<div align="center">

STATEMENT

by Vladimira Stefanova Angelova, PhD –

Professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

of scientific works presented in relation with participation in a contest

for occupying the academic position of "**Associate professor**"

at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

under higher education area: **1. Pedagogical Sciences**,

professional field: **1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching …**

(Methodology of Teaching Information Technologies and Education in Digital Environment)

</div>

Assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" is the only candidate that took part in the contest for occupying the academic position of "Associate professor" announced in state gazette issue № 39 of 02.05.2023 and on the Web site of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of *Primary School Education* of the Faculty of Pedagogy.

1. Summary of the candidate's procedure for the contest

Overview of the procedure

With order № RD 21 – 1418 of 30.06.2023 issued by the Rector of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'(PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a contest for occupying the academic position of "**associate professor**" at PU under higher education area: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching… (Methodology of Teaching Information Technologies and Education in Digital Environment) announced for the needs of the Department of *Primary School Education* of the Faculty of Pedagogy (FP).

Only **one candidate** has submitted documents for participation in the contest announced: **assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD** from PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

The set of materials submitted by assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD in paper and in electronic form complies with the Regulations on the Academic Staff Development of PU.

At the first meeting, held on 05.07.2023, the scientific jury accepted the documents for the contest. At that meeting I was appointed as a reviewer. After reviewing the submitted documents I did not find deviations from the procedure.

The set of materials submitted by assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD is accurately prepared and organized and allows objective and detailed assessment of the candidate in the contest for acquiring the academic position of "associate professor".

Assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD participated in the contest with 14 scientific papers: 2 monographs, and 12 scientific papers of which 8 are published in Bulgarian language and 4 in English. Five of the papers are scientific publications referenced and indexed in Web of Science – 4 independent and 1 co-authored. This scientific production was not submitted for acquiring the scientific position of "doctor".

All the scientific papers comply with the profile of the contest, meet the requirements and can be reviewed.

Biographical information about the candidate

Assistant Professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD, completed his secondary education at the Mathematical High School "Acad. Kiril Popov", Plovdiv in 2004 and acquired nature-mathematics profile – physics with intensive study of English. In 2008, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Informatics, qualified as a teacher of Mathematics, Informatics and Information Technologies, in the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) in PU. In 2009, he acquired a Master's degree in Business Informatics with English, qualification Informatics at FMI at PU. In the period from 01.03.2010 to 03.06.2015, he was a full-time PhD student, doctoral program Methodology of Teaching Informatics and Information Technologies. On 03.06.2015, he acquired the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogy, professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching… (Methodology of Teaching Informatics and Information Technologies).

The professional career of assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD, started in 2008 at PU 'Paisii Hilendarski' where he still works. He consecutively held the academic positions: system administrator, part-time assistant, assistant and chief assistant.

The main activities and responsibilities of assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD are: teaching, research and administrative duties.

The main scientific interests of the candidate are in the field of Methodology of *teaching in information technologies and education in digital environment.* His professional competence and qualification are in accordance with the profile of the announced contest for associate professor.

I know assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD since he joined the "Primary School Education" department in 2016. My personal impressions of him as a teacher, scientist and colleague are excellent. He is a dedicated educator, a consistent researcher and an impeccable administrator.

He is a member of the authoritative association "Bulgarian Association for Educational Research".

2. Summary characteristic of candidate's activities

Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical and educational activity

The pedagogical and educational activity of assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev PhD is over 7 year long (since 07. 03. 2016). He has been teaching predominantly in the field of informatics and the methodology of teaching information technologies. The courses that he developed both in Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes are of different categories: compulsory, elective and optional.

Eleven lecture courses have been developed by the candidate in Bachelor's degree programmes and three lecture courses have been developed in Master's degree programmes

The work of associate professor Vilislav Radev, PhD with students is diverse. His teaching engagement estimates to over 800 academic hours, with an annual norm of 360 hours. He rendered methodological assistance to 6 graduates from Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. He regularly provides consultations to students on issues related to their theoretical and practical training.

The assessment of the pedagogical and educational activity of assistant professor Vilislav Radev, PhD is high. He applies the most modern achievements of information technologies in his educational activities and uses contemporary instructional methods and technical means.

Assessment of the candidate's scientific-research activity

The presented scientific production of assistant Professor Vilislav Radev, PhD complies with the topic of the contest. The scientific works deal with current problems of the methodology of teaching information technologies and education in digital environment.

The scientific production in the academic development of Assistant Professor Vilislav Radev, PhD are 20. In the current contest for the academic position "Associate professor" are included 14 scientific works, which were published after receiving the scientific degree "Doctor".

