

# REVIEW

by Acad. Ivan Petkov Popchev

for Chief Assistant Professor Hristo Toshkov Hristov, PhD

on a competition for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor”

in professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science

(Information technologies on Internet)

By order № RD-21-1599 Plovdiv, 31.07.2023, of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” Prof. Rumén Mladenov, PhD, in connection with the announced competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in SG № 39/05.05.2023 in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics; professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science (Information technologies on Internet), a report by Prof. Angel Atanasov Golev, PhD – Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, and pursuant to Art. 4 (3) of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), Art. 2 (2), Art. 57 (2) of the Rules for the Implementation of the ADASRB (RIADASRB), and Art. 68 (2) of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff (LDAS) of the University of Plovdiv, I have been appointed an internal member of the Scientific Jury, approved by a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, protocol № 45/19.07.2023.

I have received all the documents included in the Application form to the Rector of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” for participation in the competition from 19.07.2023.

According to ADASRB, the Rules for the Implementation of the ADASRB, and Additional requirements for the academic position of “Associate Professor” of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) – the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”, the candidates for Associate Professors must meet the following conditions.

1. To have acquired the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”;
2. For not less than two academic years:
  - a. To have occupied the academic position of “Assistant Professor” and “Chief Assistant Professor”;
3. To have presented a published monograph or equivalent publications in specialized scientific issues ..., which do not reproduce those presented for awarding the

educational and scientific degree of “Doctor” and for the scientific degree of “Doctor of Science”;

4. To meet the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, Paras. 2 and 3, and the requirements under Art. 2b, Para. 5, respectively;
5. To have no plagiarism proven as per the legally established order in the scientific works.

Art. 26 (1) The candidates shall submit a reference on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, Paras. 2 and 3, the requirements under Art. 2b, Para. 5, respectively, and a reference of the original scientific contributions to which shall be attached the relevant evidence laid down in this Act, in the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations of the higher schools and of the scientific organizations.

Additional faculty requirements of FMI at the University of Plovdiv:

- at least 10 publications that must not have been submitted for acquiring the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”, the scientific degree “Doctor of Science”, and for occupying the academic position “Chief Assistant Professor”;
- at least 5 of the submitted publications must be in journals;
- at least 10 of the submitted publications must be in journals;
- at least 1 textbook or teaching aid;
- evidence of at least 5 citations.

Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD **meets the conditions of Art. 24 (1).1** as he presented a Diploma for the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor” № 1000209, issued on 27 June 2016.

Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD **meets the conditions of Art. 24 (1).2** according to the presented document № RD-38-146/29.06.2023, signed by the Rector of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” Prof. Rumen Mladenov, PhD, which confirms that he has held the academic position „Chief Assistant Professor” for 6 years, 8 months, and 27 days, and was awarded the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor” 7 years, 0 months, and 21 days ago.

Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD **meets the conditions of Art. 24 (1).3** as he has submitted publications in specialized scientific issues, which do not reproduce those presented for awarding the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”.

Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD has submitted a „**Complete list of scientific publications**”, in which **43 publications** are included, and a “**List of scientific publications for participation in a competition for acquiring the academic position “Associate Professor”**” -

## 16 publications.

The brief analysis of these publications shows the following:

- 1 publication is a book chapter (№ 17);
- 8 publications are in conferences and in journals (№№ 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 13);
- 6 publications are in journals with SJR (№№ 4, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14);
- 1 publication is a guide (№ 18);
- 1 publication is single-authored in Bulgarian (№ 18).

The presented **“List of noticed citations of scientific publications for participation in the competition for acquiring the academic position “Associate Professor”**” with a total of 10 citations of 6 publications.

A **“Reference for compliance with the additional requirements of FMI according to Art. 65 (3) of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv”** is prepared by Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD and signed by Prof. Todorka Terzieva, PhD – Head of the Department of “Computer Technologies”, and Prof. Angel Golev, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics.

Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD **meets the conditions** of:

- **Art. 24 (1).4** as he meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 26, Para. 5. A reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements is presented;
- **Art. 24 (1).5** as there is no legally proven plagiarism in the scientific works.

The materials for the competition contain **“Abstracts of the Scientific Works”** in Bulgarian and English. According to Art. 29 (3) of ADASRB, the candidates for the competition shall submit a **“Reference for the original scientific contributions”**. Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD has submitted an “Author's report on his scientific contributions included for participation in the competition” in a volume of 16 pages in 5 thematic areas, which is not according to Art. 29 (3).

Briefly, the **contributions** can be summarized as follows:

1. A model of educational objects adapted for software implementation, called pedagogical patterns (No. 4).
2. A model for designing Web content with accessible color and contrast for users with visual deficits and color blindness (№ 10).

3. A model-based approach to enhancing Web access for people with special educational needs (№ 19).
4. A Hierarchical Learning Management System (HLMS) model for the Insurance Industry (№ 9).
5. An approach to validate the accessibility of dynamic Web pages as part of an accessible Web content design method (№ 12).
6. Web design and programming training as a role-playing game (№ 14).
7. A method for designing accessible Web content in the Web space of "Paisii Hilendarski" University (№ 8).
8. IPTV monitoring via GPM3 for A1 and Vivacom (№ 11).
9. Presentation of human-computer interactions, trends and perspectives (№ 7).
10. Model of a communication system with vending machines (№ 17).

The "**Documents for educational work**" are presented with a "Reference for curricular and extracurricular activity", a "Reference for activity with students and graduates", and a "List of published teaching aids".

The references were prepared by Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD and signed by Prof. Todorka Terzieva, PhD – Head of the Department of Software Technologies, and Prof. Angel Golev, PhD – Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. Briefly, in these references, it is noted that Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD has prepared and taught 3 courses for bachelor's degree students and 1 course in a master's program. He has 20 successfully defended graduates (master's degree students). Co-author in 7 publications with PhD students, and 4 publications with students. He has participated in working committees at various levels in the FMI.

Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD is the author of **1 guide, and 1 in press**.

Accordingly, there are presented "**Research Documents**" with two references for:

- participation in scientific projects;
- participation in international and national scientific forums.

The references were prepared by Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD and signed by Prof. Todorka Terzieva, PhD – Head of the Department of Software Technologies, and Prof. Angel Golev, PhD – Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. These references state that Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD has taken part in 9 projects and has participated with reports in 19 scientific forums.

The official note with Ex. № NPD/342/23.06.2023, prepared by R. Garbeva, declares

the participation of Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD in 6 projects.

The world's scientific databases determine the “**scientometric image**” of Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Hristov, PhD, as follows:

- **Web of Science**: 10 publications, 5 sum of time cited, h-index 1;
- **Scopus**: 9 documents, 6 citations, h-index 2;
- **Google Scholar**: 23 citations, h-index 2, i10-index 0;
- **Research Gate**: RiS 262.9, 17 citations, h-index 2;

This “**scientometric image**” should be subject to critical self-analysis for defining new directions for research and for **independent publication in IF journals**.

## **C O N C L U S I O N**

All requirements, conditions, and criteria according to ADASRB, the Regulations for application of ADASRB, and the Additional requirements for the academic position “Associate Professor” of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) are met and I give a definite **positive conclusion** for the election of Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Toshkov Hristov, PhD in a competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science (Informatics – Computer Architectures).

**I propose that the Scientific Jury unanimously vote on a proposal to the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics to elect Chief Asst. Prof. Hristo Toshkov Hristov, PhD for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science (Information technologies on Internet).**

13.09.2023

Reviewer: .....

Acad. Ivan Popchev