

OPINION

From Petko Nedyalkov Denev, PhD - professor at IOCCP-BAS

on the materials in the competition for the academic position "Associate professor"
at Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski”

scientific field 4. Natural science, mathematics and informatics

professional direction 4.2. Chemical sciences (Organic chemistry, Chromatographic analysis).

1. General introduction of the procedure and the candidate

By order № ПД-21-1425 from 30.06.2023 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the PU in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.2. Chemical sciences (Organic chemistry, Chromatographic analysis). The competition is announced in the State Gazette, № 39 from 02.05.2023 and on the PU website for the needs of the "Organic chemistry" department at the Faculty of Chemistry. To participate in the announced competition is only Dimitar Georgiev Bojilov, PhD, from the same department of PU, submitted documents

The set of materials presented by Dr. Bojilov in paper and electronic media meets the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) the Regulations for its Implementation (RIADASRB) and the specific requirements of the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of PU. It includes: Application to the rector for admission to participate in the competition; CV; Diplomas for Master's and Doctor's degrees. Extended summary of the PhD dissertation; List and copies of scientific works; List of citations; Certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements; Annotations of the materials under Art. 65. from Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of PU (in Bulgarian and English) with extended habilitation reference; Self-assessment of contributions; Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents; Certificates of work experience, participation in research projects and academic work; List of participations in projects and scientific conferences; Certificate of compliance with the minimum additional requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry at the PU; Title pages of defended diploma theses prepared under the supervision of the candidate;

In the annotation of the materials under Art. 65 (1) Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of PU, the candidate has declared that he is applying with 46 scientific publications, including 24 in journals indexed in Scopus/Web of science, 11 in specialized scientific journals without impact factor and 11 in conference proceedings. Given the fact that the applicant did not include the eleven publications from conferences in the list of publications, did not submit copies of them and did not include their summaries in the annotation under Art. 65 (1), they should not be considered in the competition. Thus, 35 scientific publications, included in the annotation of the materials under Art. 65 (1) are accepted for reviewing and assessment.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

The educational and pedagogical experience of chief assist. prof. Dimitar Bojilov, PhD is very intensive and covers 10 years in the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry of the PU, including five and a half years as a chief assistant professor, which fulfills the specific requirements for holding the academic position "associate professor" at the PU. As a teacher, Dr. Bojilov conducts practical courses in "Bioorganic Chemistry", "Organic Chemistry", "Modern Chromatographic Methods", "Chemistry of Narcotic Substances", "Organic Analysis", "Chromatographic Analysis" and "Analysis of Drug Substances II" for bachelors from various specialties, as well as "Organic analysis mass spectrometry", "Chromatographic methods in pharmaceutical analysis" and "Phytochemistry of medicinal plants" for Master students. He also gives lectures on "Organic analysis, mass spectrometry", "Chromatographic methods in pharmaceutical analysis" and "Phytochemistry of medicinal plants" to bachelor students and "Chromatographic methods in pharmaceutical analytes" and "Phytochemistry of medicinal plants" to Master students. It is evident from the attached report on his educational and teaching activities that for the period 2018-2023 he has conducted 2428 hours of classroom activities with students at a required minimum of 1080 hours. This significantly exceeds the stipulated minimum of 360 hours/year, which is a very good certificate. In addition, the candidate has demonstrated very active work with students, having supervised and co-supervised thirteen graduate students and participated jointly with students and PhD students in research publications and projects. All this makes a very good impression and outlines Dr. Bojilov as a promising teacher.

Along with the high load of academic activities, Dimitar Bojilov also conducts research work. Seven of the admitted 35 publications are presented as equivalent to a habilitation thesis. Five of these publications are in Q1 journals, which is indicative of the quality of the research in which Dr. Bojilov is involved. On the other hand, the fact that in only two of them, he is the first or corresponding

author, should be noted as a drawback. In table 4 of the reference provided, a technical error was made, as the remaining two publications were marked as Q2 (instead of Q3), but the points were correctly calculated as for Q3 publications. Thus, according to indicator B of RIADASRB, he collects 155 points with a required minimum of 100 points. Out of the 28 publications presented under indicator Γ, 17 are with impact factor/rank. He is the first author in only one, meeting the requirements with 215 points with a required minimum of 200 points. He also presents a list of 130 citations, of which 103 are in publications referenced or indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science. Here, a small correction should be made to the number of points declared by the candidate, since citations № 1 from the list was reported during the procedure for acquiring a PhD degree and should not be used in the current competition. I attribute this minor inaccuracy to carelessness on the part of the candidate. Thus, according to group Γ indicators, Dr. Bojilov collects 204 points and exceeds the required minimum of 50 points. Thus, the candidate meets the minimum scientometric requirements laid down in RIADASRB, and the summarized points for individual groups of indicators are as follows:

Indicator	Minimal requirements	Candidate's points
A	50	50
B	100	155
Γ	200	215
Д	50	204
Total		624

Dr. Bojilov also demonstrates active participation in research projects - 5 funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund and 4 from Plovdiv University, including one as a leader.

The research of Dimitar Bozhilov is focused mainly in the field of natural product chemistry, and as a result of his work, scientific and applied contributions have been achieved in the following areas:

- Development and optimization of chromatographic methods for the analysis of the polyphenolic complex of medicinal plants and foods (*Habarlea rhodopensis*, *Chenopodium botrys*, *Vernonia amygdalina*, *Rosa damascena* Lactuca spp – Lactuca sativa Batavia cv. Maritima, Lolo rosa cv. Tuska and cv. Winter Butterhead and etc.).

- Investigation of the composition and antioxidant activity of plant extracts and essential oils

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

My most critical remark is related to the way of describing and presenting the scientific publications for the competition. In the annotation of the materials under Art. 65 (1), the candidate declares that he applies with 46 publications, including 11 in specialized scientific journals without impact factor and 11 in conference proceedings. The fact that the eleven publications from conferences are not included, neither in the list of publications of the competition, nor in the habilitation reference, is puzzling. Their full texts are also missing. Another significant omission in the presented documents is the absence of the full texts of the eleven publications in specialized scientific journals without impact factor. Given the fact that these 11 publications are submitted to the competition, they should be included in the table for meeting the minimum national requirements as a number, even though they do not carry points for indicator group C. I also consider that the applicant could have put more effort into the technical and stylistic layout of his habilitation certificate.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by chief assist. prof. Dimitar Bojilov, PhD meets the requirements of Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its Implementation and the specific Regulations Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The candidate demonstrates very intensive educational and pedagogical activity in various disciplines, which is why I find his teaching qualification to be undoubted. In the competition, he submitted a sufficient number of publications published outside the procedure for the acquisition of PhD degree and the competition for the appointment as "chief assistant professor". The results of Dr. Dimitar Bojilov in his academic and research activities comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry at the PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

After being acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry for the selection of chief assist. prof. Dimitar Bojilov, PhD for the academic position "associate professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry, Chromatographic Analysis).

06.09.2023 г.

Member of the scientific jury:
(prof. Petko Denev, PhD)