The content and the developed ideas in the proposed scientific papers can be classified, according to the author's proposal, in the following thematic areas:

- Research and development related to applications of information technologies in education in the digital classroom with the help of electronic textbooks

The scientific contributions in this field can be assessed from the scientific works [9; 10].

The theoretical aspects of modern electronic textbooks and their application in the educational process are presented [9].

The advantages and disadvantages of digital classrooms which are used for education in a distant electronic environment are analyzed. [10]

The relevance and significance of the developments for modern education is indisputable.

- Research and development related to the use of information and communication technologies in education and creation of assistive digital resources in mathematics at primary school and kindergarten education

The scientific contributions in this field can be assessed from the presented monograph [1] and scientific papers [3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 11; 12; 13; 14].

The structure of the presented monograph [1] is professionally constructed and it is of a high theoretical and applied value. It presents theoretical aspects of modern information technologies and educational software products as tools in primary school education. A software package was designed for teaching second grade mathematics using the Scratch block programming language, containing nine educational animated modules. For each of them, their pedagogical characteristics and scenarios for their implementation are presented.

Many game-based models have been developed and experimented for teaching mathematics in the initial stage of education, related to the teaching of arithmetic and geometrical knowledge [3; 4; 5; 7; 8; 11; 12; 13; 14], as well as an educational module preparing children to face the challenges of digital technologies [6].

- Scientific papers related to the development of mathematical competences in discrete mathematics with the help of information technologies

The scientific contributions in this field can be assessed from the presented monograph [2].

The monograph presents the modern trends for the development of mathematical competences in discrete mathematics with the help of information technologies. The LogicalCircuits (LC) combinational circuit builder was developed to represent Boolean functions for educational purposes. The computational capabilities of the Post machine and the Turing machine are explored. With the help of the Post and Turing machine simulator, mathematical models of the two machines are presented and implemented.

The analysis of the research activity of assistant professor Vilislav Radev PhD shows that it is extremely valuable.

Assistant professor Vilislav Radev PhD participated in 6 university research projects and documented it.

Contributions and Citations

The presented analysis and my positive assessment of the quality of the materials submitted by assistant professor Vilislav Radev, PhD for participation in this contest shows that there are indisputable indications for serious ***scientific and applied contribution*** in the field of methodology of teaching information technology and education in digital environment.

The submitted scientific papers are ***personal achievement of the author***, and the co-authored papers have a clearly distinguished contribution. Based on the analysis of these works, I conclude that there is ***no plagiarism***.

The importance of the scientific production of assistant professor Vilislav Radev, PhD can be judged by the numerous documented ***citations***, which means that his works are known among the scientific community. The candidate submitted a reference for 22 citations. Of these, 7 are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, 6 - in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, 9 - in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

The Regulations for Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria define the minimum national requirements related to the scientific activity of the candidates for acquiring the academic position "associate professor". Assistant professor Vilislav Radev, PhD not only fulfilled, but exceeded these requirements. He also fulfilled all additional requirements of FP at PU 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

The presented table presents the minimum required points by groups of indicators, as well as the actual number of points with which the candidate participates in the competition.

Groups of indicators	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total amount of points
Minimum number of points for associate professor	50	–	100	200 + 60 (additional requirements of FP)	50 + 20 (additional requirements of FP)	–	400 + 80 (additional requirements of FP) = **480**
Candidate's actual number of points	50	–	100	280	215	–	**645**

Evidence of the fulfillment of these requirements is presented in Reference No. 7 from the list of documents.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks and recommendations.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by assistant professor Vilislav Radev, PhD comply with all the requirements of the *Law on* the *Development of the Academic Staff* in the *Republic of Bulgaria*, the Regulations on its Implementation, and the respective PU

'Paisii Hilendarski' Regulations for acquiring the academic position of 'associate professor'.

The candidate in the contest has presented a significant number of high-quality scientific papers published after the materials used for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor". The candidate's publications contain original scientific and applied contributions. The theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to the instructional activity. The scientific and teaching qualification of assistant professor Vilislav Radev, PhD is undeniable.

The high results achieved by the candidate in the teaching and research activities fully comply with the requirements for acquiring the academic position of "associate professor".

I will explicitly note that the candidate in the contest fulfills the minimum national requirements as well as the additional requirements of FP at PU for acquiring the academic position "associate professor" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ... I have no doubt about plagiarism in the publications submitted for review.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works presented in the contest, and after analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give a well-deserved high evaluation and my **positive assessment** and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy to appoint assistant professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD for the academic position "associate professor" at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Methodology of Teaching Information Technologies and Education in Digital Environment).

10.08. 2023   **Statement, prepared by:**

Prof. Vladimira Angelova, PhD