

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Peev Staribratov

for the submitted application
for the academic position of "associate professor"
at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

by:

field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences,

professional direction: 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...

(scientific specialty): Methodology of information technology training and work in a digital environment

The opening position of "associate professor" has been announced in the State Newspaper, no. 39/02.05.2023 and on the website of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) for the needs of the Department of Elementary School Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy, for which the only candidate is Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev, senior assistant professor, Department of Elementary School Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for reviewing applications for the academic position of "**associate professor**" at the **PU** by order No. PD 21-1418 dated 30.06.2023 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU).

field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,

professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...

(name of the scientific specialty): Methodology of training in information technology and work in a digital environment,

announced for the needs of the Department of Elementary School Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the PU.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced position:

Senior Assistant Professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev, PhD, Department of Elementary School Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education

The presented set of paper works by senior assistant professor Dr. Vilislav Radev is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU, and includes the following documents:

1. application form to the rector for admission to participate in the competition;
2. curriculum vitae in European format;
3. a higher education diploma with an acquired educational and qualification degree "master";
4. diploma for educational and scientific degree "doctor";
5. list of scientific works and copies of scientific works;
6. list of citations;
7. certificate of compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
8. annotations of the materials under Art. 65. from regulation of the academic staff development at Plovdiv University (in Bulgarian and English);
9. self-assessment of contributions;
10. declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
11. certificate of work experience;
12. documents for academic work;
13. documents for research work;
14. documents according to the additional requirements of the Faculty of Education;
15. other documents;
 - 15.1. business Notes;
 - 15.2. evidence of the citations;
 - 15.3. certificates of participation in conferences and trainings;
16. set of paper documents from item 1 to item 17 – 3 pieces;
17. set of documents from items 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15 on electronic media - 8 pieces.

The applicant Vilislav Radev has submitted a total of 12 scientific works, of which 4 are in English and 2 are monographs. All scientific works are in the scientific specialty for the announced position.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Assessment of the candidate's educational and teaching activities

Educational and teaching activity in the field of information technology training methodology of Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev in the Department of "Elementary School Pedagogy" at the PF at the PU, from 03/07/2016 to now. The academic disciplines taught by him to students at the Bachelor's and Master's College degrees are of different categories: compulsory, elective and optional, and he has developed a curriculum for each of them.

With an annual norm of 360 hours, Dr. Vilislav Radev has over 800 hours of classroom work. He is the supervisor of 6 successfully defended diploma theses students with "Bachelor" and "Master" degrees.

My assessment of the educational and teaching activities of Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev is high. In his teaching practice, he applies modern methods with contemporary technical means for teaching, along with the latest achievements of information and communication technologies.

Evaluation of the candidate's research activity

The presented scientific activity of Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev is to the point of the announced academic position.

The scientific investigations in the academic development of senior assistant professor Dr. Vilislav Radev are 20. In the current application for the academic position "associate professor" 14 are included, which were published after the receipt of the ES "Doctor".

The scientific work of senior assistant professor Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev can be classified according to the author's proposal, in the following three thematic areas:

- Research and development related to applications of information technology in learning in the virtual classroom with the help of electronic textbooks

The analysis of his scientific works certifies the scientific achievements in this field [9; 10].

The use of e-textbooks during student learning is presented and the advantages and disadvantages between e-textbooks and paper ones are analyzed. [9]

The advantages of online meetings in e-learning are analyzed. [10]

- Research and development related to the use of information and communication technologies in education and creation of auxiliary digital resources in mathematics at the initial stage of education and preschool age

Scientific and scientifically applied achievements in this field are evaluated according to the monograph [1] and scientific articles [3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 11; 12; 13; 14].

In his monographic work [1] which is of high theoretical-applied value, the theoretical aspects of modern information technologies and educational software products as a means of learning in primary school are presented. A software package of nine educational animated modules was designed for second grade mathematics learning using the Scratch block programming language. For each of them pedagogical characteristics and scenarios for their implementation are presented.

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

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

Scientific contributions in this field are evaluated on the basis of the presented monograph [2].

The monographic work [2] presents the modern trends in 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 Dr. Vilislav Radev shows to be of extreme value.

The participation of Dr. Vilislav Radev in 6 university research projects is documented in Reference No. 13 from the list of documents.

Contributions and citations

The presented characteristic and my positive assessment of the quality of the deposited materials from senior Associate Professor Vilislav Ivanov Radev for participation in the current competition shows that he has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills and a serious scientific and applied contribution in the field of information technology training methodology and work in a digital environment.

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

The applicant Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev has presented a reference for 22 citations. Of these, 7 are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, 6 - in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, 9 - in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

The following 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.

Criteria	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total score:
Minimum required points for associate prof	50	–	100	200 + 60 (additional requirements from PF)	50 + 20 (additional requirements from PF)	–	400 + 80 (additional requirements from PF) = 480
Applicants points	50	–	100	280	215	–	645

Senior assistant professor Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev fulfills and exceeds the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor". He also fulfills all additional requirements of the PF at PU "Paisii Hilendarski". Evidence of their implementation is presented in Reference No. 7 from the list of documents.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

Of the two monographs and 12 published articles submitted for participation in the competition, only one is co-authored. All others are written by the candidate on his own. Certainly, all of them are of highly scientific value and there is **no doubt** that there is no basis **for plagiarism**. I give a very good rating for the research conducted, the analysis and the presentation of the facts on them. Contributions are well articulated by the applicant in their description.

I have known Vilislav Radev since he was a student at the Model Mathematical High School "Acad. Kiril Popov" Plovdiv. Both as a undergraduate and as a graduate, he had a strong interest in informatics and information technologies. Consistent and technically oriented, IT enthusiast with remarkable technical knowledge he has a keen interest and passion for technological innovation and is actively engaged in understanding, studying and applying various aspects of information technology in life and in the profession. He has extensive knowledge of the implementation of technological innovations in secondary education and applies them in his daily work.

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

I recommend Vilislav Radev to strengthen his research activity in this necessary and very useful field. To show even greater activity in the preparation not only of students, but also of established teachers. Vilislav Radev has opportunities to develop his capacity even more and is useful to himself and the trainees.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Vilislav Radev **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".

The applicant has submitted **a sufficient** number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of his "doctor" degree. The works of the applicant show original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition as a representative part of them have been published after presentation at international conferences. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work. Vilislav Radev's scientific and teaching qualifications are unquestionable.

The results achieved by Vilislav Radev in the educational and research activities fully correspond to the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of the ZRASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented by the applicant and analyzing their significance along with the scientific, scientific-applied contributions, **I find** it reasonable to give **my positive** assessment and **recommend** the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of senior assistant professor. **Dr. Vilislav Ivanov Radev**, for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" at "Paisii Hilendarski" PU on:

field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,

professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...

(scientific specialty): Methodology of information technology training and work in a digital environment.

20.08.2023

The present opinion has been given by

PROF. IVAYLO STARIBRATOV, PhD