PD 21-329 of 15.02. 2023 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "**professor**" **at the University of Plovdiv**, higher education area 5. Technical Sciences, professional direction 5.3. Communication and computer technology (Automation of areas from the non-material sphere - education, science) announced for the needs of the EKIT department at the Faculty of Physics and Technology of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

To participate in the announced competition, Associate Professor Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov from the Faculty of Physics and Technology of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" is the **only candidate**.

All the applicant's documents under the procedure were presented to me in electronic form. The procedure is in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its Implementation (PPZRASRB), as well as the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PRSPU).

The set of materials that Associate Professor Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov has presented includes all the necessary documents to evaluate his scientific, research and educational activities.

A total of 33 scientific papers, 4 project-based e-courses and 2 two laboratory practicum modules are attached to them. Documents (in the form of official notes) for participation in research and educational projects, a report on teaching workload and other administrative documents, according to the requirements of the procedure, are also presented.

Dr. Dimitar Tokmakov was born in 1969 and in 1994 he graduated from the Technical University, majoring in "Electronic Engineering and Microelectronics". In 2011, he successfully defended a dissertation at the Technical University, Sofia, for the award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor", on the topic "*Distributed Internet-based learning support environment in engineering education*" in the field of higher education 5.2. Electronics, electrical engineering and automation. Since 1996, he has been the main assistant at the ECIT

department at PU "Paisii Hilendarski", and since 2013 he has been an associate professor of 5.3. "Communication and computer technology" Dr at the same university.

The candidate's professional experience related to the announced competition is impressive, which is a reason for a positive assessment.

I have been a colleague of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov for many years and I have a completely positive attitude towards his research and teaching work. I can reasonably say that he is a disciplined and purposeful researcher, a loyal and respected colleague. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tokmakov is a beloved teacher, following modern trends in education, striving for high quality. His scientific work is well-known and well received by the collegium at the university.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Evaluation of educational and pedagogical activity and preparation of the candidate

Dr. Dimitar Tokmakov has extensive pedagogical experience as a teacher at PU "Paisii Hilendarski". According to the presented documents, the required academic load is present, and for his participation in the announced competition he submitted a certificate from the Faculty of Physics and Technology of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". His teaching load over the last five years averaged 600 hours, which is an indicator of exceeding the mandatory standard of study engagement.

The following facts testify to the high quality of the candidate's teaching activity:

- In recent years, he has developed 4 author's lecture courses and 2 laboratory modules for the students of the relevant professional direction. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tokmakov leads lectures on the disciplines "Microprocessor technology", "Computer networks", "Computer modelling and engineering design", "Programming of microcontrollers in an Arduino environment", "Microprocessor systems" and exercises on the disciplines "Microprocessor technology", "Microprocessors systems", "Programming microcontrollers in an Arduino environment".
- He is the author of 12 study programs for students, of which one for doctor degree, 7 for a master's and 4 for a bachelor's degree.
- Participated in the development of curricula for 7 majors, 3 of them for the master's degree.
- In the last five years, he was the academic supervisor of a total of 12 graduates who successfully defended their bachelor's and master's degrees.
- He was supervisors of 2 doctoral students.

The high evaluation of the educational and pedagogical activity and the professional training of the candidate for the position of "professor" can be justified by his professional commitment and his competent attitude to work with students, future engineers.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied activity

The general characteristics of the research and Prscientific-applied activity of Associate Professor Dr. Tokmakov is also positive. The candidate in the competition is the author of many and significant scientific works in the field of automation of intangible production and in particular in applications of computer and electronic systems and in training and education in special engineering disciplines.

In the announced competition, he applied with 33 scientific papers: 20 are in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information; 10 publications were submitted for equating to a monograph, and according to

item 12 of the Notes of PPZRASRB, a habilitation extended reference for scientific contributions was attached.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Tokmakov divided the contributions into two groups: contributions in publications, presented according to group B indicators – 7 scientific contributions, 4 scientific-applied and 3 applied; contributions in other publications, presented by group of indicators D – 6 scientific contributions, 4 scientific-applied and 11 applied. The candidate has presented a large number of scientific works in which there are original scientific and applied contributions, and those formulated in the extended habilitation report have received a significant response through numerous citations in publications in the world-famous scientific information databases Scopus and Web of Science outside of them.

Assoc. Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov participated in a total of 12 scientific research projects: 9 international projects, of which he was the head of 1 and 3 national projects (financed by the "Scientific Research" fund of PU "Paisii Hilendarski"), such as 2 of them were managers. This is an indicator of active research activity and knowledge of the European criteria for education and research.

The presented list of observed citations includes a total of 46 citations of 14 scientific works, all of which are in publications indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus. The large number of citations, of which 13 are from foreign authors, makes a very good impression and is a testimony to popularization and recognition of the candidate's scientific work and contributions.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

The significance of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the presented works of the candidate for the "Professor" competition, Dr. Dimitar Tokmakov, is indisputable.

The presented report on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor" shows that he fully meets the requirements for the various groups of indicators. Reviewing the credibility of the data and evidence presented convinces me of their truthfulness and correctness. **I have not found any plagiarism data.**

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov in the competition for the academic position of "Professor". I recommend him to continue working with the same dedication and perseverance.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov** 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 the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski" for occupying the academic position "professor".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a **sufficient** number of scientific works published after the materials used in previous procedures. The candidate's works have scientific and applied contributions that have received national and international recognition. The scientific and teaching qualifications of *Associate Professor Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov* **are unquestionable.**

The results achieved by *Associate Professor Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov* in the educational and research activities fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Physics and Technology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of ZRASRB.

After familiarizing myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Physics and Technology for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Mihailov Tokmakov to the academic position of "Professor" at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, professional direction 5.3. Communication and computer technology (Automation of non-material areas the sphere – education, science).

12.04.2023

Prepared the opinion:
(*Prof. Dr. Zhelyazka Raykova*)